

LATEST NEWS # 451, November 7, 2007

The following news concerns Gabon.

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Bible Society support for Sunday School teachers warmly welcomed

GABON — “I was greatly blessed and strengthened in my faith”. This was the response of one of the Sunday School teachers who participated in a training course organised recently by the Bible Society in Gabon. Encouraged by positive reactions of this kind, the Bible Society is now planning to take the course to more churches and more locations.

Around 30 Sunday School teachers gathered in September for a week of training coordinated by Dr Stanislas Batsiellili, National Director of Campus Crusade for Christ in Gabon and a member of the Bible Society Board, and delivered by two trainers from *Jeunesse en Mission* ('Youth in Mission').

“Our goal is to improve the quality of Sunday School teaching, to help children to apply the teachings of the Bible to their own lives and to supply Sunday Schools with suitable teaching materials,” the participants were told by General Secretary the Rev Georges Thierry Mabiata Tchibinda at the beginning of training which included sessions on how to prepare lessons, how to motivate children and how to use teaching materials such as Children’s Bibles and Bible-based DVDs.

All the participants greatly welcomed receiving both practical and spiritual support for their work.

“I was greatly blessed and strengthened in my faith,” said Eliane Bouenja, a Sunday School teacher at the *Centre d’Evangélisation Béthanie*. “The training helped me to become more aware of the importance of the work being carried out in Sunday Schools. We are not simply looking after the children: we are responding to God’s call to make them true disciples of Christ.



“The training taught us about the need to find a way of gaining the children’s attention so that they will remember what they learn. This requires varied teaching materials suitable for the particular age group.

“We also had the opportunity to confirm our calling to work with children. We are grateful to the Bible Society for launching this initiative and to representatives from Campus Crusade for Christ and Youth in Mission for sharing their experience with us. We would like to training of this kind to be available more often.”

Another participant, Clarisse Amvenebe, agreed.

“The training taught me how to improve my teaching in Sunday School and made me aware of the resources available from the Bible Society. I also learned that God cares particularly for children. I will now be able to use Bible Society materials to bring children closer to God’s Word.

“It was a great blessing to be able to participate in this training. Thank you, Bible Society!”

Like Mrs Bouenja, many participants expressed the desire to attend more training sessions. The Bible Society has also received requests from churches to run sessions for Sunday School teachers who were not able to attend the September course.

“In view of the urgent need for training expressed by various churches, we will run another course in November,” says Mr Tchibinda.

This report refers to project 76401.

Photos (Bible Society in Gabon/Georges Thierry Mabilia Tchibinda):

GAB07DJ-11: A trainer from 'Youth in Mission' leading a session at a training course for Sunday School teachers organised by the Bible Society in Gabon in September 2007.

GAB07DJ-12: Sunday School teachers who participated in the training course organised by the Bible Society in Gabon in September 2007.

GAB07DJ-13: A practical exercise during a training course for Sunday School teachers organised by the Bible Society in Gabon in September 2007.

For further information please contact comms@ubs-wsc.org

