

PRAYERPOINTS

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

In sub-Saharan Africa, 62% of the population is under the age of 25. Around 15 million of them have lost one or both parents. IMB missionaries are reaching out to these orphaned and vulnerable children, teaching them the good news about their Heavenly Father, and being His caring, gentle hands in their lives. Will you pray with us for children and young adults in Africa to draw near to the Father?

IMB TEAM SEEKS TO SERVE THE FORGOTTEN CHILDREN IN NAIROBI, KENYA

Hundreds of thousands of children live and work every day on the streets of Nairobi, Kenya, a global city of great wealth. These children have been separated from their families because of poverty, divorce, or the death of a parent. They collect plastics to sell for recycling. They dig through trash cans or beg to find their next meal. They are covered in dirt, and most people walk right past them – but not IMB Team Associate Evans Okeyo.

“Living on the streets after my parents died, I remember the hopelessness I felt, the same hopelessness that I see staring back at me when meeting with [children living on the streets] now,” Okeyo said. “Boys are physically hungry and also hungry for someone to care, to sit and hear their story, to pay attention.”

Okeyo walks the streets of Nairobi searching for these forgotten children.



Boys staying at Shelter Yetu welcome one of their friends from the streets who has just arrived. IMB Photo.

He sits in the dirt with them and listens to their stories. He shares the hope he has found in Jesus. And then, when they are ready to leave the streets, he rescues them.

Okeyo partners with Shelter Yetu, a rescue center outside of the city. At the center, children find food, a warm bed, and adults who care for them. The children stay for three to six months, while they receive trauma counseling, academic help, discipleship, and life skills. Then social workers help place them in safe, loving homes.

Pray for children living on the streets in Nairobi and in other cities across Africa. Pray that they will know that they are beloved children of God.

ANSWER TO YOUR PRAYER

In February 2023, we prayed for many missionary kids, including a girl entering high school in Japan. Her mother, a missionary in Japan, shared an update. “We seriously considered other schooling options because [my daughter] couldn't adjust to school for a while. An IMB MK education consultant really helped us a lot. [My daughter] went back to school with a grateful heart, and now she's doing well with her classmates. I truly appreciate everyone who prayed.”

1 CHILDREN. As many as 15 million children in Africa have lost one or both parents. In many cases orphans live with family. Please pray for these orphans, that they know the love of their Heavenly Father, and that He would provide for all their needs.

2 CHURCHES. Sub-Saharan Africa is diverse and rapidly growing. In remote villages and bustling cities, there are many spiritual needs such as training pastors, evangelizing Muslims, digital engagement, or trauma healing. Ask the Lord to send laborers into this harvest field.

3 REFUGEES. Internally displaced people (IDP) run for their lives without crossing an international border. Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has the third largest IDP population in the world – over 5.4 million. Pray that they will find new life in Christ Jesus.

4 CHILDREN. Pray for missionary kids (MKs) who are ministering to their friends around Africa. Many of them share the gospel with children who may have never heard it before. Pray MKs will be bold in sharing their faith and that their friends' hearts and minds will be open.

5 REFUGEES. Uganda, smaller than the State of Oregon, hosts the third largest population of refugees in the world – 1.5 million. Pray that these refugees will turn to God, who can solve all their problems, including their greatest problem, lostness, by salvation in Jesus Christ.

6 CHILDREN. Pray for an IMB team in Botswana working with Gaborone Baptist Church. The

church is a safe place for children, where they can hear Bible stories. Ask that as believers love these children and connect with their families, many will know the love of the Father.

7 UNREACHED. Pray that, by God's mercy and grace and for His glory, the largest 55 people groups identified as unengaged and unreached with the gospel will be engaged with the gospel by 2025. Most are in remote and hard-to-reach places, but God can make a way.

8 DIASPORA. Paris, France has a high population of undocumented immigrants from West Africa. The risk of getting caught is worth the benefits of better jobs or health care. Pray that they will hear the gospel and accept salvation through Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.

9 CHILDREN. Pray for the children of the Salampasu people of DRC who just received training to disciple their children well. Pray that believers will evangelize and disciple their children with passion and excellence. May every Salampasu child become a disciple of Jesus.

10 UNREACHED. The Wolof of Mauritania have no access to the gospel, and it is illegal to evangelize in Mauritania. There is no on-the-ground research or missionary presence. Pray that God makes a way for the gospel to be proclaimed and accepted among the Wolof of Mauritania.

11 CHILDREN. In Lesotho, 16% of the population are orphaned children. Pray for orphan care centers run by local churches.

Each day, children go to the centers after school to receive help with homework, a hot meal, and the love and care they desperately need.

12 UNREACHED. There are no known believers among the Zigua of Tanzania. Currently, there are no missionaries or plans to engage them with the gospel. Please pray for workers to go. Pray that the spiritual barriers would be broken down and many will be saved.

13 CHILDREN. Psalm 68:6 says, "God provides homes for those who are deserted." Pray for hundreds of thousands of children living in orphanages in Africa. As many as 80% have at least one living parent. Ask the Lord to provide ways for them to grow up in loving families.

14 UNREACHED. Instability has prevented direct gospel engagement with the Fulanke of Mali. There have been interactions in a prison with Fulanke men, but no spiritual fruit yet. Pray for research that is needed and for the Lord to make a way for Fulanke villages to hear the gospel.

15 CHILDREN. Millions of children in Africa live and work on the streets. Some are not orphans, but have been separated from parental care by poverty, abuse, or family breakdown. Pray for African believers to compassionately help these children with their physical and spiritual needs.

16 CHURCHES. Pray for a new church plant on the southern side of Maputo, Mozambique, to love God and bring Him glory as they share the good news in a

developing community. Pray for a nearby university to be an open door to the students searching for the meaning of life.

17 CHILDREN. More than half of all refugees and displaced persons in Africa are children. Pray them to find safety and stability. Pray for churches to minister to refugees and bring hope and healing to those who are suffering.

18 UNREACHED. In Bamako, Mali, a city over 95% Muslim, sharing the gospel can seem overwhelming. Pray for the handful of small churches to move forward in the strength of the Lord. Pray that God gives boldness, wisdom, and discernment as they share with their Muslim family and friends.

19 CHILDREN. Pray for a multi-year discipleship program for children being developed by IMB missionaries and national partners in Democratic Republic of Congo. Pray the curriculum will engage and equip children to join in God's mission.

20 YOUNG ADULTS. Each week Malagasy believers study at a seminary in Antananarivo, Madagascar. These students represent people groups around the island. Pray that these young men and women are formed in the knowledge of God, and in His character in their daily lives.

21 CHILDREN. Pray for a new initiative with a Christian high school in East Africa that will support orphaned children. Pray that God will give IMB missionaries wisdom as there is a limited number of children they can support. May the children know His love through this program.

22 YOUNG ADULTS. Students desperately seek satisfaction in the world, but busy studies and complex relationships don't fill that void. Only Christ will bring complete satisfaction. Pray for African students to flee temptation and pursue Christ with their whole heart.

23 CHILDREN. An estimated 200,000 children are living and schooling in traditional Quranic schools in Dakar, Senegal. They often beg for food, suffer abuse, and live in dismal conditions. Pray that they see the light of the gospel, and that God would rescue suffering children.

24 YOUNG ADULTS. In Africa, 65% of the population are under the age of 25. Pray that the spiritual roots of African young adults grow deep as they trust in God's Word and boldly proclaim it. May they be salt and light in a dark world, pointing others to God.

25 CHILDREN. Orphaned children across Africa are provided with school fees, uniforms, books, and supplies thanks to ongoing support from a Lottie Moon Challenge. Pray that these children will experience the love of Jesus as missionaries visit them and help with school expenses.

26 YOUNG ADULTS. Pray that African young adults will have a firm foundation on God's Word. May they grow to be biblically sound pastors and church leaders in healthy, multiplying churches. Pray that they will hold fast to the pure gospel, not be drawn to false teaching.

27 CHURCHES. Pray that the African church would not be swayed by worldly winds but stand with both feet firmly on the Rock. Pray that they would be wise and discerning as the world presses in with deception. May they be known for biblically sound and truthful teaching.

28 CHILDREN. In several African cities, IMB missionaries have partnered with Send Relief to provide backpacks for underprivileged students. This has opened doors for continued ministries like Bible classes and Bible clubs. Pray for open hearts to hear the gospel week after week.

29 CHURCHES. Pray that African churches will continue obeying the Great Commission and sending missionaries to the ends of the earth. May the Lord call many African believers to be sent by their churches, and may He equip the churches with all they need to support and send missionaries.

30 YOUNG ADULTS. Pray for IMB missionaries who are reaching out to university students across the continent. Pray for African university students to respond to the gospel, connect with local, healthy churches, and transform the future of Africa.

31 CHILDREN. In Africa, many children are separated from families because of divorce, abuse, or conflict. Please pray for healthy, loving families. Ask God to raise up more churches that value godly families and teach parents how to love and disciple their children well.

IMB MISSIONARY WORKS WITH A LOCAL BELIEVER TO TRAIN CHURCHES IN DISCIPLING CHILDREN

IMB missionary Kathy Shafto became a believer at a young age. But it wasn't through a pastor, parent, or a church program.

"I came to know Christ at the age of nine by the witness of a 10-year-old," Shafto said.

This experience gave Shafto a passion for reaching children, not only with the gospel, but with the tools to share it with others.

"I know that even in the smallest forest village, if people who know Jesus are trained well, they also can offer that to children," Shafto said.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Salampasu are an unreached people group living in rural villages. Their name means "hunter of locusts," and they are regarded by their neighbors as fierce warriors.

While the Salampasu have received some gospel witness, their leaders haven't always seen the value of children in the church.

Recently, Raymond, a Congolese believer, traveled 12 hours by motorcycle to a group of remote Salampasu villages. He was there at the encouragement of Shafto to train 30 believers and church leaders how they can effectively disciple



Families in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) gather on their porch in the evening.

their children. The orality-based training was enthusiastically received by the church leaders.

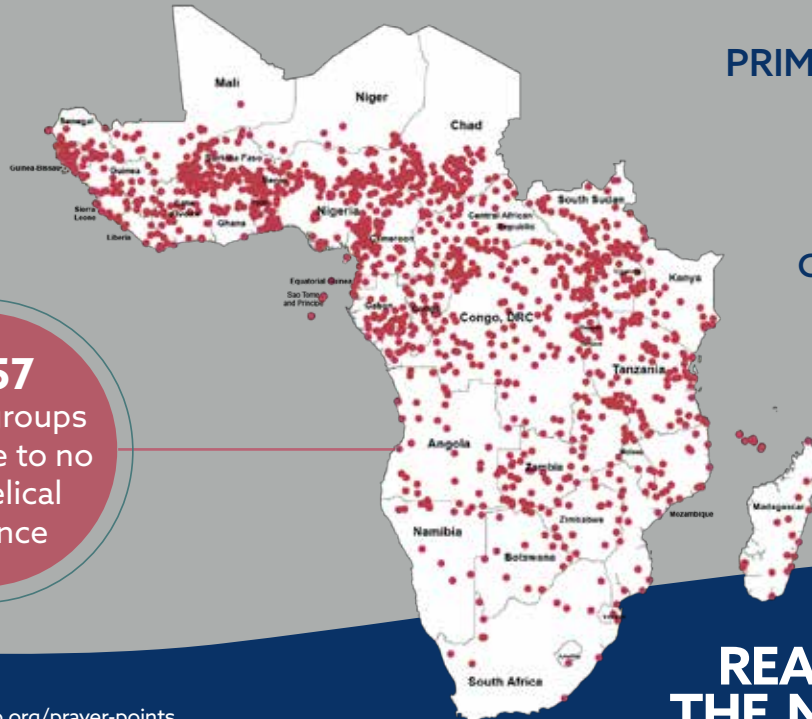
The next morning, as they gathered in a mud-walled church to continue with the training, children began crowding outside, straining to hear the stories and songs.

Raymond, seeing the opportunity, invited the children in. The church leaders were able to put into practice the lessons they had learned the previous day.

Please pray for the Salampasu children to understand the message of the gospel and look to Jesus for their salvation. Pray that their generation will take this good news to the ends of the earth.

Lostness in Sub-Saharan Africa

1,557
people groups
with little to no
evangelical
influence



PRIMARY RELIGIONS

Islam



Christianity



Animism/
ATR



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