

Greetings from the Democratic Republic of Congo! Your missionaries have been overwhelmed with joy as God's work unfolds day after day! Check out an update on the Children's Ministry!



## Better than Sunday School!

It's very likely that all of us had the opportunity to attend Sunday School as children and teens. However, in two of the tiny villages in Congo, this has become a new paradigm. In August 2013 two servants from the US, Rev. David Ryan and Jackie Onwu, traveled to Wembo Nyama to coach 13 volunteers to begin mid-week children's ministry where kids could come to know Jesus personally. And now, over 5000 children gather weekly in 38 separate groups to learn Bible stories and develop a relationship with each other and Jesus!



A typical class includes scripture passages that they memorize, in English, a current goal of Bishop Yemba for children to learn English as much as possible!! Wow! It's such fun when the leader of the class (which is often a young child) invites the children to share a passage that they find special. The kids all respond with applause and a loud "Bravo"! They even role-play Bible stories that brings the stories alive for them. Of course, their sweet music is precious! A favorite song is "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" and the VIM team from Florida last week taught them "This Little Light of Mine". They just love songs with motions that allow movement and expression of joy!

Although children need to be instructed to smile and say "cheese" when the camera is pointed to them, they indeed were excited that the ministry was presented with a large number of Bibles in their Otetella dialect. And these were provided by Elkton UMC! Most of the teachers did not even own a Bible in any language. We are so humbled when we think about the many Bibles we have sitting on shelves and nightstands in our house in the US. However, English versions would not offer much assistance for them.

We are praising the Lord for the excellent leadership of Josephine Ekoko and her many teachers! Their passion for the Lord has encouraged and enlivened this ministry in amazing ways!

Due to the success and excellent evangelism that these programs in Diengenga and Wembo Nyama have achieved through the amazing leadership of our dear Congolese brothers and sisters, the Partnership is hoping to launch additional programs when funding becomes available. Please pray for this occurrence. And if God leads you to contribute, the Advance can be accessed at [www.umcmmission.org/Advance](http://www.umcmmission.org/Advance). Then click on Give Now on the right which directs you to search for Advance #3022147.

Merci Beaucoup! Que Dieu vous bénisse! (Thank you. May God bless you!)

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