

HOPE SUNDAY PASTOR TALKING POINTS

USE FOR:
Planning the service
Sermon Ideas



Hope Sunday Pastor Talking Points

As you prepare to preach for your Hope Sunday, you can reference these talking points and sermon illustrations.

If you would rather **have a CKC speaker preach for your Hope Sunday**, please contact us at least two to three months ahead of time at **773-442-6578** or **covenantkidscongo@covchurch.org**. There is no speaker fee, but CKC asks that your church would contribute toward the speaker's travel expenses.

Introduction:

Together with our Congolese brothers and sisters, we have made amazing strides in the city of Gemena in northwest DR Congo.

- 37,000+ people have gained access to clean water, thanks to two new water wells and capped springs.
- Three new schools and two maternal health clinics have been built, vastly improving education and maternal healthcare.
- 180,310 children have been immunized against preventable, life-threatening diseases.
- These strides have been made in partnership with the local church, most notably the Covenant Church of Congo (CEUM).
- Covenant churches like ours have played a wonderful part in this good news.

But at the same time, such progress is only a fraction of the need.

- Only 16% of the Gemena population has access to clean water.
- About 3,000 children have been registered and are currently waiting to be sponsored—right now!
- Extreme poverty is thriving in the margins. DR Congo is one of the poorest countries in the world, and few humanitarian organizations operate in this remote area.
- Malnutrition, disease, and waterborne illness are very common and continue to threaten children's lives.

Middle:

As the church, we can choose one of two responses:

- We can react in despair and withdraw, thinking there's nothing we can do that will make a difference.
- Or we can trust that God is in control—then respond to the most pressing needs of our day with the love and hope of Jesus, following Him by ministering where oppression and injustice are driving the most vulnerable people deeper into poverty.

The Evangelical Covenant Church is answering the call to be greater than today's adversity. Working together with the Covenant Church of Congo, we can help build a brighter future for the next generation in DR Congo.

Closing/Call to Action:

One of the most powerful ways to walk alongside our brothers and sisters in DR Congo is to sponsor a child. Sponsorship is a personal connection to a child and family. You can help transform their community and support sustainable change, both physical and spiritual.

Because nothing is greater than Jesus' unconditional love. That's what attracts so many to Him. And in Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus calls us as His church to continue the work He started by reaching out with that love to those in need. As we respond, we too will be renewed.

Ending Your Service:

At the very end of your service, right before worshipers leave the sanctuary, invite everyone to visit the sponsorship table. Hold up a picture folder and share the name of a child who's waiting to be sponsored at your church today.

Explain that you can sponsor a child by filling out the tear-off card inside the picture folder and turning it in to the sponsorship table. Your church will then mail in all the sponsorships to World Vision. **Please ask congregants not to take a picture folder home unless if they are sponsoring that child (and turning in the tear-off card) today.** These are real children who are waiting to be sponsored, so it's very important to keep track of the picture folders.

Videos:

Choose a CKC video to play during your sermon! These videos can be downloaded at www.covchurch.org/hopesunday.

- [The Impact of Sponsorship: Deborah's Story](#)
- [What I've Seen in Congo: Greg Krieger's CKC Story](#)
- [Women's Agricultural Groups](#)
- [Women's Savings Groups](#)
- [Clean Water for Congo: One Family's Story](#)
- [Bright Hopes for the Children of Congo](#)

Hope Sunday Sermon Illustrations

Use these stories of transformation as illustrations in your Hope Sunday sermon.

How Hermine Overcame Malnutrition:



When Mama Fifi gave birth to Hermine, she was malnourished like her siblings before her. But this time, Mama Fifi joined a women's agricultural group supported by CKC, went to trainings, and started preparing more nutritious food, like protein-rich peanuts and dried fish. It made a dramatic difference to Hermine's health. Now Hermine is 7 years old, and she enjoys studying reading and handwriting. When she grows up, Hermine would like to be a doctor, "to give people shots," or a teacher, "to get knowledge," she said.

"If it were not for these good teachings, you would not see my daughter here standing as healthy as she is," Mama Fifi said. "I already lost a child to malnutrition." [Read more.](#) / [Download picture.](#)

How Bienvenue Streamlined Her Charcoal Business:

Bienvenue is an entrepreneur who sells charcoal for a living. She recently saved up funds to purchase a bicycle through a women's savings group based in the Covenant Church of Congo and supported by Covenant Kids Congo. Now, her job is much easier. Rather than walking miles while carrying charcoal on her head, she can carry the charcoal on her bike and travel much faster.



Savings groups train women on how to earn and save funds, while also distributing microfinance loans. "I'm very grateful for this training and the initiative that brought it here," Bienvenue said. [Read more.](#) / [Download picture.](#)

The Difference Clean Water Makes:



"Beforehand we had a lot of pain getting water, and now we have good water," Bernadette said. "It's beautiful."

Bernadette used to walk a mile to get water from a dirty stream. But thanks to a new well drilled in her neighborhood, Bernadette can now get clean water at a nearby distribution point only a few minutes' walk away. Clean water has made a significant impact for Bernadette's family. Not only is the shorter walk much easier and safer, but her kids also haven't gotten sick in more than six months. They're growing up healthy and strong. [Read more.](#) / [Download picture.](#)

Read more stories at blogs.covchurch.org/covenantkidscongo