

**CBF Offering for Global Missions 2011-2012 Children's Sermon
"Refuge and Hope in Sub-Saharan Africa"**

Option 1: Children's sermon (DRC)

Materials: Map of Africa or a globe (optional)

Begin by showing children a map of Africa and pointing out the location of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Today, we are going to learn about what God is doing in a place that is very far away – the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This is a country that is in Central Africa.

In the Congo, there has been a conflict going on for many years. Many parts of the country are not safe because of the conflict. Some of the children there are having a very hard time because they've lost their parents or family members because of the war.

But for one group of children, things are beginning to look better. You see, this group of children is finally able to return to school. In the Congo, like many countries in sub-Saharan Africa, children and their families have to pay school fees to go to school. But because the families are poor, and don't have much money, sometimes children are not able to go to school at all.

But for one group of children, even though they are poor, they are now in school! Here's the amazing part – they're in school because we've been helping them! Our church gives to the CBF Offering for Global Missions, and the money we give goes all over the world to help kids just like you. When we give to the CBF Offering, some of the money we give goes to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to sponsor children and pay their school fees.

Sometimes, here in the U.S., kids get tired of going to school. Maybe they would rather stay home and play. But in places like the Congo, children dream of going to school like children here dream of going to Disney World!

It's true! The children know that going to school is very, very important because it means they'll be able to learn to read and learn math and one day graduate and get a job. The difference is that in the Congo, all children are not able to go to school because many don't have the money to pay for school fees. And many schools have been closed because of the war.

This is why we give. We want to make sure children all around the world have the opportunity to go to school.

Let's pray:

God, we are thankful for our schools. Please help us give so that more children can learn. Amen.

Option 2: Story Time

For this children's sermon, you will invite the children to join you at the front for a story. The following story is an excellent way to teach children about refugees. Before the children's sermon, locate the book and bring it to read for the children's sermon. (Available at Amazon.com or your local library.) Then, after reading the book, use the questions below to end the children's sermon.

Book: "Four Feet, Two Sandals"

This is a book about two refugee girls in a refugee camp who learn the importance of sharing. In the book, when a shipment of shoes comes into the camp, 10-year-old Lina finds a shoe that she loves but another girl, Feroza, has the matching shoe. The girls decide it is better to share the pair of shoes than for each girl to have only one.

Questions/Discussion for children:

Have there been times when you've been asked to share something important to you?

What would you do if you were Lina or Feroza? Would you share your sandal so you could each take turns wearing the new shoes?

SAY: When we give money to the CBF Offering for Global Missions, the money we give helps people all around the world. Some of this money goes to help refugees. A refugee is someone who has left their home country and moved to another country because of a war or conflict. We send money to Uganda, East Africa, to help refugees who live there. CBF field personnel, Jade and Shelah Acker use the money to help refugees resettle in their new homes by offering English classes, computer classes, and a safe place for kids to learn and play.

Let's pray:

Dear God. We're so glad that you care for refugees. Thank you for giving us a way to show refugees how much you love them. Amen.