

Report about young Women's and Girls' camps in Rwanda December 2018

Having prayed much for an opportunity to be in Kigali for the service in December 2018, The Lord guaranteed us a privilege to serve during two girls camps. We gratefully would like to share with you how the Lord blessed us with multitude of encouragements and testimonies throughout our time in Rwanda.

We arrived in Kigali on the evening of 17th December 2018. We were going to be in Rwanda for two weeks (17th-30th December 2018) and purposed to

- organize a young women's and girls' camps in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda and Nyamata, in Eastern province of Rwanda,
- pay some home visits among brethren families, and the families of sponsored children,
- and as well as attending the Bible conference on dispensations in Kigali.

Format and Objective of the Girls' Camps



Starting from 17th to 20th (in Kigali) and 26th-28th of December (in Nyamata) we held a young women's (19 years and older) and a girl's camp (10 to 18 years old). The subject was on the book of Esther. We had prepared two different booklets on the book of Esther, one containing guiding questions for younger girls, and another one containing more comprehensive questions on practical lessons that we can learn from Esther.

< In the booklets for the older girls, we also included some stories published in the first and second issue of the Mathêtria magazine that resonate with the subjects we addressed. The questions in the booklet were written in English, French and Kinyarwanda and were set based on daily life experience of a

typical young Rwandan woman on campus, boarding schools, workplace or neighbourhoods. However, we used both English and Kinyarwanda.

We would reflect on two chapters at once, where one sister would be giving a lecture in English with a translation by another sister in Kinyarwanda, then allow attendants to carry on conversations in guided group discussions > followed by group presentations in Kinyarwanda.

At the end of each session, many girls would have questions and comments that reflected their experiences and lessons learned from the study. Throughout the studies in two camps, we looked at God's providence in the life of Esther and her people, her faith, her trust and her obedience. The objective was to learn what character and attitude a young Christian woman can adapt and manifest among unbelievers, by learning from the life and conduct of Esther.



In Kigali, there was about 150 young women and girls for the camp who came mainly from Kigali and from the assemblies in the western province, as well as visitors from other parts of the country. Whereas in Ntarama there was about over 160 girls. The majority of girls and young women who attended the camps are either still in schools and universities or are young professionals.



During these three-day studies in Kigali so many questions concerning how to keep testimonies despite our discouraging surroundings in schools were raised. In addition, many girls who were invited to the camps who are not from the meetings, asked

many questions concerning salvation and the assurance of eternal life of a Christian, where a bigger concern was about good works as means of justification and sanctification. Another conversation that took a lot of attention during the camps was about the importance of fasting in a Christian life today.



We are very thankful for the help we received from brother < **Jacques Muragijimana** and **Emmanuel Bahati** who came in both in Kigali camp and Ntarama Camp, to give firm gospel lectures by responding to some of the questions regarding salvation and works. At the end of both camps, we received so many feedback and appreciations of the practical lessons learned, and many of the girls who came to the camps for their first time confessed that they got to gain a better understanding of scriptures about salvation. In addition, for some, it was the first time to learn the book of Esther. For example, in the last group

presentation, one girl confessed that "I felt quite a relief to know that there is only one and simple way to heaven—Jesus. It is helpful to realize that the performance of good works and obedience to the commands will never open a door to heaven, but only faith in the work of the cross will." A sister who was in charge of coordinating the camps later shared with us that some of these girls went home rejoicing and wishing to attend more of this kind of conversations. Today, some girls who are not in boarding schools have kept in touch with us via WhatsApp and text messages.

We give thanks to the Lord for the appreciation of the camps and lessons learned. We hope that some got to confess Lord Jesus as their saviour and the only way to heaven. We also give thanks for these camps were of great encouragement to the sisters from the meeting.

Other Activities that took Place between the two Camps

Apart from girls' camps, we had a privilege to attend a conference on dispensations that took place on 22-25th in Kigali. It was very well attended by the brethren from all four parts of the country, and quite a few from R.D. Congo. There were a few visitors who had some bible correspondence studies as well. We also had an opportunity to visit with two brethren families. One family is of a sister who has three teenagers and a sick husband. She is the one responsible for the family income and taking care of everyone in the home. We spent time sharing a word of mutual encouragement with her and her children, and we prayed together. Another family we visited is of a widow sister. She had invited us over for a fellowship dinner along with a few other young people from Kigali meeting where after dinner, we had a little time chatting among ourselves exchanging experience from our various countries where we came from. After the conference we had time to visit various families of sponsored children.



We visited about forty families on two different occasions. We met with every child and got to spend a little time with their parents and relatives. Many of these children live with either a single parent or both parents but with very little means to be supported by their families.

During our visits, we would spend a little time getting to know the child in their family, chatting or play with them, offering them a little Christmas gift, then connect with their parents and relatives thus sharing a gospel message with them. Many of the parents or guardians of these children are Christians, but during our small conversations it came into our conscious that they would still benefit from caring conversations with a believer so that they can get to know more about salvation. Many of these parents don't



really understand the salvation of grace. We give thanks for this opportunity that the Lord placed us with because some mothers expressed their interests in getting to know more about the gospel.



Our time in Kigali ended with thanksgiving and praise to the Lord for He was with us, and we experienced His care, sustenance, and protection throughout our stay.



We are so thankful for everyone who takes time to entrust Lord's almighty hand for the work in Rwanda in their prayers.

He is faithful who called us, and He will continue the work until He comes. We pray and wish you a blessed time in which the Lord becomes to us more precious and in which we earnestly desire His soon return while surrendering all to Him.



On behalf of the entire team,

< Bagwiza Jackie

A message and request from young people from from Kigali

Yesterday night, we gathered the courage as young people from Kigali meeting to go on the streets and handed out bible tracts to strangers. We were very nervous at first because we have never done this before. We gave ourselves this task as a challenge to see how much tracts we could hand out in only two hours. we met at 6pm during rush hour at Nyabugogo bus station, in the busiest commercial center of Kigali, and left at 8Pm. We were four young men and women, committed to take on the challenge. We had about 1500 tracts with us in two small boxes. Within these two hours, we were able to distribute more than 1000 tracts! Upon our arrival in Nyabugogo, a sister handed out two different tracts to a man. This man was scary. He looked at her with an angry eye and yielded NO! We all got scared and thought this was more challenging than we thought and wondered whether we should just take back those boxes to the bible center. A few minutes after that experience, we all thought about the same thing and we knew what to do. We had to pray. We prayed and asked the Lord to give us courage and direct us to people who would accept the tracts. Short after, we decided to stand in different places. One of us was handing out tracts to the moto taxi drivers outside bus station, another one was moving around the shops surrounding the station, and two others were moving around bus terminals. Throughout that experience, we all got pretty much the same questions: Are these for sale? Are those about Jesus? Oh! Give me one too! Can I have one more for my wife? Are you guys Jehovah's witnesses? Are you one of those "new churches"? Do you give free bibles too? How can I get a bible? What is the name of your church? What is your address and how can we find you? Etc.

At the end of our time in this commercial center, we were very encouraged that we are going to extend our challenge to a month, once a week for two hours going to different parts of Kigali especially bus stations, schools and university campuses and markets. As Youth from Kigali, we would like to share our experience with this "Bible tracts hand out challenge" every time we will be able to make it until the end of this month. We would like to ask for prayers. Please, pray that the Lord may use these tracks to reveal His salvation by grace to many who will be receiving these tracts and that the Lord may direct us to the right people and give us courage throughout until the end of this month!

Challenge

As young people from various local assemblies in where they have enough bible tracts, gospel calendars etc to give, the challenge is to hand out as much as possible to strangers in public places like markets, bus stations, grocery stores, youth art centers, Gyms, in classrooms or schools etc. time-wise for no less than 30 min, up to two hours, once a week for a month. Basically, this will be an activity done four times in a month but can be more that this depending on the availability of people. Just a thought. If youth find this challenge worth trying like we did, it would be nice and fun to share and exchange our experiences with stories and photos (of the locations where you went if you are comfortable with photos) on Facebook page for Foundation All nations as we go on throughout this February.

I am very pleased to realize that it could be possible for the various meetings from our neighboring countries to partake in this challenge!

I would like to request that the announcement of the challenge be made on Lord's day so that the youth can get themselves together! It would be good if young people are encouraged every Lord's day by sharing how it is going. The challenge starts today!

With thanks,

Bagwiza Jackie