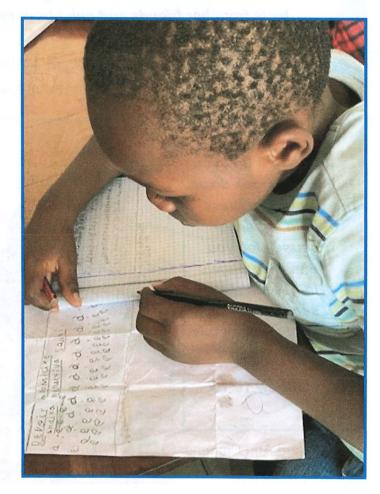
A Community of Saints

As many of you know our Sunday School building has been sheltering children who ran to our facility in the wake of the January rebel attack on the city of Goma which left thousands dead on the streets. We've since had up to 60 children sleeping on mattresses in our classrooms. The children are as young as 2 (his mother was caught in the crossfire.) Tragically a group of children from our Sunday School program aged 7 and 8 were shot and killed while trying to run to our school. We continue to shelter and care for all those who come to our doors. As the situation in Goma becomes a bit safer, we are sending staff out to search for surviving family members with the goal of reuniting as many children as possible. Through these challenging times we are reminded of a global community of believers who have walked with us these past seven months.

Our churches and partners in the United States have given generously to the EBA (Beloved Children Program) allowing us to purchase mattresses, blankets, clothing and more for all the children. We've expanded our day school and enrolled these 'lost children' who are learning how to read and write, along with basic math, science... Many are attending school for the first time in their young lives. The children attend worship services during the week. Many dance in front of their chairs during worship music; a number have turned their lives to Jesus and have been baptized. All are being transformed through the love and care in the name of Jesus.



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Aside from our partners in the United States, our Congolese colleagues who are themselves suffering hardships after the siege of the city: loss of family members, jobs, homes, and livelihood, have reached out to these children.

- The International Protestant Church of Kinshasa took a collection and sent us cash for food when the banks in Goma were all closed.
- A doctor at HEAL Africa Hospital, touched by the children's situation, brought an envelope with \$300 tucked inside... a month's salary.
- Our Sunday School teachers have gladly volunteered to spend rotating nights with the children and are leading the various activities 7 days a week.
- A local restaurant owner took it upon himself to deliver food for the children... and continues to bring us bread weekly.
- The CEO of HEAL Africa brings in large bowls full of passion fruit from his yard ... enough for each child.
- A woman who has her own family to support brings clothes and shoes she collects from her friends and neighbors every month.

Bill and I have been so encouraged by this global community of saints who have each in their own way blessed so many lost children beyond measure!

See to it that you do not look down on one of these little ones, because I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 18:10

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