

Report Annual Youth Camp in Mputu, Northeastern Congo – from 25 to 28 December 2025

“And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying,... so he went and did according unto the Word of the LORD...”

1 Kings 17:2,5.

“And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, the LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.”

1 Kings 18:39.

Dear brothers and sisters,

It is with great gratitude that we are able to report few things about the Mputu annual youth camp for this year. Every camp is unique in its own way with its own blessings from the Lord. We have no word to express our thankfulness to the Lord, who did “all things well”.

During the studies we sang hymn number 78 from the hymn book “Kujeni kwangu” original “Venez a moi”; the first stanza goes,

*“Every hour that passes each day,
I depend on Jesus;
This Friend who never tires,
He holds me and gives me strength.
And His heart full of love,
Knows how to meet needs;
I was taught to look to Him,
And I know that He cares for me.”*

Participants of this camp >



Number of Participants: 200 of age group 12 to 25 years, divided into two age groups during this camp (majority of whom are school-going youth)

Participating Assemblies: Youth came from various assemblies across **Northeastern Congo** like Bunia, Butembo, Beni, Biakato, Cantine, Mayuano, Bafwesende, Efundu, Mambasa area and other places. Interestingly, most of the young people who came are those who attended the August Family General Conference in August this very year.

Teams

- Brothers: from *Northeastern Congo*: Jacques Shukuru Chiraba, Gentil Mbikira, Kitsa Joel, Daniel Muisha Ndakola, Ndungu Delphin, Esai Mwira, Samuel Kayikunza; from West Uganda: Kayumba Dario, Thembo Festo, Mbusa Silas



Team from West Uganda traveling to Mputu



Team of teachers and group leaders

- Sisters: from Northeastern Congo: Eliza Cikwanine, Nicole Ndakola, Regine Ndamwenge, Gloire Kavugho, Hortense Wasivugha, Rachel Dieu-Merci; from West Uganda: Sibayirwa Jennifer

Theme of the Camp

The main theme of the camp was "The Life of Elijah" based on 1 Kings 17–19. The sessions explored key lessons from Elijah's life, including faith in God during difficult times, obedience, prayer, spiritual courage, and standing firm against idolatry.

In Chapter 17, we learnt that the Lord took care of His servant Elijah both spiritually and physically, and most importantly how he took him "in hiding" to teach him how to trust and depend on him, and to prepare him for the public ministry at Carmel. He stood in faith and full dependence on the Lord and became triumphant. We also learnt that Elijah obeyed the voice of the Lord, doing according to His Word. It emphasised that obedience to the Lord and to His Word is a key in a Christian life.



Brother Mbikira Gentil

In Chapter 18, on the other hand was Obadiah, the man who complicated his faith, was not able to stand for the Lord because of his association with the world. He even said to Elijah "as the LORD your God". The one who had become the Lord of his life was the evil and idolatrous king Ahab, for Elijah said "go tell your lord". It was a serious warning but also a lesson for us.

in Chapter 19, we also saw the danger of taking our eyes off the Lord and we start looking at ourselves and the circumstances, that we easily become discouraged and forget what the Lord has done. And many other lessons were learnt from the Life of Elijah.

Camp Activities:

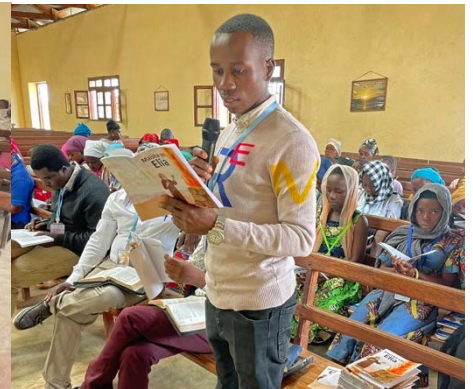
- **Daily Bible Studies:** Daily group studies focused on the spiritual journey and ministry of Elijah.
- **Group Discussions:** Participants engaged in interactive group sessions for deeper reflection and personal application.



Daily Bible studies



Daily Bible studies



Daily Bible studies



Group discussions



Group discussions



Group discussions

- **Sports:** Afternoon sports promoted fellowship, teamwork, and relaxation. It was encouraging to see young people having this time and in that peaceful environment of the Bible Conference Center in Mputu, for which opportunity they no longer get in their villages due to instability.



Sport



Craftwork



Regine, Eliza and Jennifer preparing materials for the craftwork.

- **Craftwork** – While most of the boys engaged in playing soccer, the girls engaged in craftwork. With the help of sister Jennifer, they were able to learn how to make bags
- **Extra Study Topic:** A special session on “Choosing a Spouse” guided youth on biblical principles for relationships and marriage. A booklet had been printed, and they had a copy already which they had received during the Family Bible Conference in August. The young people seemed to be much interested in this subject, and we believe they learnt some lessons.

Brother Shukuru Jacques >



Learning Materials:

Booklets on the life of Elijah were printed in Swahili and distributed to participants for personal study and note-taking. >

Meals and Hospitality

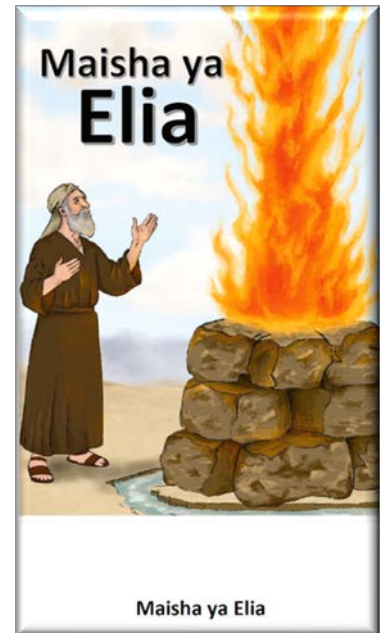
Sisters in Mputu generously prepared and served all meals, contributing to the warm fellowship and hospitality experienced throughout the camp.



Sisters serving meals



Dining room



Transport and Travel Conditions:

Participants traveled from remote areas of North Eastern Congo using a combination of vehicles and motorcycles, often navigating dangerous and poor road conditions. Despite delays and risks, the commitment of the young people to attend the camp was evident and deeply appreciated.

Conclusion

This youth camp was a spiritual milestone, marked by active participation, faithful teaching, and the gracious support of local assemblies. The theme of Elijah's life challenged and encouraged the youth to live courageously for God in today's world.

We are thankful to the Lord for all the brethren who helped in the teaching, They faithfully taught God's Word and interacted closely with the youth throughout the camp.

At the end of the camp, we sang hymn 250 (from "Hymnes et Cantiques", translated into Swahili), where all young people sang with energy in French (see video), and it was an encouragement to see them thus.

From above, Lord, your voice encourages us,

repeating: "I am with you".

Day after day, till the voyage ends,

In your love, you are with us.

We give thanks to God for His provision, protection, and presence throughout the camp.

Yours in our soon coming Lord, on behalf of the two teams

- Jacques Shukuru Chiraba and Gentil Mbikira
- Kayumbu Dario and Thembo Festo