

Reflecting back on 2025 and forward to 2026

2025 is now behind us. It was a difficult year in so many ways; for our family, for health, and especially for the people of Goma as rebels took and continue to hold the city, bringing deep suffering. Yet even in the midst of these trials, the Lord opened remarkable doors to bring blessing and to touch lives for Jesus.

- When the fighting erupted in January, 58 street children fled to our emergency shelter for safety. By God's grace, 55 of them were reunited with their families over the course of the year.
- Our Sunday school ministries never stopped. On Easter morning, more than 1,600 children came to hear the Good News, and we continue to welcome over 1,000 children every Sunday.
- As malnutrition surged, we launched a daily noon meal program to ensure vulnerable children receive food and care.
- In November, we began a new Youth Program aimed at reaching unchurched young people in our community. It has grown every week, and at Christmas we celebrated as eight teenagers were baptized: a beautiful sign of new life in the midst of hardship.

Through every challenge, God has been faithful. We have seen lives touched, strengthened, and transformed. As we enter a new year, we do so with confidence that God already knows the plans He has for us. Some of those plans are already taking shape:

- Training for 63 Sunday school teachers is underway, equipping them to better serve and guide the children in our community. The first sessions will focus on *Healing of Children's Inner Wounds*, a deeply needed ministry after such a painful year.
- We have launched a new initiative to support 197 widows in our church who lost family members and their means of livelihood during the fighting through micro-finance opportunities and income-generating projects from community gardens to small cottage industries. We pray these women will regain stability, dignity, and hope.
- Among our young people, there is a growing hunger for learning and for spiritual growth. To meet this need, we will expand the small library we began in December and open a reading and study room where youth can access books, digital resources, and the internet. We believe this space will become a wellspring of encouragement and discipleship.

We look forward with anticipation to all that God will do in 2026. Even in uncertain times, His faithfulness remains our anchor, and His purposes continue to unfold in ways that bring life, healing, and hope.

With love and appreciation,

Ann and Bill