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Pray with Democratic Republic of Congo on Sunday June 3, 2018

BY [LINDA JAMES](#) ON MAY 29, 2018

Lectionary Selection: Mark 2:23-3:6

Prayers for Democratic Republic of Congo:

Father God,

Our faith teaches us love and joyful service. Each day, may our deeds and our words reflect your teachings and guidance. Just as Jesus responded with love and kindness by healing the man's shriveled hand in the synagogue, so shall we respond in kindness and faith to needs as they present themselves. (Mark 2:23-3:6)



Christ's commitment to us is everlasting and without rules, boundaries or timelines. While rest and reflection on the Sabbath are important for our spiritual journey, so too is living our faith as we serve others in our daily lives. Please guide us as we are presented with opportunities to serve the people of Congo for your glory through the work of the Congo Protestant University.

You have created us all in your image. May we remain true to your teachings.

Thy will be done.

Amen.

Mission Stewardship Moment from Democratic Republic of Congo:

A young doctor, a recent Congo Protestant University Medical School graduate, is working with a team conducting research in multiple health facilities in Kinshasa. He manages blood collection at seven health centers in the city. One of those centers is a maternity center where expectant mothers go for their prenatal check-ups. Oftentimes, they have several of their children with them during these visits.

One afternoon, a mother approached the young doctor to ask for his help in getting her young son released from the health center. Patients cannot leave if they cannot pay the bill. This doctor immediately paid the bill of \$50, 20% of his monthly salary, so that the child could go home with his mother. This kind gesture did not take place on the Sabbath. But if it had, the young doctor would have responded in the same manner by extending his hand with compassion.

Our commitment to the promotion of Christian values is important as the University creates a brighter future for its students and its country. Stand with us as Disciples of Christ and UCC continue to partner with the Congo Protestant University.

(Prayer and Mission Moment by Linda James)

Global Ministries Global Service Co-worker:

Linda James serves with the Protestant University in Congo (UPC) as she assists with their capacity building program. Her appointment is made possible by your gifts to Disciples' Mission Fund, Our Churches Wider Mission, and your special gifts.

Democratic Republic of Congo:

https://www.globalministries.org/democratic_republic_of_congo



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Democratic Republic of Congo

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is the second largest country in Africa. It borders nine countries: Angola, Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. The people of the DRC represent over 200 ethnic groups, with nearly 250 languages and dialects spoken throughout the country. Kinshasa, the capital, is the second largest French-speaking city in the world.

The economy of the Democratic Republic of the Congo – a nation endowed with vast natural resource wealth – is slowly recovering after decades of decline. Systemic corruption since independence in 1960, combined with countrywide instability and conflict that began in the mid-1990s has dramatically reduced national output and government revenue and increased external debt. It continues to have an extremely poor population.

Approximately 50% of the population is Roman Catholic, 20% is Protestant, 10% is Kimbanguist, 10% is Muslim, 10% is other (includes syncretic sects and indigenous beliefs).

Population (2015 est) – 79,375,136

Area – 905,568 mi

Capital – Kinshasa

Ethnic Background

Over 200 African ethnic groups – the majority are Bantu; the four largest tribes – Mongo, Luba, Kongo (all Bantu), and the Mangbetu-Azande (Hamitic) make up about 45% of the population

Exports – diamonds, copper, gold, cobalt, wood products, crude oil, coffee

Imports – foodstuffs, mining and other machinery, transport equipment, fuels

Life Expectancy (2015 est) – M 55 years F 59 years

Infant Mortality (2015 est) – 71.47 deaths/1,000 live births

Adult Illiteracy Rate – 36.2%

Source: The World Factbook