



Matthew 8:5-13 (NIV)

⁵ When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. ⁶ “Lord,” he said, “my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly.”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Shall I come and heal him?”

⁸ The centurion replied, “Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, “Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. ¹¹ I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. ¹² But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

¹³ Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would.” And his servant was healed at that moment.

[LENTEN PRAYER GUIDE: WEEK 2]

The need for basic healthcare in Gemena

In the community of Gemena, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), poverty, poor nutrition, and a lack of access to healthcare leave children susceptible to infection and disease.

But the prayers of caring people like you are helping to give children and families in this community hope for a brighter, healthier future. In 2013, through the Covenant Kids Congo partnership, World Vision supported the construction of health centers and began training health workers to provide basic care in this community.

Let us thank God for this success:

Heavenly Father, thank you for the progress taking place in Gemena. We ask that you would provide these new health centers with life-saving medicine and equip caretakers to give children the help they need.

More than one in seven children born in the DRC won't live to see their fifth birthday. Four in five of these deaths are related to malaria, pneumonia, or diarrhea—diseases that are both treatable and preventable. In Gemena, unclean water sources increase the risk that children will contract diarrhea or other diseases such as cholera and typhoid. These open water sources also provide breeding grounds for malaria-carrying mosquitos, making this disease even more prevalent.

Join me in lifting up those affected by disease:

Comforter and healer, please be with those who have lost children to preventable diseases like malaria. Provide healing and protection for children, and equip families with tools and knowledge to prevent the spread of disease.

Many families in the DRC lack access to adequate nutrition. For children in Gemena, this often means malnutrition and stunting. Others face serious health risks that could be prevented with access to vaccinations or other low-cost treatments like vitamin A supplements and deworming medicine.

Let us ask that God would provide for these basic needs:

Lord God, may our hearts be broken as yours is for children in Gemena. Bless those working tirelessly to bring health to this community and provide families with the resources they need to prevent malnutrition and disease.

