

Nigerian Women Interview

Ruth Garba

Note: Ruth is her given name. Garba is her father's last name. Ruth is in a care center with Serving in Missions. The care center is in a village about 15 minutes drive over a very bumpy road from Jos. She stays with 9 other girls and about 70 boys; these children were either street children or their life was in danger with their family due to cultic practices. Ruth is in the care center because her father died. Ruth is in Junior Secondary 1.

Although this interview was conducted in English, the following is a summary of the conversation.

Demographics

1. Age: 16
2. Education: In progress – currently in JS1

Behavior

B1. Daily Schedule:

- A. *What is your daily schedule?* Wake up at 6:00. Pray individually and then have devotionals with the other girls. Sweep the cement floors and the dirt courtyard, wash the plates, bath, then walk to school. The school is located at the junction of the village road to the main road, a 2 hour walk each way. Get home from school about 6 pm. Do homework, eat food, pray, then go to bed.
- B. *What activities do you spend the **most time** on each day?* School

B2. Non-Daily Routines

- A. *What are the activities that you regularly do, but not everyday?* Play football, wash clothes on Saturday, every Friday get meat in the food.

B3. Responsibilities around the house

- A. *In your household, what duties are you responsible for?* Get water from the well. Get the food from the boys compound. [The cook for the ministry is on the boys' compound, about a block walk. For every meal, the older girls walk to the boys' compound to get the food for all of the girls.]

B4. Holidays

- A. *How do you celebrate festivals?* For Christmas they went to celebrate with another care facility with Serving in Missions in Jos. They played games and had a good meal with meat.
- B. *For major holiday celebrations, what role do you have in the ceremonies?* The ceremony was planned by missionaries, so she just enjoyed the fun.

B5. Money

- A. *How do you earn money?* She does not earn any money.
- B. *What do you spend money on?* All of her expenses are paid for by the ministry.

Values

V1. General Societal Views

- A. *What makes a good woman?* Work, go to the market, bath children
- B. *What makes a good man?* Farm
- C. *Think of differences between men and women. What are things that women should do that men shouldn't?* Go to women's fellowship.
- D. *What are things that men should do but women shouldn't?* Farm
- E. *What things would you like to do but can't because you are a woman?* [No response.]
- F. *Do you think it is better to be a man or a woman?* Woman. [No rationale given]

V2. Rites of Passage

- A. *Are you considered a girl or an adult?* Ruth is considered a young girl because she is not married.

V3. Marriage

- A. *Do you look forward to marriage?* No, she wants to be a sister. [Nun]

V5. Community

- A. *What activities do you do with other women?* Go to church, sing praise and worship
- B. *Who are your good women friends?* Brenda is her best friend because she is very kind.
- C. *How did you meet your women friends?* School