

Pray that God would bless these ministries and bring people to faith in Christ; also that the work would be financially viable.

24. Pray for mission partners working in Congo: Francesca Elloway (Aru), Judy Acheson (Lubumbashi), Louise Wright (Kalima) and Pat Nickson (Aru). Pray for Stuart and Kathryn Broughton (Mbuji-Mayi) leaving soon and for godly leadership by the clergy in that area.

25. Give thanks that many schools and higher education institutions are functioning again now; pray for Christian teachers and students that they may be a powerful witness to Christ. Pray for fruit from Rev Ise-somo's recent seminars for school chaplains and clergy.

26. Pray for God's anointing upon the ministry of Abp Dirokpa and for wisdom in his many tasks. Pray too for safety in travel for him and all church-workers, both clergy and lay.

27. Praise God for the work of IPASC, and pray that the students would make a significant impact on the health of many communities throughout Congo.

28. Pray for both the leaders and members of youth groups throughout the country, that the young people may grow in maturity as followers of Christ and stand firm in their faith.

29. Pray for the members and leaders of the Mothers' Union groups throughout the Province and for their impact on their families, churches and communities.

30. Pray for each of the Bishops in DRC: Abp Dirokpa (Bukavu), Abp Njojo (Boga), Bp Munzenda (Nord-Kivu), Bp Isingoma (Katanga), Bp Masimango (Kindu), Bp Funga (Kisangani) and Asst Bp Molanga (Kinshasa)

31. Praise God for partners and brothers and sisters in Christ who have supported the Church in prayer, and with material and financial gifts through this time of war and pray that God would bless the church with all the resources it needs.



Congo Church Association

The Congo Church Association (ZCA) is a Registered Charity No. 285760.
Its objects are a) To advance the Christian religion in DR Congo
b) To relieve poverty among the Clergy and former Clergy of the Anglican Church and widows and dependants of any such persons.

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From the Chairman

Dear friends,

Thank you for your continued support for the Congo Church Association. This newsletter is full of all the information we have recently received about the Anglican Church in DR Congo. Since the last time we wrote to you there have been two elections conducted for dioceses. In the north of the country the new diocese of Aru moves on towards its own life. Boga diocese held a Synod to choose the two candidates for the new diocese whose names will go to the House of Bishops for their final choice. All passed off very well – and the orderly conduct of the election process was most important, as it was the first Synod that Boga Diocese had held since the terrible inter-communal violence of three years ago. It is a sign of the grace of God and the Christian love that is working to bring people and communities together – and for it all we praise God.

In Bukavu diocese (made vacant by the translation of the Archbishop to the new diocese of Kinshasa), the election has caused some controversy. The results have been disputed, and the future is not so certain. It looks as if the House of Bishops will have to rule on what has happened. Please pray for people to be held together over this, and for the will of God to be done in it all.

There is some uncertainty around in the country – as it looks almost certain that the elections scheduled for 30th June will be postponed. In a recent email from Mbuji Mayi Stuart Broughton wrote

I need to tell you that conditions here are VERY difficult, mainly because of the frustration felt by many people

12. ISThA will remain in Aru for the rest of this academic year. Pray for wisdom for the leadership, especially the Director, Revd Dr Titre Ande, in all their decision-making; pray too for a return to long-term security in Bunia.

13. Pray for all the students at ISThA, for God's rich blessings on their study and for growth in spiritual maturity and effective ministry. Pray too for His protection upon each one and His provision for their daily needs and those of their families.

14. Pray for the on-going efforts by MONUC (UN forces) to disarm militia groups who continue to torch villages and rape and murder innocent Congolese. Ask God to bring true and lasting peace to the country.

15. Pray for Mothers' Union members in Bukavu and Kindu Dioceses and Christian women elsewhere in Congo, who minister to the victims of rape and sexual violence, and who seek to stand up against violence against women. Pray that the victims may experience God's touch, bringing healing in body, mind and spirit.

16. Give thanks for the work of surgeons, both Congolese and expatriate, who seek to treat the victims of rape and sexual violence, and pray the women and girls will be able to reintegrate into their families and communities after treatment.

17. Give thanks for the Bishops who have recently been able to visit, after several years, other parts of their dioceses for confirmation services. Pray that those confirmed would grow and be nurtured in their faith and trust in Christ.

18. Construction of the maternity at Kamango in Nord Kivu Diocese is progressing well. Pray for Alisen, the mid-wife in training, who sits her final exams in June/July and will join the new unit later in the year. Remember Health Centres and their staff across the country and nurses in training, praying for God's blessing upon their work and studies.

19. Praise God for Baliesima who continues to work hard with churches and the medical services to help them reach out to those affected by the HIV/AIDS virus. A big training programme has recently taken place – pray this would touch the pastors and leaders involved.

20. Give thanks for the faithful service and vital support of Frederick Ngadjole in the EAC Liaison Office in Kampala ; pray for wisdom, strength and health as he serves the church in Congo in many different ways.

21. There is continuing insecurity in many parts of DRC. Pray that in this uncertainty the people would find their security in God. Pray for lasting peace throughout the country – that God's work might go forward.

22. A number of Christian radio stations exist, in Kisangani and Beni amongst other places, broadcasting Bible teaching, music, testimonies and encouragement.

Prayer Diary for the Anglican Church in Congo (PEAC)

1. Thank God for His love and protection for the Congolese people, particularly during the time of war; pray for true reconciliation and lasting peace in DRC, and within the churches.
2. Praise God that in spite of great suffering, many Christians have remained steadfast in their faith; thank God that in His grace He continues to bless the work of evangelism despite the very difficult circumstances in which many labour.
3. At this time of change when appointments to positions of leadership and responsibility in the church will be made, pray that God's will may be done and those worthy and capable of leading His Church and advancing the Gospel will be chosen.
4. Pray for Bp Masimango of Kindu Diocese as he copes with many responsibilities, as a senator in the transitional government and in his diocese. Pray for refreshment and renewal from God for him.
5. Pray for the many refugees and displaced people who want to return home but have no assistance to begin life anew. Pray for God's fatherly provision for them.
6. Pray for renewed hope, vision and teamwork as Christians in parishes across DRC begin to rebuild their lives and in many instances rebuild their churches.
7. Give thanks for Agape Youth Training Centre in Mahagi and pray for the courses Rev Bahemuka and team will be teaching (arch-deaconry youth workers April – June; Sudanese youth workers July-September, youth workers from throughout PEAC November '05)
8. Praise God for the training on leadership given to staff in Bukavu and Kinshasa Dioceses and pray that the lessons learnt may enrich their personal walk with God and their ministry of the Gospel.
9. Boga Diocese held a Synod in Bunia from 29 March – 2 April 05, bringing together staff and lay people from the whole diocese. Praise God for His work of reconciliation, enabling this meeting to take place and for the renewal of fellowship and unity in the Diocese. Pray for Bp Njojo as he leads the diocese forward.
10. Preparations are continuing for the creation of Aru Diocese. Boga Synod elected 2 prospective candidates for the post of Bishop of Aru, Revd Dr Titre Ande and Rev Yossa Way. Pray that God will make His will very clear when the House of Bishops makes the appointment of Bishop of Aru.
11. Praise God for a full complement of staff at ISThA and pray for them as they teach on both the degree course and new courses at the Centre for Biblical Formation.

with the postponement of elections. They were supposed to be on the 30 June and so there have been many warnings that on 30 June there will be general disruption throughout the whole country. Two weeks ago we had serious riots, the military firing indiscriminately and several people were injured, but apparently no deaths. Yesterday while out, I was threatened by a group of 50 youths with large stones, simply because I was white and therefore must be rich! I prayed and asked for the same grace as Stephen. They turned away and directed their anger elsewhere. Last week I was unable to travel to Kananga by motorcycle under the threat of being stoned to death by the people in Tshibombo. I had to turn around, return home and travel by plane.

News in the last few days says that things have calmed down – but there clearly is great instability in some parts.

In this situation the faithfulness and love of our brothers and sisters, working for the kingdom in Congo, is all the more remarkable. So many continue in great faithfulness with the slimmest of resources, and with nothing of the certainties of life that we enjoy. As you read through the news in this issue please do continue to pray for them all, and help us to help them as much as we can.

Thank you for your support .

Yours in Christ,



Jeremy Pemberton
Chairman

From Archbishop Dirokpa (5th May 2005)

News from the DIOCESE OF BUKAVU

The political situation seems to be calmer and it is possible to reach almost all parts of the Diocese without major risk.

The Diocese has suffered much loss of life including priests and other evangelists whose widows and orphans are all in need of material help. The number of women who have been raped is unimaginable and because of this traumatic experience, they are in need of psychiatric help and our prayers for their healing as well as practical help in becoming part of society once more. Also many refugees are returning from Tanzania (including our priests who have left their families behind in refugee camps) and other displaced people who are coming out of hiding and turning to the Church for help (food, clothes, medicine etc). There has also been much destruction: churches, schools, health centres, homes all of which require extension/rebuilding. All of this creates a real headache for the churches and we greatly need your help in both spiritual and material terms.

From the 6th to 13th of February, the elective diocesan synod was held. Organised by the "African Pastors' Fellowship" with Rev. Ralph of Coventry, it was followed by a seminar for the pastors of the Bukavu Diocese.

The two candidates selected for the post of Bishop of Bukavu whose details will be submitted to the next stage are: the Ven. Chanoine Bahati Bali Busane Sylvestre and the Rev. Mbusa Bangau Etienne. Certain members of the synod have contested this vote and addressed their complaint to the Province and it will be examined by the Collège des Evêques (following the Canon of the Anglican Church of the Congo) to get to the truth of the matter.

At the same synod it was decided that the two Kasais with their three Archdeaconries: Mbuji-Mayi and Kabinda (Kasai Oriental) and Kananga (Kasai Occidental which will soon have a second Archdeaconry at Ilebo) will be separated from the Diocese of Bukavu and will be attached to the Province under the supervision of the Archbishop. The Archbishop will then have the task of look-

other, you and me, each one by the faith of the other, yours and mine." (Romans 1:12)

Thank God for answers to prayer. I still haven't made the train trip to Kasongo but have been able to get to villages which had been cut off by war. Continue to pray for Congo. We are still supposed to be having elections this year. We live in peace here but in the Bunia area fighting and raping are as bad as ever. On a local level Archdeacon Mwenyemali was asked to help set up an independent office to administer the elections here, but all sorts of political elements are now confusing the issue. Bishop Masimango still spends most of his time in Kinshasa with the transitional government, but that should finish when the elections take place. Keep praying for him.

Legacies and Commemorative Gifts

In recent years the Congo Church Association has benefited from a number of legacies, as well as gifts given to mark a particular celebration such as a marriage. Legacies or gifts to the Congo Church Association can be designated to a particular institution in the Anglican Church of Congo, such as the Provincial theological college, IStHA, or Agape Youth Training Centre in Mahagi, or a named Diocese, or General Funds which benefit all the dioceses. Leaving a legacy to CCA is an opportunity to extend your faithful support. By remembering the Congo Church Association in your Will you are providing on-going support to the ministry and life of the Anglican Church in Congo. Please consider whether you could include the Congo Church Association (Registered charity number 285760) in your Will. Likewise donations to CCA to mark a special celebration or anniversary would be greatly appreciated. Thank you

been our night watchman and has looked after maintenance, while his wife, Yvonne, has done most of the cooking and washing for the last four years. He plans to go to study in Lubumbashi in the far south of Congo - the usual custom here is for men to go off to study leaving their wives and children behind. We are still praying about what is the best solution for them, and for my household.

Meanwhile I continue to teach in the Bible School just below my house. Thank you for your prayers. The seven students we have this year are a joy to teach. I'm always learning from them too, but I'm not much use at the practical work, though. We do have a tin roof for the Bible School now, which makes it less picturesque, and too hot. However, we no longer have to give up half a week of lessons to go to the forest to cut roofing leaves every few months. Forest reasserting itself where homes have once been is a beautiful sight for visitors, but not for those who want to rebuild their lives there. We visited one church, the beautiful thatched roof of which sent us into ecstasies. Then, when we sat down to hear their greetings, we heard:

"Please help us to get a tin roof. It brings shame on the Anglicans to remain with a thatched roof." As they explained what terribly hard work it is for the women to keep on cutting leaves to repair the roof, their argument became more convincing.

We have really enjoyed having Jane and John Ilton staying for three weeks. I acted as interpreter as Rev. Jane preached in different churches and led a course of reflection on the Beatitudes. It has been fascinating playing around with language, so that Jane's teaching in English and the students' response in Swahili come together. It threw up all sorts of differences between three cultures, those of the Bible, of Congo and of the United Kingdom. Sorting them out has led us all to a deeper understanding of the universality of the gospel, and the richness of diversity within the essential unity of believers. Our Bible School Principal summed it up when he said goodbye and thanked them with words from St. Paul. I had to translate it for them and it came out as, "Let's encourage each

ing for an assistant bishop for Kasai with a view to preparing the two Kasais to become two distinct dioceses. This process is already underway as we have already proposed this to the Anglican Church in Nigeria who have given their approval in principal. We ask for your prayers for this ambitious project to the Glory of God.

News from the DIOCESE OF KINSHASA

As chief representatives of the diocese, my Assistant Bishop and I visit our parishes regularly: 4 parishes in the city of Kinshasa with their daughter parishes and chapels, Matadi (DRC's largest port), Boma (large port) and in the Republic of Congo-Brazzaville. Soon we will reach Muanda on the Atlantic coast and in doing so accomplish the dream of Apollo Kivebulaya of taking the Good News of Jesus Christ to the furthest reaches of the RDC (that is to say, from the River Semiliki in Boga to the Atlantic). The Church is active everywhere but the big problem is land which we can easily obtain for \$500 to \$2500. Without land, the future of the Church is uncertain. We expect also to extend our evangelism to the Province of Bandundu but there is always the problem of training evangelists.

We have just trained 6 evangelists in 6 mois in Brazzaville with the assistance of CMS (\$1000) and we would like to thank them very sincerely for their generosity. Praise the Lord! These 6 evangelists qualified on the 1st May 2005 in Brazzaville at a special Communion service led by Mgr Molanga Botola Jean, Assistant Bishop of Kinshasa before a congregation of 300. Later some of them will be ordained as deacons after further training. In May we should also begin to erect a small chapel which will have multiple uses in a prominent place where we can promote the presence of the Anglican Church of Kinshasa as at the moment it is still hidden. It will help us to begin a service in English for the numerous expatriots working in Kinshasa for various international organisations. At the moment the Archbishop prays outside in Limete/Fina and when it rains, there is no service. We ask you to support us in this ambitious project .

Following the conference of all African Anglican Bishops in Lagos, Nigeria in October, most of the dioceses in the Congo and in other African Provinces have twinned themselves with the Nigerian diocese. The Diocese of Kinshasa has been twinned with the Diocese of Lagos. The Archbishop of the Ecclesiastical Province of Lagos, His Grace Ephraim Odemowo accompanied by Mgr Ken Okeke of the Diocese of Niger (Nigeria) visited the Diocese of Kinshasa from the 30th March to the 3rd April to discover both the reality of our difficulties and our joy in serving the Lord Jesus Christ. They also presented to the Archbishop, on behalf of the Anglican Church of Nigeria, a secondhand Toyota Land Cruiser in very good condition to help our ministry in the city where travel is very difficult. Thanks be to God!

There is much to do in Kinshasa in firmly establishing the presence of the Anglican Church in Church (training, infrastructure, land etc.) and I hope that this will become a concern for all of us who wish to see prosperity in the Church here.

Some news from the PROVINCE

The Province is functioning normally although we have no Province staff in Kinshasa. Mgr Molanga as Provincial Secretary and myself are carrying out all the administrative and pastoral work which leads to delays and we also lack the financial ability to employ other auxiliary staff to support us. All of the heads of department are working in their diocese and we are in regular contact with them by email and telephone. As a whole the work is going well.

An Anglican Welcome Centre in Goma was inaugurated on the 16th February 2005 after its refurbishment with funds from the Archbishop of Canterbury. The centre has 14 rooms and functions very well. We still require kitchen equipment which will cost about \$4000 to reach its full potential. There is also a room which will serve as meeting room, dining room and chapel for the area. For the inauguration we were with Frederic Ngadjole. The management of the Centre is currently assigned to the Archdeaconry of Goma on behalf of the Province.

In my last link letter I mentioned that I was looking forward to a visit to Mahagi Health Centre, where the maternity was thriving. It got rather crazy there over Christmas with ten deliveries on Christmas Eve night and five more on Christmas Day! It is very encouraging to see how well that health centre is doing these days, and the confidence that the population has in it. It is all credit to the nurses working there and especially the nurse in charge, Nzuku. We have all been delighted that Nzuku's wife has recently given birth to a healthy little boy that they are calling Mungu Chi, which means "God exists". They lost their youngest child last year when aged about two, so it is great that they have a new baby.

On the subject of new babies, in my last link letter I also mentioned that the wife of one of the nursing students I teach was due to give birth in December. After a slightly hair-raising time, she safely delivered a little baby girl early on Boxing Day morning. After all the problems they had had, they were just thrilled, as we all were too, and it was great to be able to pray with them shortly after the birth and thank God for his goodness to them. Finally on the maternity front, our new building here at Aru Health Centre is nearly completed, and is starting to look smart now that the painting has begun. I am hoping it will be officially opened and functioning before I come home on leave.

From Louise Wright - March 2005

There are going to be changes in my home life and I would appreciate your prayers. Selemani who came here as a sickly, crippled nineteen-year-old in 1996 when I moved to Kalima, has now completed four years of secondary school and is ready to move on. When he went to Goma for the operation which completed his cure, he felt the call to go in for nursing himself; now he wants to go back to Goma for training as a nurse, and it will be hard to say goodbye. His eighteen-year-old brother, Amuri, assures me he can take over all the jobs Selemani has been doing: changing money, getting letters sent to Bukavu for posting, keeping in touch by radio with their father in Kasongo, telling me about people's needs etc. However, Kande is also ready to go on with his studies. He has

The other day I received a note in English from a Congolese colleague who works in Kampala, in which he included the following phrase: "I do hope that you are doing well in this ever- shaking area of Congo." We have, thankfully, had no earthquakes, but sadly our region of DRC has indeed been "shaking" recently, because of serious insecurity issues. There have been casualties amongst both civilians and soldiers, and many other folk have been displaced, and/or have been living in fear for their lives. The problems have had a serious impact on our work, with four of our health centres having had difficulties at various times, and our travelling to visit the health centres has been restricted. I have just had to postpone three days of teaching I was meant to be doing at a nursing school up north.

The health centre that has suffered the most has been Avari Health Centre; indeed, we have had to close it for the moment, as the only nurse who remained there felt unable to continue in the circumstances in which he found himself. I could only admire and thank him for sticking it for so long. Not only has there been a major security problem in that area, with sights that quite shook my Administrator, Baba, when he travelled there recently, and resulted in most of the population fleeing, but there have also been problems with witchcraft for a couple of years now.

These became more acute a month or so ago, and forced our other two nurses based there to ask to leave. The security will improve in time, so I am sure that it will become possible, in theory, to reopen the health centre. In many ways the more serious issue from our point of view is the witchcraft; it will make it very hard to find other nurses, and especially midwives, who will be prepared to go and work there, if they are not from the area. Over the last few years this problem caused one of my nurses to leave after being wrongly labelled as a witch, and three of my midwives to leave, because they felt that they were being threatened and their lives were at risk. It is an issue that both we, and other folk, have tried to tackle together with church community leaders and the local population but is proving to be incredibly complex and hard to unravel.

The former Provisional office in Bunia is being rented to Médecins Sans Frontières and they have just asked us if they can build an additional house in order to extend their work. They have been given permission.

As regards the consecration of the bishops of Bukavu and Aru, the Collège des Evêques has decided that the 4 candidates (2 from Aru and 2 from Boga) will come to Aru where the bishops will make their choice and consecrate the two elected bishops immediately afterwards. We had hoped to call the meeting for the end of July 2005 but the Bishop of Boga has just let us know that he will not be ready to welcome the Collège for the consecration until November 2005 as there is still much to prepare. We are still in negotiations on this matter.

Boga

Judy Acheson, though now based in Lubumbashi, has been visiting the diocese of Boga, and here is some of her news:

In Bunia, the situation is much calmer, and people are beginning to be disarmed.

Agape, the youth movement, which Judy started, is going ahead under the leadership of Bisoke and his wife Furaha, now back from their course in Nairobi. They have bought, with help from Australia, a compound in a "neutral" area of town, that is one which is not mainly occupied by either of the two main tribes who have been fighting recently. It will be used as centre for work with the girls, especially to help them recover from the trauma they have suffered. Money is needed to finish it, but they are starting activities there even before the doors, window and flooring are put in.

The new church is still being built; the congregation is increasing, and the church council are very positive.

The church has an agricultural centre at Makabo, a few km from the centre of the town. During the recent war, all activities were suspended, but the building is there, albeit unfinished, and Sinza is hoping to start work there soon. The local elders are very supportive.

The aim is to teach sound methods of farming and forestry. The centre has a chaplain, Revd. Upenji.

The diocesan Synod met at the end of March. One of the main items of business was the choice of two men whose names will be sent on to the House of Bishops, so that one of them can be chosen as the bishop of the new diocese of Aru. The synod decided upon Revd. Dr Ande Titre, and

Revd. Yossa Way. Both are at present on the staff of ISThA.

The training centre for youth leaders at Mahagi is now open and the first course has 10 students from three local archdeaconries. The Principal, Revd. Willy Bahemuka is enthusiastic. In June, they plan to run a 3-month course in English for Sudanese youth workers, and then in November a 9-month course for two youth workers from each diocese.

A mill has been installed to grind cassava, and it is working very efficiently. The hope is that the money it earns will help to make the centre self-sufficient. The centre has made a real impact on the local church people. They have now made 15,000 bricks towards the building of a new church. Various revival groups who had been very effective in helping people to come to Christ, but also disruptive in drawing them away from the church, are now returning.

At Aru, Judy spent time with the Government Youth Officer for the district. The church is working with him to establish a carpentry training workshop, and the Government has allocated a plot of forest land whose trees can be used in the workshop. Judy has found money for a circular saw. Again, it is hoped that this project will become self-supporting.

There is good hope for lasting peace in this area, some of the rebel leaders having been imprisoned, and some soldiers disarmed.

Bukavu

Judy Acheson writes:

Archdeaconry of Goma: Ven Assumani is keen to establish girls' groups throughout his archdeaconry as so many have been

take around a decade to achieve and relies on the country's political and economic stability.

Mission work in 2005 will follow the action plans created by each of the diocesan departments.

It is hoped that the roof will soon be added to the Emmanuel Cathedral [see photo], that other construction work will start in the parishes of Apolo, Navyundu, Buluo and St. Luc and that a small piece of land can be bought for the church at Kalemie.

A hospital and healthy education centre is being considered for Kasumbalesa aimed at intensifying social care work, community health action and work on the prevention of infectious diseases.

At the forefront of these plans is helping a population to regain the mental stability that has been damaged by several years of fratricidal war. The diocese has a humanitarian ministry of reconciliation for a lasting peace, against the tribal and ethnic hatred that the culture of war has created. On the issue of the expansion of the diocese, that must wait until the viability of existing churches can be maintained, especially those that have been destroyed by war.

The Glory of God is the goal of all that is being done in mission work.

STOP PRESS

The following delayed Link letters from CMS Partners *Francesca Elloway* and *Louise Wright* arrived shortly before the newsletter was completed.

From Francesca Elloway - March 2005

Dear Friends,

"Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed." says the Lord, who has compassion on you. Is. 54 v 10.

2005. 26 participants from parishes and various departments of the church in Kinshasa Diocese attended the seminar, at the end of which a vision statement for the new diocese was drawn up. A follow-up committee for Continuing Ministerial Education was appointed to help the participants put into practice and develop further what they had learnt.

Katanga

from the diocesan newsletter of December 2004.

Evangelism

There was great progress in evangelism work in 2004 thanks to Stephan Makata who now works alongside Rev Beya Tshishimbi. They made a number of visits to six archdeaconries outside Lumbumbashi. Evangelism work is targeting the whole family so as to form solid units within local churches. To this end, emphasis has been put on preparation programmes for baptisms and confirmation. Marriage courses have been organised to help couples prepare for their Christian life together.

Mission plans for 2005.

Since 1997, efforts have been made to find personnel qualified to administer and help to develop the work of the diocese in all areas. Now, as well as the pastors in parishes and archdeaconries, 22 members of staff are trained and ready to serve in the diocese. Each department is now led by a director with a background in each field but there are still other staff members who still need to gain professional experience.

Professional commitment rests on each staff member's personal calling. The diocese does not have a budget to pay salaries. For this reason, their working hours have been reduced to four hours per week. There is some land where these workers can grow their own food.

As far as material resources are concerned, the diocese envisages establishing self-financing projects so that they will not have to rely on gifts from overseas. This financial independence will

assaulted and are in need of much support. He is planning a training seminar for girls' leaders from each parish to be held there in Goma. The girls in Goma have started a cafeteria to bring in funds to their department.

From Archdeacon Kalondji, vicar-general of Bukavu Diocese:

'The heavy rain of 28 March has damaged several houses in the town of Bukavu and carried away 5 people. Three others are victims of the collapse of the walls of their houses. My house has not been spared, and might at any moment collapse. So I am sending an emergency appeal for help, to erect a sustaining wall.'

Bill Norman adds:

CCA are sending £1200 which is the amount of his estimate. If anyone would like to contribute towards the replacement of this in our funds, which are low, please send money to Tim Rous [address on front cover] suitably earmarked.

IPASC Up-Date

Pat Nickson writes:

2004 was a happy and fulfilling year for staff and students at IPASC. We no longer felt like displaced people in Aru as we had been so well received by the community and now felt at home. The ten hectares of land given to the Institute by the population of the Collectivity of Lu in Aru enabled us to progress with a building programme, and the already constructed administrative block and eight lecture rooms are already in use. With land sufficient for the two Institutes (the diploma school from Nyankunde and the University College from Bunia) logistic and financial constraints that were encountered when the programme was divided between Nyankunde and Bunia, have been reduced.

Having settled and completed the second academic year in Aru, since our evacuation, and having been reinforced by staff members returning from higher education, including Paluku Sabuni who was

awarded his PhD and Amuda Baba who gained his Masters degree, both at Liverpool, we are able to expand our programmes and improve the quality of the teaching given. New innovative programmes and teaching approaches are planned.

IPASC received two awards during the year from the Press Association. One was for the best higher education offered in the area (for the University College) and the other for the best HIV/AIDS programme (although we have to admit that this is run in collaboration with other important programmes including that of the Anglican Medical Service).

Apart from teaching, our main activities remain HIV/AIDS, Safe Motherhood, and malaria control.

With a very effective finance officer, recently back from his degree course at the Christian University in Mukono, Uganda, we are now able to offer advice on financial management of church programmes.

Aru is an area where collaboration with other programmes (Governmental, International and non Governmental) is usually easy and welcomed. We are grateful for the many friends and colleagues who have made us welcome and who have convinced us that Au is our home, and that we will not return to Nyankunde. We are still considering alternative activities which could be located on the Bunia campus.

ISThA Update

Rev Dr Titre Ande writes:

January 2005

We praise God who has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Yes, the year 2004 was a year of victory thanks to your prayers. We are also sincerely grateful for your moral and material support. 2004 was the year when we had to install ourselves in another cultural, social and even political context. In 2003 we left the 'country' of Bunia with its 'presidents' and went to the 'country' of Aru with its president. Each of these 'countries' within the greater

and military authorities and the police, for other churches and for the whole world. We always pray also for you our partners."

In answer to specific questions, the Bishop replies,

"When I received the money for the pirogue, I paid people to go and make it for me in the forest, a long way away. Now they have delivered it; it is very large, and needs an outboard motor to avoid dangers from strong winds and animals like the hippos. It is this pirogue that we used. There was room for the four bikes and plenty to spare. So I am sure that it will begin to help us little by little.

The pig project has not yet started. There is a problem about the land. We have already paid the owner, but there are taxes (\$150) for registration of change of ownership. He ought to pay for this, but he wants us to. But we do not want to use the money that is intended for buying and keeping the pigs. What should we do? The land is very good indeed, and we are doing our best to find the \$150 so that we do not lose it."

The Bishop ends with four specific requests arising from his safari.

- (1) three or four motorbikes for travel in the bush;
- (2) tools and material for the churches to use; there is plenty of labour;
- (3) an outboard motor for the canoe to make river journeys safe and fast
- (4) iron sheets for the schools and churches.

Bill Norman

Kinshasa

Bishop Molanga, Assistant Bishop of Kinshasa, has written about the seminar on church leadership, held at the church headquarters in Kinshasa from 6-13 February 2005. The seminar was run by Jenny Joice from Great Britain, and was a repeat of the seminar she had given twice before in Bukavu Diocese in 2004 and early

of the uncontrolled elements of FARDC (one of the warring factions) who terrorize the people, robbing and raping women and girls. However, our presence among them was an encouragement, and now they are getting to work. However, there is a constant demand for tools - axes, spades and so on.

There are many young people in our churches, but they have not much to occupy them. If they were well supported they could do a great deal by way of development. Anyway it is they who have the future of the church in their hands. They have plenty of land to cultivate, with the possibility of rearing goats, pigs and chickens, but they lack equipment.

No schools have iron roofs. All have only grass roofs which have to be renewed every three years, which is a problem. There are no desks or benches - the parents have to make them.

About the radio station [reported earlier, this has been a great success so far as it goes] it covers a radius of 150 km but we went about 500 km from the centre of the diocese. Parishes within its range benefit - the others do not.

We congratulate the missionaries of the CNCA (one of the other Protestant churches) because they have themselves installed a radio transmitter and paid all the taxes demanded by the State, whereas we continue to be plagued by these taxes. They also have begun to go right into the further parts of their areas to build schools and churches of durable material. That is their luck! And then people cannot help comparing us with the Catholic Church but we have not partners who are able to support us as they have.

Note that our radio puts out a much appreciated selection of programmes. It teaches the Gospel, it deals with problems of the full development of the human character, it gives good advice to people as well as helping our politicians to get ready for the forthcoming elections. There is prayer for everybody, the ill, the civil

Congo has its own laws. In effect we experienced exodus and exile within a single country. It took us some time to establish ourselves in Aru. We needed buildings to enable ISThA to function and we needed to equip these buildings. For this we built a house with class rooms. We also needed to house students and staff. The security of Aru, although fragile, allowed us to do all we were able to do.

So, 2005?

This academic year we have 25 full-time students of which 3 are women. We have just finished 14 weeks of teaching and the first semester exams begin next week. The complement of staff is complete with the return of Rev. Sabiti Tibafa from studying an M Phil in Missiology in England.

Aru or Bunia?

We have postponed our return to Bunia again for several reasons: persistent insecurity at Bunia, lack of transport to Bunia — it's still impossible to go by road—and the state of the buildings on the Bunia campus. We will finish this academic year in Aru and will move, if possible, to Bunia in September 2005. Unfortunately you can predict nothing in Congo! In the meantime we must repair ISThA's buildings in Bunia and reinstall electricity on the campus.

And the future?

We dream of making Congo a 'land flowing with milk and honey'. But how and when? Dictatorship and wars in Congo have caused savage destruction to political, social, economic and cultural structures. Life has become futile and filled with hopelessness. At ISThA we are firmly committed to work for a state of law and a just society in Congo. We have also been reconsidering our role as Christian educator in a country where more than 85% of the population call themselves Christians. To do this we have redefined our vision in order to respond to the present realities. We have reviewed our college policies, procedures and programmes so that we can be creative and relevant innovators. We are in the

process of reviewing the system so that the courses can be taught effectively. We are giving particular attention to the recruitment and support of qualified teachers. We are also concerned to endow the library with new publications in line with the theological orientation of our churches and to modernise the library so it provides an effective service. Necessarily, all these engagements demand a considerable financial backing that we do not have.

Centre of Biblical Formation

With the concern to make ISThA a centre that facilitates effective ministry in the Church and in society in general, we have changed our Women's Department into a Centre of Biblical Formation (CFB). This opens the way to women and men from outside ISThA who do not have the School Leavers' Certificate to study at ISThA. This is a 3 year full-time certificated programme or short courses between 3 months and 1 year in different subjects like preaching, administration, development, management, ministry to youth, children, the sick, couples and abandoned children, evangelism, pastoral care, and small projects like tailoring and information technology. Already, two women from outside, that is whose husbands do not study at ISThA, are studying at the centre. They pay a monthly fee of \$2 and are self-supporting. They appreciate the courses they follow at the centre and are already encouraging others to register at the CFB.

Prayer points

We appreciate the effort and determination of the local archdeacons which are financing 5 students and their spouses at ISThA. 4 are in their second year and one in the first year. Unfortunately the archdeaconess only pay \$300 of the fees and these students are really struggling to survive at ISThA. Medical expenses are added to daily living expenses. For example Etsegeri Anaka from Aru has been ill many times and even had an operation in hospital. He's determined to finish his studies despite all these difficulties. Sometimes he does manual work for other people in order to earn a small amount. Such students are really brave,

prayer and financial support that has enabled us to accomplish our task which was to help Kasai province to be a separate diocese. May I just add that they will continue to need much prayer and practical help for a number of years yet. Thank you to all who have shown interest in the Congo and especially Mbuji Mayi."

Kisangani

Report on a safari undertaken by Bishop Funga of Kisangani.

"Our journey went well with four motorbikes and a pirogue (canoe.) We went at least 500 km and it took 40 days. The roads have not been at all good for years. The civil war has ruined them as the people have been in the forest all the time fleeing from the armed militias. All the small and large bridges have been damaged and there is no one to repair roads except the churches and the non-governmental organizations, as the State has given up all responsibility. It was more difficult still to reach places where we had to travel on foot, and we were much troubled by mosquitoes. At times we had to cross rivers on foot, and the local people had to carry the motorbikes on their shoulders; we had to pay them a lot of money. Because the roads were so bad, we had to keep repairing the bikes, which we had borrowed for this journey. On one occasion we had a narrow escape; our pirogue was attacked by a huge hippopotamus. Happily it is a new and strong one, but this is the danger of using paddles instead of an outboard motor.

We succeeded in visiting 18 parishes in the five archdeaconries, one in Isangi, four in Bolingo, three in Matyete, seven in Yamofaya, and three in Basoko. This leaves 11 parishes which will take another three weeks.

As several years have gone by since the last visit of a bishop, the people were very glad to welcome us. They were also glad of our teaching. One of our themes was the avoidance of AIDS. Before we arrived they were not working well as they were not sure that the war had really ended. They continued to feel insecure because

discovered a small tumour on the pituitary gland which will be investigated next week; she starts very aggressive treatment today to try and prevent the blindness spreading to the other eye and also to try and put off the course of rampant MS; the treatment has very unpleasant side effects, please continue to pray for her, also wisdom for us to know if Kathryn should go to Australia before July. The word we have from the Lord is that this will result in His Glory.”

Kathryn continues in a later message:

“Suzanna has had to come off the steroid treatment that the doctor said would protect the sight in the other eye. It caused heavy bleeding. Last time I spoke to her she was a bit down, after having been very upbeat, the result of the first lot of treatment I guess. We haven’t had the results of the tumour yet so please keep praying. One of her old nursing college days’ friends is flying out this weekend, a trip planned some time ago. I may feel that it is right for me to go after that so am praying for wisdom and discernment.”

This message was received shortly before publication:

“Things are progressing well in Mbuji Mayi. There are a lot of signs of encouragement. The English course with more than 100 students has brought us into contact with a lot of new people. Stuart’s trip to Kabinda via motobike was very hair-raising. It seems that the damage to his ankle was a very badly torn tendon or ligament. It is improving now and he just thanks God that he was able to get there and back and do the seminar. We have less than 3 months here now and naturally we are all anxious to know whom the archbishop is going to appoint as assistant bishop. There isn’t much interest I am sorry to say. He insists it must be an expatriate for the time being and we heard that he has been in contact with the Nigerian clergy. Our daughter, Suzanna is still very unwell although her sight is returning slowly. Naturally, this affects us greatly as she is single and Australia is a long way off. However, we had already decided after much prayer and thought that there is not much more that we can do here. We praise God for the

committed and industrious. Please bring them to the care of the Almighty in your daily prayers. Pray also for the students who have left their families in Kinshasa and Lubumbashi because they didn’t have enough money for their air fare.

With our thanks for your support and prayers and wishing you God’s blessings.

Kasai

Extracts from newsletters from Stuart and Kathryn Broughton , beginning with items from October 2004:

“We have been back in Mbuji Mayi for four weeks now and as usual, there have been a lot of problems and difficulties. First of all, the good things. Rev. Isesomo did a fantastic job here and made a great impression with his teaching and his pastoral ministry. We pray that God will raise up many more Congolese like him to be future leaders of the Church.

We have recommenced the English services and started a morning service in French. The English language students are pleased to see Kathryn back and are flocking to the classes. Stuart has an occasional slot on a local Christian radio station.

We are beginning to see the fruits of our labours in the garden. We are eating our own tomatoes and seeing other seeds grow although the heat and lack of water is taking its toll.

By far the worst news though was the massacre of up to fifty street children and young people who had steadily been getting more aggressive and violent. The local diamond miners who had often been the victims of their raids and assaults finally lost patience and burnt or butchered them in cold blood throwing some of the bodies into the river and others into ravines where the dogs ate them. This was our first week back. Most people seem to be glad that the nuisance had gone away but, in our eyes, it merely adds to the spiritual darkness that hangs over this town.

We make no apologies for reminding you of the financial needs of this huge country and the poverty and misery that exists. We find it very difficult to cope with the constant requests for food, money for medicines, schooling etc. We need much wisdom and a sense of balance. Few people in the West can imagine the complete material lack which over 85% of the population experience daily. Surely as Christians, we should be asking God what our response to these needs should be? It often feels that our contribution is not even a drop in the ocean but our prayer is that we may be faithful even in the little we can do.”

From the Broughtons' newsletter of Christmas 2004:

“The last few months have been quite productive. St. Paul's Centre is being used more and more and we have increased our teaching and outreach activities. Besides Sunday services in French and English, and an advanced English course, we now have a weekly Mothers' Group, a Young People's club and an English- language choir. We have had conferences and seminars, including a residential one that was quite a challenge.

The awful events surrounding the massacre of street children have faded from most people's memories. Perhaps some organizations are talking more about the problems. “Save the Children” organized a group of children and young people in a “theatre production” of the problem and solution. Unfortunately some NGOs have very high expenses, e.g. 50 dollars a night for hotel accommodation when a local worker earns half that a month, if he/she is fortunate to be paid. Quite recently we have been dismayed to hear that UNICEF and OXFAM have had large sums of money stolen, usually involving police guards and insiders. With an extra gift we have been promised, we have been able to help a local orphanage. The Manager, Jean Paul, seeks to receive, train and return children to their families from which they have been separated through war and poverty.

We have also decided to give a Christmas present of 10 dollars to each of the teachers in the Anglican Church Schools in and around Mbuji Mayi. Many of them have had no salary for months, because many parents are unable to pay school fees.

Our garden was flourishing but the severe weather has taken its toll and we wonder if the effort was worth the result. We have been able to finance a few mini-projects, in an effort to help people who have small incomes. We need much wisdom and discernment to use the money wisely. Compassion is not enough. We are thankful that corruption that has been so rife is at last being tackled. Six government ministers and other heads of departments have been suspended pending enquiries about finances. A lot of foreign money is pouring into the Congo in order to pay for elections next year, but apart from a lot of hot air, not much seems to be happening. We wonder how the majority of under-nourished unemployed Congolese will have the money to pay for photographs and documents necessary to register as voters.”

Thanks to support from St. Paul's, Jersey, Stuart was able to purchase a motorbike. In a message dated 30th March, Kathryn reported that:

“Stuart is in Kabinda; it is only 150 kms away but it took him 15 hours on the motorbike even though it is all terrain; He fell off five times and hurt his ankle and head a bit but he says: Praise God because he is faithful. He is doing the seminar today and tomorrow and will set off home on Friday but if the weather is bad again, it will take as long. I am very busy with my English students and I have built up a very good relationship with them.”

Recently Stuart and Kathryn have had worrying news concerning the health of their daughter Suzanna:

Please pass on to our friends that Suzanna's diagnosis has been confirmed. Suzanna has all the symptoms of advancing MS with 5 signal flares plus the blindness in one eye which is nearly always confirmation on top of the results from the cat scan. They have also