

PRAY FOR THE NGIRI

OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF THE CONGO



Have you ever considered how new trees and plants grow in forests when no one is planting them? If you have an oak tree in your yard, you've probably seen what happens when acorns fall on the ground around it. They start to grow, right? That seems pretty simple and straightforward. Would it surprise you then to hear, that another, rather important seed planter is the elephant? Forest elephants in central Africa play a vital role in the health and sustainability of the forests. Being herbivores, they eat a large variety of fruits and berries in the forest. The seeds in those fruits and berries move through the elephant and come out of the elephant in a big pile of... well, poop. The seeds inside the elephant dung are warm, well fed, and ready to grow in a new place that was just cleared for them by the elephant's big bodies. Amazing, right?

There is an unreachable, unengaged people group who share the forest with the elephants on the edge of the largest freshwater wetland in all of Africa, called the Ngiri. They were once renowned warriors but today they are looked down upon as "those forest people." The Ngiri face the challenges of poverty, poor hygiene, alcoholism, domestic violence, fear of sorcery, and a shortage of opportunities to grow intellectually, spiritually, and economically. The Ngiri practice a form of religion that involves ancestor and spirit worship.



Let's pray that the someone will take the gospel to the Ngiri people. Living a life with little hope and opportunity is not much of a life at all. As a people despised and disregarded, can you imagine how surprised the Ngiri would be if someone cared for them enough to share how they too could have eternal hope and joy? It would be like the elephant seed-sowing in the forest. It's simply doing what God has designed it to do, and in doing so it is declaring the glory of God. As followers of Christ, we too get to be seed-sowers, and in spreading the seed of the gospel, we too get to declare to the nations, the glory of God.



Don't forget to pray for the Ngiri children, too! Pray that the seeds of the gospel take root, deep in their hearts and flourish. May they no longer be shunned for being forest people, but instead be "like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither" (Psalm 1:3) Pray that the Ngiri children grow strong in the Lord and sow the seeds of the gospel to the ends of the Earth!