



**“HATE EVIL,  
LOVE GOOD;  
MAINTAIN JUSTICE...”**  
(AMOS 5:15)



# SILENCE

## WHY HAVE WE NOT HEARD?

Dear friend,

March 2009

Fifteen years ago, in just 100 days almost a million people were slaughtered in Rwanda.

And the world stopped.

Horrific images of children, young people and women murdered without cause – caught in the cross fire of civil and tribal war.

**It strikes me as odd that we have heard so little of DR Congo.** In the past 10 years about 4.8 million people have died due to civil conflict. Sadly most of these deaths could have been prevented. Not only have children been brutally killed, but many died of hunger and disease as they fled for safety.

It’s ironic, isn’t it?

The news is silent even when so many have died.

During our last visit in Bukavu, DR Congo we hoped the country was beginning to recover from civil war. But our hopes were in vain. In the past two months alone, more than 900 civilians have died.

The conflict is a result of a violent tug-of-war for money. Much of the fighting is over vast gold resources.

DR Congo is a nation rich in natural resources. Hundreds of thousands of civilians are caught in the midst of the greed. The warring factions have little concern for the children standing in their way. Families are forced to flee, leaving everything they own behind.

When I visited the displaced persons camp, I was impressed with the care given by our own Pastor Samuel who cares for countless widows and children. The people come to get essential rations of food. We distributed what we had, but how long could these rations last? It seemed a miracle that the little food we delivered fed so many people.

*Continued...*

### YES! I’d like to help feed displaced families in the Congo.

#### Here is my gift of:

- \$145    \$290    \$580    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I'd like to support ERDO on a monthly basis, helping to do good in the areas of greatest need. Here is my first gift of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I commit to support ERDO with my prayers.

#### Payment options:

- VISA**
- Card #: \_\_\_\_\_
- Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_
- Signature: \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone: (        ) \_\_\_\_\_
- Email: \_\_\_\_\_
- I have enclosed a cheque made payable to ERDO.



**As I watched the lines of people pass, I was overwhelmed by the flood of faces and eyes pleading for understanding.** I heard a sound, much like the bleating of little lambs - hungry children in their mothers' gaunt arms. I thought of my Saviour standing amongst these families. I sensed that He would understand that at the very heart of this food line was injustice.

Innocent children are too hungry to cry. They are too hungry to play. They are too hungry to smile. Mothers are grateful for the scant rations of food they receive. But the painful emotion of death hovers around them.

These dire circumstances reflect the thoughts of Amos expressed in the Bible passage: "I want to see a mighty flood of justice, a torrent of doing good." (Amos 5:24). In addition to food, we brought clothes and blankets. And as I watched I heard another voice speaking softly in my heart. It was the voice of Jesus as He asked: **"Do you love me? ...Feed my lambs."** (John 21:15)

I cannot help but love these children.

**And I ask: is a nugget of gold worth a child's life?**

In DR Congo, the brutal scavenge for gold has spurred greed, jealousy and hatred. In the midst of the violence, children are at risk.

I cannot help but hate the sin that leads to this kind of injustice.

And so I have worked with partners to help bring emergency aid to these families. We have received a grant to help feed 3,000 families for 6 months. With every dollar we provide our partners will provide \$4, making a total of \$5 to care for needy children and families. That means when you give \$10 it is multiplied by the grant to provide \$50 worth of food.

\$145 feeds a family of 7 for 1 month.

**With the match from our funding partner, your gift of**

- **\$145 is multiplied by 5 to feed 5 families (35 people) for one month**
- **\$290 is multiplied by 5 to feed 10 families (70 people) for one month**
- **\$580 is multiplied by 5 to feed 20 families (140 people) for one month**

Issues of political injustice motivate us to turn to God for answers and to intercede for the children. When I pray, I hear God asking: "What are you going to do for my people?" I answer in accordance with Jesus' command saying "I will feed your lambs."

I ask you to join me in pursuing justice for His precious people.

Sincerely,



Kelvin Honsinger

Executive Director, ERDO

**P.S. We hope to start the food distribution in just a few weeks, in time for Easter. This is a timely opportunity to show Christ's living presence to those in need. Please send your gift as soon as possible.**



[WWW.ERDO.CA](http://WWW.ERDO.CA)

## HERE ARE THE MANY OTHER WAYS **ERDO IS DOING GOOD:**

- Monthly \$29 child sponsorship provides education, food, and healthcare plus spiritual nurture
- Food aid and agricultural recovery, in partnership with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank
- Community building through economic development, clean water and sustainable agriculture
- Emergency aid, disaster mitigation and return to livelihood projects