

## **Prayer This Week**

Our focus this week is: **Congregational Sharing**

A. God, we pray this week for those who are sick among us:

B. God, we pray this week for those who are struggling among us:

C. God, we thank you this week for your wonderful presence among us:

D. The Cry of my heart this morning, Lord, is for:

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E. Praying for one another:

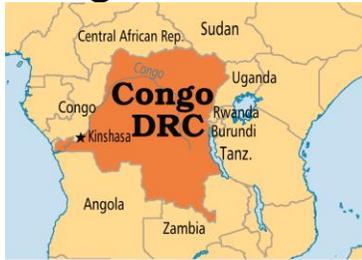
**Healing & Strength:** Pat Robson, Constance McEwan, Bernie Smith,  
Rachel Dunkerley-Underwood, Pastor John Teibe,  
Mary Richmond, Bill Dyck, Dennis Ripley

**Special Request:** Ask God to provide someone for the position of  
Office Administrator here at First Baptist Church  
with a ministry heart.

***For confidential or urgent prayer requests, call Erna (prayer chain) at  
403-284-3737***

# Nation we are in prayer for this week

## Congo DRC – Africa



### Geography

**Area:** 2,345,410 sq km

Congo contains most of the Congo River system and much of the vast Central African rainforest.

**Population:** 67,827,495    **Annual Growth:** 2.80%

### Religion

	Pop %	Ann Gr
<a href="#">Christians</a>	62,503,037	92.15
<a href="#">Evangelicals</a>	12,688,720	18.7

**Capital:** Kinshasa

### Challenge for Prayer

The Church of Christ in Congo (ECC) was a conglomeration forced by government edict in 1970, which artificially bonded conservative Protestants, Pentecostals/charismatics and syncretistic African Initiated Churches, sixty-five denominations in all. Most evangelical leaders are now in favour of their membership in the ECC. Positive benefits include a reduction of tribalism in the Church, a reduction of unnecessary competition, rationalized administration and increased cooperation in training schemes and media. But today, restructuring, change and renewal are imperative in order to face the daunting challenges that exist. Pray for:

- Nominal Christians to find new life in Christ. Nominalism is a major problem. Large numbers have no clear grasp of repentance and faith in Christ nor of salvation by grace and not works. Much nominalism is due to inadequate preaching of the gospel, satisfaction with a superficial response and failure to follow up with those touched by the preaching. There is a notable lack of biblical knowledge in most churches; pray that the Bible would be read, used and applied in churches in the DRC.
- “Revival churches”, which are growing rapidly. Their spiritual liveliness and strong faith are positive, but many lack biblical teaching and are often led by charlatans who use their pastoral position for personal gain rather than to serve the faithful. Prosperity theology runs strong through these churches and draws in many with its promises of wealth for a population in desperate economic straits.
- Syncretism, witchcraft and false teachings to be rooted out of the Church. Animistic thought patterns, occult influences and fear of witchcraft are major problems present in the underlying culture, polluting the faith of millions. Such continued spiritual ties oppress Christians and stymie their spiritual growth. Many are falsely accused and subject to cruel “exorcism” rituals. The JWs with glossy literature and cheap Bibles are making rapid inroads into the country.
- Biblical leadership patterns. The cultural tendency toward centralized leadership has sometimes harmed local congregational life and initiative. It has stimulated hierarchical structures and has increased power seeking, pride of position and misuse of funds. It has compromised the Church’s prophetic role. Changes must come, but not at the expense of unity, fellowship and cooperation.