



**Matthew 28:16-20**

16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Conflict, exploitation, and government neglect have led to massive suffering in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a nation as large as the United States east of the Mississippi, and with nearly 74 million people. In measures of human development—including life expectancy and deaths of children under age 5—the DRC ranks at the bottom of all the countries in the world.

Yet with God there’s always hope, and Christians are coming together to transform lives for the better.

Pray for the work of Christians in the Congo.

Too many of the nearly 150,000 children of Gemena, DRC, lack nutritious food, clean water and improved sanitation, adequate health care, or a safe home. Parents struggle to meet the basic needs of their families, taking what jobs they can find to earn a per capita income of around \$400.

*Heavenly Father, your children in the Congo are suffering in a land that you’ve endowed with a great wealth of resources. Bring justice and equity to the land. Strengthen your followers there to be salt and light to those around them.*

Just as children need a stable home, they need a stable community in which to grow. In the DRC, conflict and corruption have created distrust and fed hopelessness. Sadly, women and children are often exploited or deprived of their rights.

*In witness to your saving love, Lord Christ, knit together the people in supportive communities. Through Your Body, the church, empower changed lives and hearts in the Congo so that your faithful will see “... justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream! (Amos 5:24)*

Poverty and despair are the lot of many children in the DRC. Some are victims of neglect or abuse; others have been orphaned by AIDS. Children see few examples of the joy and peace that come from knowing and serving Christ.

*Bless the work of your people in the DRC, Lord. Give your clergy and laity the strength and vision to nurture boys and girls who depend on them. Enable them to provide the example and the learning experiences through which children may reach the potential You gave them. Through child sponsorship and prayer, may we join in bringing light and life to the children of Gemena.*