

PRAY FOR THE
SALAMPASU
OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF THE CONGO



Have you ever gone to a costume party or played dress-up with a mask? It's pretty fun to be able to cover your face and be someone or something totally different than yourself. When I was little, I always looked forward to wearing costumes. I loved the idea of putting on a mask, despite how uncomfortable they were. My face would always get so hot and itchy, the elastic band securing the mask around my ears would continually slip down, so I was forced to hold the mask up with one hand the whole time. The eye holes were never in the right spot, so I could barely see a thing. But I didn't care. This was my chance to not only pretend that I was someone else, but others didn't know that it was me behind that mask (or so I thought). And often I was rewarded with candy in the process. It was a win-win.



The Salampasu is an unengaged, unreached people group that live in rural villages on the frontier between the DRC and Angola. Their name means "hunter of locusts," and they are regarded by their neighbors as fierce warriors. The Salampasu are best known for their elaborate masks, but these masks mean something very real to this people group. Their masks hold great significance in their sacred rituals as warriors. These masks are used to initiate boys into the society of warriors and are earned through performing specific deeds. The masks also act as guardians for the children and are believed to have spirits dwelling within them. There are NO known believers or churches among the Salampasu.

Pray for God to send someone to share the hope of the gospel with the Salampasu. Ask God to change the status of the Salampasu from "no known believers" to an entire generation of those who call on His name. Pray the Salampasu will realize that spirits do not dwell in man-made objects. Pray for their salvation so that God's Spirit will dwell in their hearts.



Don't forget to pray for the Salampasu children, too! The Bible says that those who are apart from Christ are living in darkness, blinded by their own sin. It's a lot like having on a mask with no eye holes, that never comes off. But praise be to God, He alone gives sight to the blind and removes the mask. And underneath our new identity as sons and daughters of a loving God is revealed in Christ. When the Father looks on His children, He sees His Son. In Him, we are new, whole, and redeemed. May God remove the masks of the Salampasu children and give them this new glorious identity.