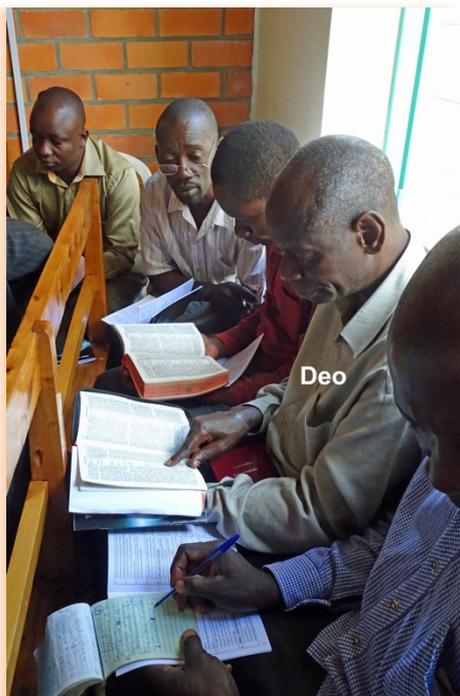


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Elburg, 14th January 2018

We gratefully share with you the blessings the Lord granted during a visit from December 15 – 30 in Uganda and Rwanda. For three days, Bible studies and discussions with brothers who bear a leading responsibility in their local meetings (1 Thessalonians 5:12) took place in West-Uganda in the town of Mpondwe, near the border with Congo.

In Kigali, Rwanda we continued with the study of the subject, "The Dispensations" during a three day Bible Conference, attended by over 300 brothers and sisters and other interested people, mainly from Rwanda, but also from Congo (40), Uganda (15), and Burundi [Bujumbura] (20). I was grateful for the contributions of the brothers **Mukama Gerard** (c), **Tuyisenge Théogène** (l), **Kitsa Thoma** (*sitting left*) >, **Nalwindi Constantin** and other brothers.



In Rwanda I also had discussions with a number of brothers who have responsibility in the practical progress of the work in Rwanda and neighbouring countries. Please pray that the Lord may continue to use all these brothers, both in their personal work and in the service they carry on together for Him. Brothers **Mukama Gerard** (Rwanda), **Ssemutereke Deo** (Uganda; < *translating simultaneously from Kyniarwanda into Luganda*), **Kitsa Thomas** and **Constantin Nalwindi Constantin** (Congo) and others regularly visit meetings and groups in their own and neighboring countries. They need your prayers for this service in their own country and beyond.

During the same visits four sisters *helped in youth work in both Mpondwe (Uganda) and Kigali (Rwanda):*

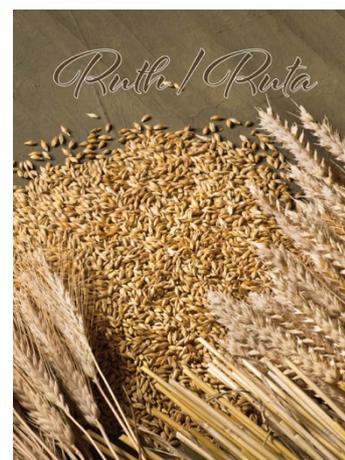
- Youth camps for girls/young sisters
- Gospel outreach to sponsored children
- Home visits of parents and/or tutors of these children.

Please read the report of this **MAG-team Africa** below:

### Uganda

After a two-day journey, we arrived safely in Mpondwe to help the sisters there with a girls' camp. We started on the Lord's Day (December 17) after the regular meeting. The subject of the camp was the book of Ruth. We started the camp with singing some spiritual songs from "Venez-à-Moi" that the brothers in Uganda had translated into Lhukonzo. It is important for the children to learn more good songs and they really enjoyed it.

After the singing, we started with the first chapter of the book of Ruth. We brought booklets with questions > about the different chapters of Ruth. On the first day we focused on the choice Ruth made. She decided to follow her mother in law,



Naomi, into her country and to the people of God. We also explained to them the importance of our decision to follow the Lord Jesus. After the Bible story, the girls divided into smaller groups to discuss the questions in the booklet. It was nice to see how they talked together to answer the questions.



The second and third day we studied chapters 2–4. The lessons were about the behavior and characteristics of Ruth, such as her obedience and humility, her diligence, and the relationship she had with her mother-in-law. From Ruth's example we learned that it is necessary to read the Word of God constantly to grow in faith and to be fruitful for the Lord. We also talked about the grace of our Lord Jesus towards us, which we can see in the character of Boaz as Ruth's redeemer and in their relationship to one another. In chapter four we also referred to the marriage of Boaz and Ruth. Ruth had the patience to wait for the Lord to show her the right husband and to help with difficult decisions. Every day the girls learned a Bible verse by heart

from the relevant chapter.

In the afternoons we were able to give some sewing lessons > to the older girls, who really enjoyed making a little bag; most of them did it very well. The lessons of Renate during her last visit appear to have been learned very well.



For some girls these kinds of skills are essential and create a good possibility to earn their own money by selling handmade products on the street. The younger girls, aged 4 to 12, enjoyed playing with the balls and the jumping ropes we brought for them. They also had the opportunity to color some nice pictures.



On Wednesday we had the opportunity to visit some sponsored < children. It is hard to see the circumstances in which they live. We were happy to see their reactions upon receiving letters from their sponsors.

Some of the family members were suffering from malaria, which is a serious problem in some of the families. We also realized that it takes a lot of time to visit the sponsored children. It is quite a bit of work to organize the visits, and with an increasing number of sponsored children it is getting more difficult. We really need to pray for this work!

## Rwanda

On Thursday we returned to the airport to travel to Rwanda. We arrived there safely that evening and the next three days attended the Bible conference in Kigali. The subject of the conference was about the different dispensations in Scripture. There were over 300 brothers and sisters from Rwanda and neighbouring countries. It was nice to get to know some of them and to enjoy fellowship together. >

In the afternoons we had another opportunity to visit several families



and sponsored children, together with sisters **Godelive** and **Winifred**.

The stories they told us were memorable. Some of the mothers raise their children alone because many men leave their families. In addition, many families are raising their relative's children or have adopted an orphan.



The next day we had the opportunity to visit a local assembly in Ntarama. There was an open ministry meeting about the good shepherd who knows all the names of his sheep and cares for them. After that, we had a good time of fellowship with some of the brothers and sisters from Ntarama. ▽ It was encouraging for everyone to see the work our Lord Jesus did in the past and continues to do in the lives of these brothers and sisters.

On Tuesday we started with the girls' camp in Kigali. There were about 150 girls, aged 12 to 30 and above, mainly from Rwanda but also from Congo and Burundi that attended the camp.

The bigger part came from different denominations and backgrounds. We had the same subject as in Uganda. The girls had many questions, including how to become saved, and questions about baptism, the Holy Spirit, and how to be a light in the world.

Sadly, there is a strong influence from many denominations with false doctrines; many of the girls are probably not saved or do not have assurance of their salvation. We talked several times about the grace of the Lord Jesus, Who only can save us and bring us to God.





We also taught them different songs from the French hymnbook “Venez-à- Moi,” that had been translated into the Kinyarwanda language. We taught them some English songs, which they liked as well. In the afternoons we had the opportunity to sew, which the girls really enjoyed.

The time at the camp went by so fast that the girls did not want to go back to their homes when it was over. Some of them told us that they were very blessed by the Bible studies and the fellowship they had enjoyed at the camp. A brother had invited a group of around 35 girls from Congo; it took them almost an entire day to travel home.

On Friday we had spent some time on the administration of the sponsorship work and at noon we were invited in the house of brother Jacques, our driver for our stay in Kigali, and his wife Valérie. After this visit, we went to the airport for our flight back home.

Thank you for all of your prayers and all your support! The Lord has given us such a blessed time, together with all the brothers and sisters in the Lord. Praise be to Him!



*We are very thankful to the Lord and the assemblies and individual brothers and sisters for their prayers and practical support during the last few months.*

*With warm love and greetings,*

*Yours in HIM,*

*Hilvert Wijnholds*

*PS: Lord willing another visit will take place from 30th January till 14<sup>th</sup> February:*

- Northeastern Congo (Mputu) : Continuation of the study of the subject: “The Dispensations” and visits*
- West-Uganda (Mpondwe): First study on the same subject and visits.*