



**Psalm 128**

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God. (John 3:16-21)

Children are the hope of the future. That's as true in Gemena City, Democratic Republic of the Congo, as it is anywhere. There, years of war and violence destroyed lives and ruptured community ties. But people of good will are bringing change. And as community members focus on providing a better life for their children, they find healing and wholeness for themselves.

Pray for child sponsors to lift the lives of the children of Gemena.

The children and families of Gemena need so many things we take for granted: water systems and wells; health facilities with adequate staff; schools, trained teachers, books and pencils. Sponsorship funds support infrastructure that benefits the whole community.

*Dear Lord, open our hearts to the children of Gemena so that we may love and care for them as our own. We pray that they may live in safety from ill health, hunger, and want. Inspire us to invest in their future through child sponsorship.*



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Community life is built on trust and respect for others. The women and children of the Congo are too often treated as if they have little value. They may be discriminated against, abused, or deprived of their rights. They find it hard to participate in community life in a meaningful way. Building a civil society will take many years in this war-torn land.

*Heavenly Father, You looked over the whole of your creation and saw that it was good. Teach us to recognize the worth in others and reach out to them in understanding and compassion. Show us how we can be a blessing to the people of Gemena.*

Proverbs 22:6 says “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” Child sponsors have a chance to directly influence the lives of children through prayers, letters, and messages of encouragement.

*Lord, You came into the world and sacrificed Yourself that we—and the children of the Congo—might have “life in all its fullness” (John 10:10). Inspire us follow Your example so that our lives may be a blessing to others. Make us instruments of Your love to the children of Gemena.*

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The Evangelical Covenant Church is united by Christ in a holy covenant of churches empowered by the Holy Spirit to obey the great commandments and the great commission: to love God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind, to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to go into all the world and make disciples.

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