

# Church Planting & Development

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to partner with national leaders  
and ministries

## Democratic Republic of Congo Ministry Needs: \$2,950

Funding the **Democratic Republic of Congo Church Planting & Development (CPD)** will help resource Nundu Hospital and related health initiatives which serve the people of eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. The hospital has returned to offering health services after suffering many losses through war damages.

FREE METHODIST WORLD MISSIONS

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## Democratic Republic of Congo



Connect with God's heart for the world.



**Bishop**  
Lubunga W'Ehusha

# Democratic Republic of Congo

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### General Conference

- Population: 92,223,000
- Evangelical Christians: 19.2 %
- FM Work Opened: 1963
- FM Churches: 548
- FM Membership: 122,331
- Ordained Elders: 893
- Conference Ministerial Candidates: 72
- Bishop: Lubunga Venance W'Ehusha
- Ecclesiastical Accountability: Free Methodist World Conference

## The Free Methodist Church in the DRC

### Origins

In 1963, 7000 Christians of the Bembe tribe voted to join the Free Methodist Church. The missionary group that had been working among them had withdrawn three years earlier when independence in the country brought upheaval. Two Free Methodist missionary couples then moved to the Democratic Republic of Congo, but were forced to leave after a few months because of renewed political problems. 1964 to 1966 was a time of

starvation and terror. Three thousand Free Methodist members were killed or reported missing. In the 1970s, with some return to political stability, missionaries and VISA workers returned and established residency.

Numerous Free Methodist schools were established throughout the conference on both elementary and high school levels. A hospital was built at Nundu near Lake Tanganyika. A rural health network was established, expanding to include 38 health centers. Workers trained at the hospital nursing school staffed many of these health centers.

In 1989 DRC became a provisional general conference electing Rev. Jason Bya'Ene as bishop. In September 1991, as the economy collapsed and the country became politically unstable, Free Methodist missionaries were withdrawn. One missionary returned in 1994 and was joined by two couples in 1996 only to evacuate several months later as ethnic tensions increased and turned into full-scale war. Thousands of Free Methodist families fled to neighboring Tanzania or were displaced within the country. The church became a full general conference in 1991.

### Present Ministries

The FMC continues to minister over a large area, including 38 different tribes speaking many languages. Most of the work is rural, but churches are located in six provincial capital cities and Kinshasa, the national capital. Nundu Hospital continues to refurbish its facilities and strengthen its medical staff. Recurrent armed conflicts are affecting churches, destroying buildings and cattle, and causing displacement of people.

### Pray for:

- Bishop Lubunga W'Ehusha as he leads this large general conference
- outreach to the growing Muslim population
- an end to the recurring health crises in the eastern part of the country where most FM members live