

A photograph showing several children and adults at a well in a rural area. One child in the foreground is washing green leafy vegetables in a yellow bucket. Another child is filling a blue container. The background shows a muddy well and some vegetation.

PRAY
FOR THE CONGO
CHILDREN NEEDING CLEAN WATER

John 4:5-10

5 So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" 8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

[LENTEN PRAYER GUIDE: WEEK 1]

Clean, pure water is a blessing. Less than 12 percent of the people of in Gemena, in Democratic Republic of Congo, have easy access to clean water from a nearby well or piped water system. Many – especially women and girls – walk miles daily to carry heavy jerry cans full of water for all their family's needs. Unclean water and poor sanitation lead to diarrhea and other waterborne diseases that take a heavy toll in productivity and lives cut short.

Please join me in prayer for the clean, plentiful water.

Three out of four people in rural Democratic Republic of Congo have no access to clean water.

Lord, we pray for our sisters and brothers who struggle to provide clean drinking water to nourish the health of their families. Pour out Your living water upon them and give us generous hearts to support them in building and maintaining new water systems.

Women and girls who spend hours a day carrying water are exposed to many dangers. That's why many girls don't attend school, and their mothers find it hard to make an income and care for their families.

Remembering the woman at the well who gave water to Jesus, we ask Your blessings on those who labor so that others may have a drink. Keep them safe from predators and other dangers. Give them strength for their tasks and hope for a day when their labor won't be in vain.

Few families in northern DRC have latrines or convenient bathrooms where they can bathe, wash their hands, and brush their teeth. Many have little knowledge of the importance of basic hygiene.

*Bring comfort, Lord, to those who suffer indignities and ill health because of poverty and ignorance.
Let Your light shine into their lives through us to bring hope and renewal.*

Rivers and streams that crisscross northern DRC have been polluted by waste dumped into them. Deforestation and poor land use are hurting the environment and the future of farmers.

O Lord, we acknowledge that You have entrusted Your bountiful earth to our care. We pray for healthy and fertile lands with wildlife and plentiful rain to support the lives of the Congolese. May they learn to steward the land You have given them and share its blessings.