



**A VERY IMPORTANT TRIP
(Children's Story)**

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**I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress;
My God, in Him I will trust." Psalm 91:2**

Props: A map of Africa with DRC highlighted and the path to Rwanda. Picture of a girl that matches the girl in the story.

Happy sabbath children. Today I have a very special story for you. About a trip, a very important trip and how putting trust in God always works out for the best, one way or another.

Our story takes place under the starry sky of Africa, with a young girl named Ingabire from the Democratic Republic of Congo, her name means gift, and for good reason.

Ingabire was twelve years old, and she lived in a village with her family, she had a father, a mother, and a baby brother. They were Seventh-day Adventists like us, so they celebrated the Sabbath on Friday nights and went to church on Saturday mornings. Ingabire would sing songs of praise and particularly loved sitting to listen to the pastor speak about God.

Ingabire loved her village very much. She would play with friends almost every day, hours and hours, long afternoons until the sky turned golden. And at night the sky would come alive with hundreds and hundreds of stars. Ingabire loved her village.

But sadly, one night under the same starry sky, her village was attacked by men who thought that people like her shouldn't exist. They destroyed everything—their clothes, their toys, their beds— setting it all on fire. It drove people away to search for a better, safer place to live.

Ingabire's family was one of the families who managed to escape. She didn't pack much; she had no time. So, holding her baby brother's hand and keeping her heart steady, Ingabire and her family began walking.

They walked across many roads, crossing mountains and forests and other villages, but none of them were safe. Imagine their shoes coated in mud from walking so much. But they braved the cold of the long nights, and they fought against the heat of the warm rain. Even after all these hardships, they knew God was walking right beside them. They trusted in Him. Eventually, after the long nights and a few days, they made it to the border of Rwanda.

In Rwanda they met kind people, people who worked for the UN. The kind people told Ingabire's family that they would be able to take them deeper into the country where they could stay in a refugee camp and be safe. But they would have to leave now. . .

Unfortunately, the day her family arrived was a Friday. But Ingabire wanted to leave immediately. They would be safe, Ingabire insisted, why can't they leave now? Not only did Ingabire ask this, but also the people who offered help.

By this time, the sun had started to set, and her father responded the same way each time, "Because the Sabbath is approaching, we must keep it holy." So, that's what happened. They would travel first thing Sunday morning, but for now they kept the Sabbath. Ingabire even remembered some of the songs she used to sing in her village church and kept them in her

heart. Though her mind was restless, her heart remained faithful. She knew she was safe, she and her family would be okay.

When Sunday morning arrived, transportation was provided by ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency). Ingabire's family traveled with ADRA, and they were given food and even fresh clothes as they arrived in the refugee camp. Ingabire and her family could finally rest and be safe together.

Though Ingabire misses her once loved home, she is happy and thankful for God's provision in the middle of disaster.

Happy Sabbath.