

# Children's Service Project

THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH



Bed Nets  
*for* LIFE

CONGO



Children's Service Project

THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

Bed Nets  
*for* **LIFE**  

---

**CONGO**

# *“Love your neighbor as yourself.”*

— Mark 12:31 (TNIV)

THE CHILDREN’S SERVICE PROJECT enables us to partner with children on their spiritual journey to:

- fulfill Christ’s commandment to love God and our neighbor
- foster a larger kingdom view
- offer an opportunity to serve and obey God
- provide a shared faith experience to build community

Over the past eight years the Children’s Service Project has enabled children in North America to help children in the most destitute places in the world. This year’s project will help children in Congo.

Malaria is the largest cause of death for children under five years old in Congo. Malaria spreads when a person gets bitten by an infected mosquito. Bed nets help prevent mosquito bites at night and reduce the incidence of malaria in children. Unfortunately most children do not have a bed net. There is a substantial need with life and death consequences.

## **What are some of the ways children in your church can help?**

Malaria is preventable and curable, but can be fatal if not treated promptly with effective medicines. We can help prevent children from becoming infected with this disease in the first place. The Congo Covenant Church (CEUM) is active in helping stop the spread of malaria in children and has invited us to join in the fight. This year children in Covenant churches across North America can once again help make a



difference in the lives of children in need. Their offerings will go toward providing children in Congo with a protective bed net to keep them safe from infected mosquitoes.

This booklet contains twenty-four stories of children in Congo who have benefited or will benefit from the ministries of the Covenant Church of Congo and the church's efforts to stop the spread of malaria. Before taking your offering each week with the children, please read one of the stories as a reminder of who will be receiving their gifts. In this way, children will connect with a bigger picture of God's kingdom as they give.

We already know children can reflect Christ's love to others and can make a difference through their giving and their prayers. Thank you for joining us this year in helping the children in Congo.

**Steve Burger**

*Director of Christian Formation*  
Department of Christian Formation

**Katie Isaza**

*Christian Formation Ministry Coordinator*  
Department of Christian Formation

---

Copyright © 2009 Evangelical Covenant Church

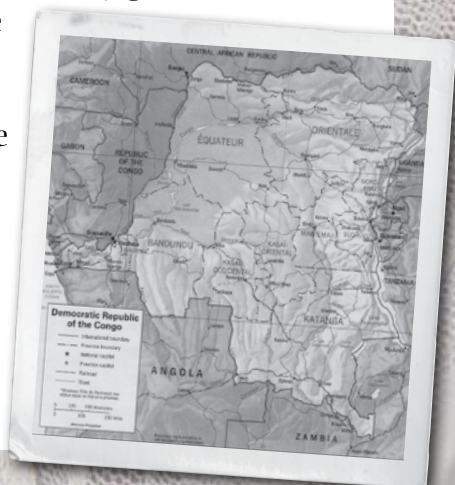
*This project is co-sponsored by: Covenant World Relief, Paul Carlson Partnership, and the Department of Christian Formation. See contact information on back cover.*

**WEEK 1** Kids who live in Congo do the same kinds of things that all kids do — they play, go to school, do chores and help their parents. Sometimes they get sick too. There is a disease that affects many children in Congo called malaria. Children become infected by this disease when they get bitten by an infected mosquito. Can you imagine worrying that being bitten by a mosquito might cause malaria? In North

America we don't have to worry about this, because the mosquitoes here don't carry malaria. But for our brothers and sisters in Congo a mosquito bite can be deadly. Through your offering, you can help protect children in Congo from this disease.



**WEEK 2** Can you find Congo on the map of Africa? Congo is the large, square country right in the middle of Africa. Did you notice that there are two countries named Congo? One is the Republic of Congo and the other is the *Democratic Republic of Congo*. The one we're talking about is the big one — the Democratic Republic of Congo. Its name is usually abbreviated "the D.R. Congo." This country gets its name from the river that runs alongside of it — the Congo River. It is a beautiful country with beautiful people who have suffered because of wars, poverty, and diseases. Malaria is the most common disease that makes so many people sick. Remember to pray for the children in Congo as you give your offering today.



**WEEK 3** The Covenant Church in Congo (CEUM) is working to stop children from getting sick with malaria. With every \$10 that we give to kids in Congo, they will be able to receive a bed net, also called a mosquito net, which will protect them from the mosquitoes when they sleep at night. These nets hang over their beds and keep the mosquitoes from biting them. With only \$10 we can help save a life by making sure each child has a bed net. As you give your offering, remember that you are making a big difference.

**WEEK 4** What do you think the weather is like in Congo? If you guessed hot, you're right! It's always hot, but not much hotter than some places in North America. Usually it's between 90 and 105 degrees. Congo really has only two seasons – dry season and rainy season. In the rainy season it rains every day. But no matter what time of year, children always have to worry about getting bitten by an infected mosquito.

Tantine is in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. She has never had a bed net and she has gotten sick with malaria more than once. Your offering will help Tantine and other children receive a bed net to protect them from the mosquitoes.



**WEEK 5** What is your house made of? Wood? Brick? Probably not mud! In the villages in Congo, most houses have mud walls and grass thatch roofs. They don't have money to buy bricks or other materials that we may use. Most windows have no screens to keep out the mosquitoes. Children often sleep on woven mats on the floor.

Linda is in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and sleeps on a bed with three of her brothers and sisters. Sounds different from what you're used to, right? Just think about how happy these children will be to receive a bed net! In giving your offering you are sharing Jesus' love with kids in Congo.



**WEEK 6** Mosquito nets are like a cloth screen with tiny holes. They hang from the ceiling and are tucked under the mattress or bed to keep out the mosquitoes when people are sleeping. The Congo Covenant Church will give out bed nets that have a chemical as part of the fabric that actually kills mosquitoes as they land on the net. This means fewer mosquitoes are able to stay in the house. Most houses need 3-5 nets to protect the people sleeping there. Just think with \$30 we can help a whole family! The children in Congo thank you for giving your offering.

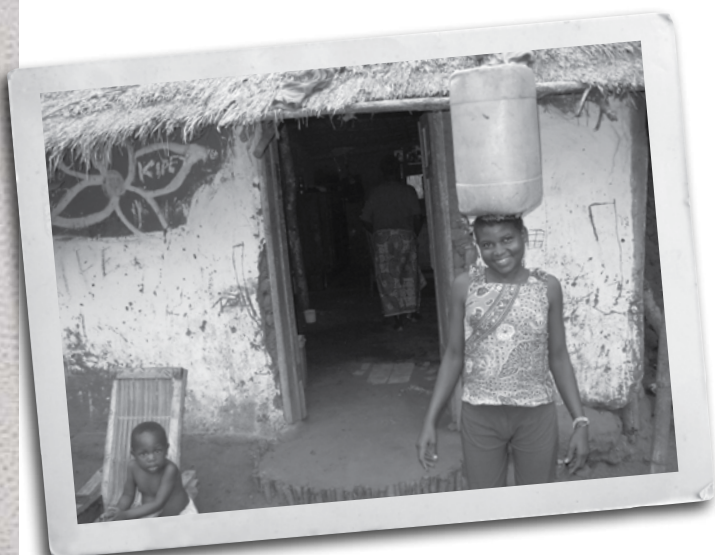
**WEEK 7** When a child becomes infected with malaria they might not even feel sick at first. Some children who become sick with malaria feel fine one day and become extremely ill the next, some children even die. Malaria may sometimes make kids feel like they have the flu, but it's much more serious. When you give your offering you are helping to save the life of a child in Congo.

**WEEK 8** One mother told us how the bed nets have helped her family. She said: "Mosquito nets help us keep mosquitoes away. Before, they used to bite us a lot at night, but since we started using them, they don't bother us anymore. We know they help us a lot." Praise God this family has bed nets to protect them! Remember, when you give your offering this week you are helping this mother protect her children from malaria.



**WEEK 9** Papa lives in Bokonzo, Gemena and he does not have a bed net in his house. He doesn't have a bed net because he doesn't have enough money to buy one. He says the price is too high for him, but he really needs a bed net. Today, by giving your offering, you will help Papa receive the bed net he needs for his children.

**WEEK 10** Alain lives in Congo and says that the mosquitoes bite him all the time because he doesn't have a bed net. He has gotten sick with malaria many times. You could help change Alain's life and the lives of many other children by simply giving your offering to help a child receive a bed net. Isn't it great to know that by giving your offering you are helping a child stay healthy? Imagine how happy the children will be when they don't have to worry about getting bitten by mosquitoes while they sleep. Thank you for giving your offering today.



**WEEK 11** In Congo, children can become sick with malaria many times if they don't have a bed net. One mother tells us that she doesn't have money to buy one. This mother says that if you can help give her children a bed net she would be so happy because then they would not keep getting sick. Your offering today will put a smile on her face. Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus with children and families in Congo.

**WEEK 12** Do you think kids in the Congo dress like you? Most of them do! Kids in Congo get a lot of clothes that have already been worn by kids in North America. Boys wear shorts and shirts and girls either wear skirts and tops or dresses. Some children wear sandals, but other's can't afford to buy shoes. Most families in the Congo are very poor. That is why it is so hard for them to buy bed nets.

Benoe is in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and his family can't afford to buy a bed net for him. With your offering today you will help Benoe get the bed net he needs.



**WEEK 13** The Congo Covenant Church (CEUM) works very hard to fight malaria. They have hospitals and health clinics and treat children and their families when they get sick with malaria. Most people in Congo will get malaria at least two times a year. If people keep the grass and brush near their homes cut low, and make sure there are no puddles of water near their homes, they can help keep the mosquito population down which will protect children from getting malaria. But mosquitoes are in schools, in stores, outdoors where people work — everywhere where people

are, there are also mosquitoes. That's why it is so important to have bed nets when they sleep. Your offering will help the Congo Covenant Church fight against malaria and get children the protection they need.



**WEEK 14** Even with all the problems that children in Congo face, they still love God and love to worship.

Many children go to Covenant churches, like you. Church services are a little different from services here in our country. They are longer, with more singing and dancing — in fact, there are often several choirs at a church service, some girls and some adults. Choirs may dance as well as sing. And when they take the offering, instead of passing a basket through the rows, the people stand up and start dancing, and they dance their gifts up to the front where big baskets are waiting. We too can be joyful when we give our offering today and praise God for all of his good gifts. Thank you God for all you give us and thank you that when we give back to you we help others.

**WEEK 15** Pastor Marie loves working with the children in Congo but she gets very sad when she sees how sick they get from malaria. She has seen that a bed net can help a lot. She says that when it is time to go to bed and there are no bed nets, the mosquitoes bite the children over and over. Sometimes you will see many bumps on a child's face from mosquito bites. There is a great need for mosquito nets where Pastor Marie lives. Wouldn't love to help Pastor Marie get the children in her town bed nets? Your offering will help!

**WEEK 16** As a disciple of Jesus you make a difference when you reach out to those in need. Because of your offering, many children like Ate,

who is in third grade and loves to study math, will now be able to sleep soundly and not worry about getting sick from malaria. Ate will have the opportunity to grow up healthy and become a disciple of Jesus. It may seem like you aren't doing much, but by giving your offering you are helping to change Ate's life.



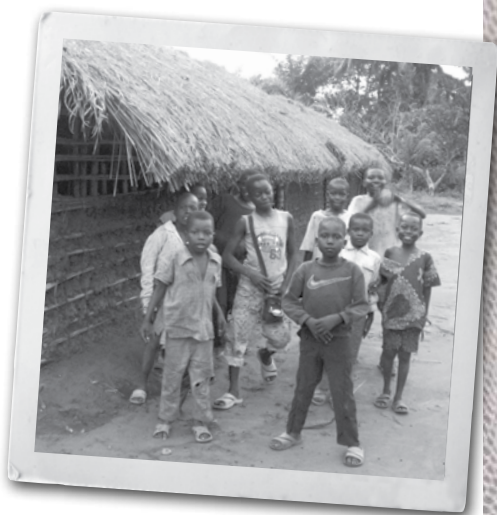
**WEEK 17** It's not fun to be sick, is it? Children in Congo do not want to become sick with malaria. Many times they get a fever, chills, body aches, head ache, and an upset stomach. There are medicines that can help treat malaria, but many times it's hard for children to get to a doctor and they can't pay for the medicine. That's why it is so important to use bed nets so the children won't become sick. No matter how much you give, your offering will help keep children from getting sick with malaria.

**WEEK 18** Boys and girls in Congo love to run and play just like you. Boys like to play soccer but they don't always have a ball so sometimes they use a large round fruit, like a grapefruit. Boys also love to climb trees and play tag. Girls don't get to play as much because they start helping their mothers with chores when they are about five years old. Still, they love to jump rope, dress up, and dance. By giving your offering you are helping children in Congo stay healthy so they can do all the things they love to do.



**WEEK 19** The Congo Covenant Church is doing everything it can to make sure children can go to school. Many families can't afford to buy school supplies or pay the small fee for each child who goes to school. The Congo Covenant Church has built schools and has provided families with school supplies. Now they are helping to keep kids healthy so they can go to school.

If a child becomes sick with malaria, it is very hard to study. Would you want to go to school if you were sick? That's why it's so important to help protect children in Congo from getting malaria. Your offering will not only help children stay healthy, but it will allow them to continue studying in school.



**WEEK 20** Mama Pasteur has 2 bed nets in her house, but that is not enough. During the school year she has 11 children in her home. With only two nets, only some of the children are protected from mosquito bites. Your offering will help Mama Pasteur and other families receive the bed nets they need to keep the children safe so they can grow up and continue to grow as disciples of Jesus.

**WEEK 21** Anathese attends the Congo Covenant Church (CEUM) in Bokonzo and is in 6<sup>th</sup> grade at the Bokonzo Elementary School. Anathese is happy because her father was able to get her a bed net. She says the mosquitoes can't get inside the bed net, so she sleeps much better and doesn't get sick anymore. Other children in Congo aren't so lucky. You can help other children who don't have a bed net. With your offering the Congo Covenant Church can buy bed nets for many children in need.

**WEEK 22** Esther is in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at a school in Bokonzo, and she also sings in the "Echo of Heaven" choir at her church. She loves to sing and praise God. Esther prays that God will keep her safe from malaria since her family cannot afford to buy a bed net. Did you know that God can use you to help answer her prayers? Your offerings will allow Esther to receive a bed net and then she won't have to worry so much about getting sick with malaria.



**WEEK 23** Jose is a nurse at the health center in Bokonzó. He says most people who come to the center because they are sick have malaria. Luckily, Jose can help by giving them medicines to fight the disease. He also tells them about things they can do to protect themselves from getting malaria again. One of the best things they can do is to put up a bed net. Unfortunately, in the area where they live it is not easy to find bed nets. That's why your offering is so important!

**WEEK 24** Esther, Alain and Linda thank God for his care and for each one of you. Their lives will be touched by your offering. They are thankful that so many children will now be safe from malaria because of the bed nets your offering will help them receive.







## **DONATION INFORMATION**

Make offering checks out to Evangelical Covenant Church.

Include “Congo – Bed Nets for Life” in the memoline.

Please send donations to:

Covenant World Relief  
5101 N. Francisco Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60625



Department of Christian Formation  
The Evangelical Covenant Church  
Website: [www.covchurch.org/formation](http://www.covchurch.org/formation)  
For information: Covenant Resource Center (800) 338-IDEA (4332)  
To order: [www.covenantbookstore.com](http://www.covenantbookstore.com)