

Report of a visit in Kigoma, Tanzania

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly... But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in His law doth he meditate day and night” (Ps. 1:1-2)

We have been exercised before the Lord for some time now to travel to Kigoma, Tanzania. Several leaders of Christian groups in this city have come in the past to Bible conferences held in Rwanda and in Uganda. Indeed, the practical application of what was learned from the Word of God is the life of believers. We met and studied the Bible with them over three days in this in north-western city of Tanzania.

Brothers Nalwindi Constantin, Mukama Gérard, and Mbara Jean Paul were to meet in Kigoma. Brother Constantin arrived first, as he is only a few hours away from Kigoma (with one hour from the Burundi-Tanzania border to Kigoma). Gérard and Jean Paul arrived the next day after a day of traveling, having stopped overnight along the way for safety reasons.

We met to study the Word in the house of David, a pastor of this group that is seeking sound teaching after recognizing incoherencies where they had been gathering. Of the twelve gathered, we had met some before at conferences in Kigali, Rwanda. In getting to know the others, we came to realize that a few were not yet saved. Others probably did not have the assurance of their salvation, for they associated it with the practical walk of a believer and therefore thought they could lose it. This gave us the opportunity to begin the Bible study with the beginning, that is, the new life in the salvation through faith acquired by the finished work of the Lord Jesus and all its results.

To underline the importance of an upright Christian walk in relation to being born again, we emphasized the Bible passages showing how we are no more slaves of the flesh, but members of the body of Christ. We are dead and risen with the Lord Jesus who conquered the devil and death, which was his weapon against us. As the beloved brother William Kelly said, in accordance with Scripture, "The new nature cannot sin, and he who possesses it in Christ is defined exclusively by it, the sin in the flesh being entirely ignored, as already condemned by God on his behalf in Christ made sacrifice for him at the cross. The new man lives in and in dependence of Him who is the source of this life. If the believer ceases to walk by faith, resting in the Lord, the old nature reappears and brings forth sin."



We also emphasized that the life God gives us, through faith in the Lord by His work at the cross, can never be taken from us. Nothing can separate us from His great love revealed in Christ Jesus in whom we have eternal life, a never-ending life that can never be lost.

< Singing from the hymnbook in East-African Swahili, Kiswahili, understandable in Tanzania (with brother Mbara Jean Paul, far left)

We are thankful that the Word attained its goal. William, one of the participants, admitted to have understood what it means to be saved. In the Christian circle he had been attending, he had

been living in fear of losing his salvation if the Lord came before he had cleaned up his Christian life.

Others also shared similar stories. We are grateful for their eagerness for the Word to the extent that we started at 9 in the morning to finish at 5 in the afternoon, with a short break in the afternoon to share a meal all together.

These contacts from Kigoma are thirsty to learn much more still. They have repeatedly asked for visits from brothers to help them grow. They would also like to gather according to the Word: around the person of our Lord Jesus Christ. They have a great thirst to learn sound spiritual songs fitting for the gatherings of believers. Having enquired about the hymnbooks they had been using, they understood in the end the importance of rather using "*Hymnes et Cantiques*". This hymnbook is available in East-African Swahili, Kiswahili, which they have no difficulty understanding there in Tanzania.

We noted a great need for Biblical literature in Swahili. Not being able to all read English or French, we

will endeavor for the time being to send them tracts and small brochures in Kiswahili, with their help to improve the Kiswahili. Depending on how things evolve, we also believe it would be possible to translate literature already available in Congolese Kiswahili to Tanzanian Kiswahili, with their help as well. One of them with a good report, a young man from the D. R. the Congo, named Serge, could also help in this matter. He could receive French literature and share the content with others, as with the brochure on baptism that we sent from Bujumbura, Burundi after we arrived.



< brother Mukama Amboye Gérard (far left)

We have the following subjects of prayer for these believers in Kigoma would be strengthened in faith as the Lord allows it:

- Regular visits to exhort them to be rooted in what they have learned and loosed from the fear of darkness (that is witchcraft), which in general affects a large portion of the population
- Opportunities for Mbara Jean Paul of Kamembe, Rwanda, who is willing to teach the spiritual songs there and Nalwindi Constantin who is now in Burundi. Constantin is especially close to Kigoma (4 hours at most) in comparison to other brothers in the region.
- As everywhere else, the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few: pray that this open door in Tanzania be used for the glory of our Savior and Lord.

Your brothers in the Lord,

Mukama Amboye Gérard

Mbara Jean Paul

Nalwindi Mpongo Constantin