

PRAYERPOINTS

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Entrusting the gospel to believers who will teach it to others is key to engaging the growing city of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. Oral strategies effectively equip believers with biblical knowledge to accomplish this. Oral strategies and prayer must be a central to engage this city of 16 million people.

BLESSING AND PROSPERITY MESSAGES IN CHURCHES DECEIVE AFRICAN URBAN DWELLERS

Similar to America's Bible Belt, there is a church on nearly every corner in Kinshasa, the second-largest city in Sub-Saharan Africa and one of the IMB's Global Cities. Most people in Kinshasa associate with some type of church, whether of a mainstream denomination or a self-proclaimed apostle who promises blessings to anyone who gives an offering.

IMB missionary Aaron Kuglin estimates that there are over 20,000 churches in this city of 14 million, the capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He and other missionaries aim for these churches to be transformed by the Word of God.

Congolese need to know that "Jesus didn't die so you could be healthy and wealthy; Jesus died so you could have a right relationship with God," Aaron said. People are eager for God's blessings, but many don't realize that the blessing is forgiveness from sin. Many who



At a training in a church in Kinshasa, participants practice retelling a Bible story they just learned.

faithfully attend church have never been taught to repent.

A young woman named Marie attended three or four churches, trying to follow God. Pastors suggested prayers, activities, and group memberships, but they never called her to repentance. When Marie went to an evangelism training led by Aaron and his wife, she realized she had never asked God for forgiveness. She committed her life to Christ and is now a faithful member of the Kuglins' weekly Bible storying group. She regularly goes into marketplaces to share God's Word.

As God's truth spreads through people like Marie, churches in Kinshasa can become true places of blessing through the transforming power of the gospel.

"And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also."

2 Timothy 2:2 ESV

ANSWER TO YOUR PRAYER

In May 2022, you prayed for a missionary, seeking to minister to 3,000 indigenous people living in Bogota, Colombia. Now, he has valuable help in the task. "Thanks to God for putting together a 'veteran team!'" he said. "God also provided leaders who are willing to share what they have learned from many years of ministering to the indigenous."

1 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES.

Kinshasa, the capital city of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, is one of the fastest-growing cities in the world. Every day 1,500 people move into the city! Pray these newcomers will encounter Christians who will share the gospel with them.

2 BRAJ SPEAKERS OF UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA.

The 600,000 Rajput people are an unreached people group of northern India who are known for defending Hindu dominance against Muslim invasion. Pray for the light of the gospel to penetrate their hearts and minds so that they will repent and believe in the Lord Jesus.

3 DEAF PEOPLES. Pray for Bea, a teenager who wants to be a more active member of her Deaf church in Southeast Asia. Her father recently died, and she now needs a new home as he was her sole caretaker. Pray for Bea as she grieves. Ask that her church will support her and disciple her well.

4 ICELANDERS OF ICELAND.

Pray for the students and leaders involved in a college ministry in Reykjavik. They have formed several new relationships with Icelandic and foreign students this year. Pray for deepening relationships and for the wisdom to communicate the gospel.

5 SHAN MIGRANT CAMPS, CHIANG MAI, THAILAND. Pray for encouragement for believers who go to villages each week and share the gospel with the children. Pray that God's Word will penetrate the children's hearts and that the few who chose to follow Christ will take courage to share that decision with their parents.

6 KAZAKHS OF KAZAKHSTAN.

Several media resources are being developed in the Kazakh language to help with discipleship and evangelism. Pray that the resources will be easy to use, attractive, and helpful. Pray for many Kazakhs to come to Jesus and grow in Him through exposure to this media.

7 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES.

Pray that the leaders of Kinshasa's 20,000 churches will be godly men who rightly handle the Word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15). Pray they will diligently study the Scriptures and faithfully preach truth from their pulpits.

8 URBAN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF MANAUS, BRAZIL.

Pray for those attending a baptism class at a local church. The local culture is heavily influenced by the Roman Catholic church, so there are many misconceptions about baptism. Among this group are two preteen girls, one missionary kid, and an indigenous man.

9 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES.

Pray for the people of Kinshasa to see the futility of the popular heresy that directs them to seek Jesus for the promise of health, wealth, and physical blessings. Pray they will also break free from the animistic idea that they must appease God to get what they want.

10 ROHINGYA OF MYANMAR AND BANGLADESH.

The refugee camps are getting worse, not better. With little security, many people remain close to home until sunset and do not go out at night. There are reports of people coming to faith, but almost all of them keep it a secret. Pray that the situation will change.

11 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN UNENGAGED PEOPLES.

The 1.7 million Akhdam people are the former slave class of Yemen. Poor and lowly, they have suffered the most in the ongoing war. Ask God to meet their needs. Pray that they will find the gospel materials and Bibles in their language and hear of Jesus' love for them.

12 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES.

Pray for Christians in Kinshasa to see with God's eyes the lost nations of the world who are present among them, such as Chinese, Indians, and Lebanese. Pray that they will faithfully share the gospel with the immigrants they encounter.

13 ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES.

Pray for wisdom for the many believers who are dealing with restricted freedom online as they seek to expand God's kingdom by teaching and sharing with others. Pray that the Father will help them find effective and safe ways to witness and encourage each other.

14 NORTHERN IRAQI ARABS OF IRAQ.

The stigma of meeting with a mental health counselor keeps many northern Iraqi Arabs from seeking help even though they suffer trauma from war and poverty. Abuse, suicide, and depression run rampant. Pray that those who need help will seek and find complete healing.

15 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES.

Pray for believers in the DRC who are developing and presenting teachings on prayer. They aim to correct misguided beliefs and practices on prayer. It's often considered a way to persuade God to come to one's aid as if He were a benevolent grandfather or reluctant genie.

16 NORTH AFRICANS IN CITY OF BROKEN COLORS, EUROPE.

Hadiya prays, donates money to charity, and recites the Quran to her children each night at bedtime, believing that she is earning credit with God. She hopes that these good deeds will end up being enough to outweigh her sins. Pray that she will see her need for a Savior.

17 UIGHURS OF POST-SOVIET CENTRAL ASIA.

Some Uighurs in one village follow Islam simply because they were born into an Islamic culture. There are no believers in that village. Ask the Father to connect strong believers with Uighurs who are searching for truth so that they can find spiritual freedom in Jesus.

18 DEAF PEOPLES.

A Deaf church in Southeast Asia recently sent out Henry and Manny to visit Bright City. They met with Deaf people there and told several Bible stories. They were received well. Four people wanted to learn more stories! Pray that the two men can go back soon for follow up.

19 SWEDES OF SWEDEN.

As Folkungakyrkan Stockholm holds "Open Church" afternoons, pray for the Spirit to draw people. Pray for fruitful conversations, where people will openly speak about faith and hear the gospel! Pray for the ministry team to have joy in their work and wisdom in their words.

20 WIWA OF COLOMBIA.

Pray for Oliver and his family. The leadership of their mountain community have been questioning their faith. Pray that when they are questioned, the Lord will give them wisdom in how best to answer in a way that shares the truth of Jesus.

21 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES.

Pray for the development of worship training and

songwriting workshops in the DRC. Participants are taught Bible stories about worship and led to evaluate their worship practices through a Scriptural lens. They are then challenged to create a song that teaches truth.

22 PEOPLES OF JHARKHAND, INDIA.

People in eastern Jharkhand are proud of their tribal and Hindu traditions. The 2.6 million people of this mountainous and jungled area remain resistant to the gospel. Pray for believers to proclaim the gospel wisely and creatively. Pray for a church-planting movement.

23 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES.

New Hope trauma healing groups help people experience community, develop a sense of purpose, and increase their faith. Pray that believers in the DRC who are trained in the New Hope process will minister faithfully to hurting people.

24 PEOPLES OF RHINE, RÜHR, MAIN RIVER AREAS, GERMANY.

A year ago, Mike asked for a Bible. Joseph gave him one and challenged Mike to read it every day while Joseph prayed for him. Mike took the challenge but stopped responding after a few weeks. Recently, he asked Joseph to help him to read the Bible again. Pray for Mike!

25 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES.

StoryTogether workshops in the DRC have resulted in oral Bible story sets in over 50 languages, most of which don't have written Scriptures. Pray that God's Word will spread rapidly and will sink deeply into the hearts and minds of those who hear it.

26 DEAF PEOPLES.

Pray for a new believer in Central Asia who came to faith after she attended a fellowship for the first time and then had a dream of Jesus. She is now hungry for the Word! Ask

God to bless her discipleship, provide a job for her, and draw her unbelieving husband to faith.

27 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES.

Pray for seven unengaged, unreached people groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo: the Bangobango, Seba, Yela, Ngiri, Ngando, Ngongo and Salampasu. Pray for the gospel to spread among these groups within the capital city and in forest villages.

28 PEOPLES OF THE NORTHERN MOUNTAINS OF LAOS.

The Sila people are a group of 4,000 who farm and gather from the forests. They have no Bible resources in their language. Pray that the Sila will seek the Creator God and meet believers who will share the gospel with them. Ask God to build His church among the Sila.

29 AFAR OF NORTHERN AFRICA.

Conflict in their homeland has displaced many Afar. Many families have fled to the east where there is safety, but little food. Pray for mercy for these suffering families and for grace for those in positions of power and organizations that are trying to keep them fed.

30 CENTRAL ASIAN UNENGAGED PEOPLES.

Many Afshari of Iran listen to the radio and own cassette players. They follow Shia Islam and are very resistant to the gospel. No believers live among them. Pray for the development and distribution of Christian radio programming and gospel recordings in their dialect.

31 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES.

Pray for a new StoryTogether project among the Salampasu and nearby people groups. Bible stories are taught in a common language, then groups break off to recraft the stories into their heart languages. Pray for faithfulness to God's Word and unity among the translators.

GOD'S WORD TRANSFORMS HEARTS AND LIVES IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



A man is out in Kinshasa, practicing sharing the Bible stories he just learned.

In the megacity of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) many people view God as a reluctant genie who grants the wishes of those who put enough money in the offering plate. Few understand the gospel and live it out.

IMB missionaries want the people of Kinshasa to be transformed by stories from God's Word. Their goal is to permeate the city with truth, story by story and person by person. The process may seem slow, and sometimes it is, but it results in permanent heart change and a disciple who makes disciples.

Aaron Kuglin and a team of local believers conduct trainings in Kinshasa's churches, teaching

participants key Bible stories. Then they walk the streets, sharing the stories. They are encouraged to start weekly groups to continue learning and sharing.

A man named Joseph attended a training, joined Aaron's weekly group, and came to faith in Christ. After a year of discipleship, he started his own group. Every month as the group goes out to share stories, at least two or three people profess faith in Christ.

As Aaron's team works in Kinshasa's churches, they look for people with connections to unengaged

people groups that are part of the IMB's 55-in-5 initiative.* The connections lead to opportunities to take God's Word deep into DRC's forest villages. Now three priority people groups have access to Bible stories in their heart languages – the Ngando, Ngongo, and Bangobango. Soon the Salampasu will also experience the transforming power of God's Word.

***Visit imb.org/ssap/55-in-5 for more information.**



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THE NATIONS,
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Some names may have been changed for security reasons.
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