



Martin Gordon

Update from the Edges no. 3 | November 2025



Location: DR Congo



What I do: Peacemaking, church planting and building up the body of Christ as part of my role as Bishop of Goma



Empowering people pushed to the edges of life to release their God-given potential

Dear friends,

My faith is stretched and strengthened when I hear inspirational stories from other CMS mission partners working with people pushed to the edges of life. You can read about Elise and Jon in Thailand who are working to keep families together and children out of care. And about Makol in South Sudan whose life got dramatically saved when a CMS-trained Bishop spoke about God's forgiveness at a peace rally in his town. I hope you are all encouraged by these updates from CMS partners around the world.

Building schools across the diocese

The Diocese of Goma runs over 100 schools with more than 25,000 students. We have double the children in school on Monday than we have believers in church on Sunday. Education is a core part of our ministry as a diocese but running schools is a huge challenge in DRC, often with little or no help from the government. Only 20 of our schools (teachers and running costs) are paid for by the government, the others relying on the small contributions parents can make for salaries, books and equipment. The majority of our teachers work for next-to-nothing.

20 of our schools are currently closed due to the ongoing conflict. A few have been hit by bombs. Others used as bases by the Congolese army, militias or rebels. Doors and windows have been stolen and benches and desks used as firewood. But this summer, with financial support, we have been able to rebuild 5 primary and 5 secondary schools in time for the start of the school term. This means much improved conditions for study for around 4,000 of our students.

We've also been able to build a new secondary school in Walikale, our archdeaconry in the forest. We started the first two years and are in consultation with the local population about what they would like us to specialise in further up the school. The local chief told us, "This is a church that meets the needs of the people, as Jesus Christ did."

He gave a testimony that "The Anglican Church in Walikale is a blessing from the Lord. After suffering for a long time without school, our children had nowhere to go to study. Today, the Church has responded to this need by bringing us not only the Word of God, to draw closer to the Lord, but also education to contribute to our development."

Catechism roll-out

We have finished training more than 250 catechism teachers – including clergy, evangelists, chaplains,



*Boys' and Girls' Brigade at
the Cathedral*

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schoolteachers, youth and women's leaders. And the catechism has started to be preached in most of the churches in the diocese. Our vision is that by using the catechism to systematically teach the Christian faith in each parish we will see lives transformed by the Word of God.

We thank God that we have seen an increase in attendance in many churches, and a significant rise in the numbers of people coming forward for baptism and confirmation. From September to November, I have been visiting

all the churches in Goma to teach the catechism and confirm those who want to take the next steps of faith.

We've heard so many encouraging individual testimonies. During the catechism training many decided to leave alcohol behind. Others committed to marriage rather than living together. And still others to surrender their lives to Jesus. Soldiers came to hear the training and asked if they could take a booklet. Other denominations were intrigued and congratulated us on producing an accessible booklet of theology and discipleship.

And now as it is being taught week in, week out, some are understanding the Trinity for the first time. Many have experienced God's love for them as their heavenly father. Dozens have decided to follow Jesus. Children are reminding their parents to study the catechism together as a family each night at home.

As Charlotte told us, "I lost my father when I was young. I never really understood God as a Father. But then I heard the teaching on God as Father and as Creator. And my eyes were opened, and my life has changed. I will now never be the same again."

We have printed over 7,000 copies of the catechism, one for every household in the diocese. We pray that it will continue to bear fruit in the Diocese of Goma, as well as across the other dioceses of DRC.

Boys' and Girls' Brigade

In June we launched the Boys' and Girls' Brigade as our main ministry for teenagers, to keep them involved in church during their formative years. To disciple them, encourage them to serve in church, and to organise social and sporting activities. In a few months we have trained 60 leaders and have started troupes in 20 parishes.

The diocese provides each troupe with a flag, and the members progressively get their uniforms, but to start with everyone finds a white shirt, blue trousers and makes a blue sash. Those involved are extremely proud of their new group and take their Sunday duties very seriously. It has already given a significant sense of belonging for the teenagers in the parishes where it has started.

We are looking at writing more teaching materials, organising more outings, and reaching all the 60 parishes across the whole diocese by next summer. The Boys' and Girls' Brigade also want to start a brass band.

Please pray

- For continued improvements to our 100+ schools, and for more to be paid for by the government
- For the impact of the catechism teaching across the diocese
- For the growth of the Boys' and Girls' Brigade as they reach teenagers inside and outside the church
- For peace in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo

Every blessing, Martin



Photos from top to bottom: Boys' and Girls' Brigade, Bugamba parish; Biraro Institute before rebuilding; Biraro Institute after; Catechism training in Matanda Archdeaconry.



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