

# PRAY FOR

## THE YELA OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



Have you ever been told to respect your elders? Sometimes, someone may say this to you in a joking way, like if you say something sassy to someone older than you and they say, “didn’t anyone ever tell you to respect your elders?” In Africa, respecting elders is a really big deal. Most kids are taught to approach elders in a certain way – often by bowing or kneeling down. They usually call any adult male uncle, father, or grandfather, and an adult woman aunty, mother, or grandmother, even if they’re meeting that adult for the first time! Children offer available seats to adults and adults always eat before the children at meals. If an adult is giving something to a child, the child must put their hands out palms up, ready to graciously receive what is given to them rather than take it from the adult’s hands.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo there is an unreached, unengaged people group, who can be found living in the forests in the eastern part of the country, called the Yela. While most of the Yela have small farms or grow cash crops, many are also leaving their farms to seek out work in towns and cities. Most Yela would claim to follow Roman Catholicism, but they still practice animistic rituals. There are no translations of the Bible in their language. The Yela live in independent villages, and each village is led by a member of the oldest family.



Pray that the Yela will hear, understand, and hold fast to the gospel. As more and more Yela move to the cities to look for work pray that they will come in contact with healthy churches and true believers. Pray also for the elder leaders in the Yela villages. We are taught to respect our elders because our elders have experienced and learned more of life than we have. They’ve gone before us in a sense. We owe them respect because the wisdom they’ve gained has earned them our attention. So, imagine then, how a community might be affected if the leader elder of that community, hears a true story of the One True God who humbled Himself by becoming a man and enduring an unjust death so that all men may be free from the bonds of sin and shame and be set free in a newness of life. Picture now, that Yela elder in Africa, respected and revered by their community, walking out of their hut with a new gleam in his eye, a new story to tell, and a new way of life to lead.



Don’t forget to pray for the Yela children, too! Can you think of someone who’s older than you that has taught you the Bible and helped you to know who God is and how you can know and love Him? Chances are, you can probably think of several people. Right now, the Yela children don’t have anyone to tell them. But God, who is rich in mercy, has made a way for them to return to Him. Pray now the Yela will be led by The Good Shepherd, Christ, our elder brother, in a newness of life everlasting.