

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.

No.52 July 2006

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FROM THE CHAIR OF THE ASSOCIATION

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you so much for your continued support for the Association. The work that we do is not fashionable or high profile, but it is an essential support to our brothers and sisters in Christ in the DR Congo. As I write the time scheduled for elections is drawing nearer and nearer. These are much postponed, and there is no guarantee that they will bring the peace and stability that we all so much desire and pray for. There are reports of UN pessimism about the security situation, and Ituri, the heartland of our church, remains the most unstable part of the whole country. As the election date of 29th July draws near will you join us in praying for the whole land and all its people that God will bless and preserve them, and give them a government committed to governing for the benefit of all Congo's peoples and not for one group or another – and not a government only interested in lining its own pockets!

We want as an Association first to record our condolences to Bishop Funga Botolome of Kisangani on the death of his wife Kamanda Funga. Mama Funga had been ill for some time, but she died quite suddenly and only in her late forties. She and the bishop have six children. We uphold him in our prayers.

Bukavu diocese began the process of electing potential candidates as the new bishop over a year ago. Archbishop Dirokpa has had the unenviable task of being diocesan bishop of two dioceses, but from the time of the formation of the new Diocese of Kinshasa he had declared his intention of resigning from Bukavu as soon as possible. However, the results of the electoral synod held last July were contested by some of those taking part, and the House of Bishops decided that a Vicar General should be appointed for the diocese to bring reconciliation and calm for a year before the elections should be re-run. However, all has not gone according to plan, and two of the senior archdeacons in the diocese have been dismissed. It is not clear at the time of writing what will be the outcome of all this. It does seem clear however, that some revision of the canons and constitutions might help avoid such troubles.

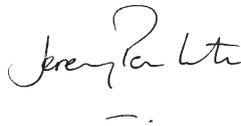
Your Association is also undergoing change. The committee have been concerned for some time to see how, in the present climate, we can make ourselves more useful to the church. This is leading us to make some important revisions to our constitution, which would permit us to have, as a charity, the freedom to work with other bodies in health, education and

social projects related to Congo. We are concerned that being seen too narrowly as a religious charity does not help us to help our church there be part of the planning for partnership in reconstruction that will be funded by grants from overseas. It is evident to anyone who knows DR Congo that churches are the most effective providers of all kinds of social provision – we know that our church there is well able to contribute in this way – and we need to be an effective conduit for this. Proposed revisions to the constitution, which have been negotiated with the Charity Commission, will come to our annual meeting in November.

The Archbishop and the whole House of Bishops is keen to have a substantial meeting in the near future with all their key partners from overseas. We are the organisational hub of that – promoting it and trying to gather the partners together. It is hoped that this will take place in the early part of 2007 – and we will bring you more news of that when dates and details are confirmed.

The newsletter is full of matter for prayer. The uncertainties of Congolese life are very many; but God is good and gracious and his resources outlast all the ups and downs of human existence. We cast all our cares, and all their cares, on him.

Your brother in Christ,



Jeremy Pemberton

THE POLITICAL SITUATION

Although five years of war ended in 2003, parts of the country are still unstable: see the reports from Boga Diocese.

A new constitution was approved by referendum in December. Now elections are awaited with impatience. After several postponements, they are now scheduled for the end of July. There is a United Nations force of 17,000 in the country, and ten EU countries have promised to provide a further force of 1450, who would mostly remain outside on standby unless called upon to protect the electoral process.

THE PROVINCE AND KINSHASA DIOCESE

Bishop Michael, our patron, told our AGM about his visit to Congo. In Kinshasa, he stayed in the house that the Archbishop bought with help from the Episcopal Church of the U.S. and from CCA. It is in a typical, noisy area of the city, with flats which are let to provide an income. A start has been made with the building of a multi-purpose church centre on land next to Bishop Molanga's house, part of which will be used for offices for the Province and for the diocese of Kinshasa. The house by the river, in a very run-down part of the town, where Bishop Mavatikwa was fatally injured, has now been to some extent repaired and protected from flood damage. The Anglican presence in the capital is very weak. Bishop Michael visited three churches, but only one of them has a roof, and they are difficult to find. He attended part of the meeting of the House of Bishops, and conducted a retreat for them. He found that they are very concerned that there should be transparent relationships in matters of finance, both within the Church and between the Church and their overseas partners.

BOGA DIOCESE

Archbishop Njojo intends to retire soon, and a synod to elect his successor is planned for August this year. Great progress has been made in reconciling the warring tribes in the diocese, but from time to time there are fresh outbreaks of violence, and he has often had to go across the border to Fort Portal.

Last December, Ven. Beni Bataaga, who is the Provincial Officer for Refugees wrote, *I was in Bunia in February and again in July, and at that time Bunia was "insecure." Now, however, it is very different, and my family and I are preparing to return there in February.... The new parish church, which we have been building both before and during the war, is nearly finished, and there are two services every Sunday, one in Swahili and one in French. The church is full for both.*

That was good news. However, he continues, *The UN and government troops are fighting Lendu militia in order to bring the war in Ituri to an end....I would also like to mention the situation at Boga. Some time ago more than 800 people fled to Nord-Kivu as Lendu and Hema militia attacked the village, and pillaged much property, including the Bishop's car. The diocesan office was ransacked and all the records were destroyed. Now to our great joy the militia has been chased out by Government troops, and the people are beginning to return. But they are short of food because they have not been able to plant their crops. Also all the medicines in the hospital were destroyed.*

A more recent message tells of more fighting in the Gety area, and refugees actually coming INTO Boga. The Mothers' Union is very active in the diocese and in Kisangani under the leadership of the Provincial MU worker, Damalie Sabiti.

They have been able to give both spiritual and material help to the refugees.

Mahagi Youth Leaders' Training Centre is now in full swing. Judy Acheson writes, *We are so grateful for funding for three years, which has enabled us to start this 9 month course, inviting two from every diocese. With this funding, Willy Bahemuka, the director, is gradually increasing the projects so that the centre will eventually become self-financed. He has procured two square kilometres of land for agriculture, in return for helping the local population with a manual mill etc. He also found funding to build the director's house, and to get a motorbike for himself. It is a joy working with someone who has such a vision and is so full of initiative.*

There are several other exciting developments in the diocese. One is the agricultural centre at Makabo, near Bunia. This is now nearly finished with help from the Clothworkers' Foundation in the City of London. Judy Acheson reports on this also: *The local community have now taken this as their own project whereas at the beginning it was they who were stealing anything they could. They have realized that we are the only people who have brought any kind of development to their village and even their tribal area. They are now keen to help wherever possible and once electricity is brought to the centre, they will start building their houses with brick so that they can have electricity installed as well. Sinza has worked extremely hard to complete as much as he has of the building. Prices have rocketed in Bunia due to the influx of NGOs. Sinza still waits for the windows and doors to be put in place even so, it is being used for classes by people sitting on planks on bricks!*

Because of continuing insecurity in the area it is forbidden for young men to congregate in any number, and so Sinza has not used the centre for training young men as planned. It is being used three times a week for the local women and girls to learn to read and write, to sew, to knit, to embroider, Bible studies and gardening. This was started by the centre's chaplain, Revd. Upenji, with just a few women. They were so thrilled that they called their neighbours and now there are over 100 attending... We are very grateful to Bamanyisa, a lady from our church at Yambi, who comes three times a week giving her time, her own materials and her love freely to help these women and girls. Kiiza, the health worker for the youth department, has taken several days to teach them about health matters, especially HIV/AIDS.

The men cannot come at present, so through having a nursery at the centre, Sinza is taking plants out to different local communities and helping them to

set up groups so that they work together to plant a greater number of vegetables. This is an area where there is malnutrition due to drink but also to the people living off cassava. The tribe is mainly Catholic, but our pastor is greatly appreciated for his visits and his ability to help them... he has a real ability to share his faith in a simple and practical way.

Sinza is getting a rabbit project going because he wants to be able to give every family a pair of rabbits to improve their nutrition as well as bring in money...the women are also given plants to take home.

She adds that Sinza has further plans, which include the use of a tractor so as to cultivate a greater area, and to run training courses for young people.

Another project is the Hope Centre for Girls. Land has been bought through the generosity of a group of women in Australia, but there is much still to be done. The centre, however, is being put to good use. *Judy Acheson again: The tribal war in Ituri has caused untold suffering: many children left orphans, having first seen their parents and siblings killed and frequently their houses razed to the ground, girls and women raped in front of family members, thousands living on the streets of Bunia having lost everything. We as a youth department have been greatly involved in peace and reconciliation, visiting thousands of displaced people in and around Bunia, running seminars for all tribes and reaching out to those who fled to Uganda...*

We realized that we needed to provide special help for girls who have been deeply traumatized by the war. Let me give one example: a 12 year old girl watched her family all being chopped to pieces. Eventually she found her feet and fled with her baby brother on her back, only to be followed. The attackers chopped the baby off her back and cut him to pieces with a machete, but left her to live. What sort of life can such a girl have now with this image always before her?

The local community was amazed that our youth department was concerned for girls; they are considered second-class citizens and therefore not important.... Our aim is to help them take their place back in society, holding their heads high, no longer blaming themselves for what happened, but even forgiving those who caused them so much suffering The centre offers literacy classes, sewing, knitting, cooking, discussions on subjects relevant to their lives, counselling for those who request help in this way, Bible studies.... The youth team have attended special workshops in Kampala on post-traumatic stress which has helped them to know how to help these young people - counselling is not advised whilst the trauma is still acute. We have a fully trained nurse who could run a medical post once there is a sufficient supply of medicines and basic equipment.

The Agape youth team, under the leadership of Bisoke, is re-establishing youth work in all parts of the diocese. Young people have returned to the church, even those who were in the various militias. The youth centre has been restored, homeless young people have found temporary accommodation there, and there are plans to make all the youth work self-financing.

THE NEW DIOCESE OF ARU

The diocese was inaugurated on 13 November, and we have had several accounts of this great event. Dr Francesca Elloway writes: *the day started with a severe and prolonged thunderstorm, though nobody seemed too concerned about that, as rain is seen as a blessing in this culture. But it did result in a lot of the canvas sheets and poles falling down that had been put up to provide some protection from the sun for those attending the outdoor service, and the ground was decidedly muddy. However, the rain eventually stopped, the sun came out, the poles and canvas sheets were re-erected, the muddy ground dried out, and the service started an hour and a half late — and then carried on for six hours! It was split into two parts, the first being the official inauguration of the new diocese, and the second the installation of its first bishop, Ande Titre Georges.*

Two days later we had our first diocesan synod, during which the new constitution was read out word by word in two languages, so that everyone had the chance to hear it and make comments and ask questions. Bishop Ande wanted everyone there to feel that they were part of the new diocese and that their views would be listened to, and this was much appreciated by everyone.

In his address at the consecration, the new bishop paid tribute to all the pioneers both local and missionary who had brought the Anglican Church to Aru, and especially to Archbishop Njojo. He went on to outline some of the directions in which he hoped to lead the Christians of Aru. One is the revival of evangelism of a kind which “will result in real spiritual conversion, rather than simple Christianisation, which is the situation we live with in our country.” Another of his aims is “to provide an education for Christians that will lead to spiritual maturity and equipping them for the building up of the body of Christ encouraging the ministry of all the saints.” And in relation to the question of reverting to traditional African beliefs and customs, he wants to “promote an ‘African’ Christianity...current African values that are compatible with Christian faith should serve as stepping stones towards living the Gospel of Christ without straying into syncretism.”

Dr Francesca Elloway has been appointed Medical Co-ordinator for the diocese; she already has a heavy teaching programme, and has overall responsibility for seven health centres, but she will now be visiting all the other parishes. She is cheered by the return from further training of Ezati, the enthusiastic and innovative Supervisor. The new Maternity Unit at Aru was opened by Bishop Njojo in July 2005, and has been full ever since.

Dr Pat Nickson is still the titular head of IPASC, which she founded, and where students are trained up to degree level in community health work. She writes, *A respect for the way in which problems and challenges have been handled at IPASC has increased, as I see a team able to run the programme much better than I could, I offered (quite sincerely) my resignation and volunteered to be an adviser rather than an absent chief executive, but this was categorically refused. The team do not mind my being absent, but feel they are strong with the present arrangement...* There are two first year groups, one in Aru and the other in Bunia, with a total intake of 80 students, the highest ever. Several organizations, including United Nations agencies are looking for ways of working with IPASC. Pat Nickson was awarded the OBE last year and she was also ordained Priest. She now has to find some way of combining the new post of Director of the Department of Christian Education in Aru Diocese with her curacy in the parish of Upton in Chester Diocese, and her continuing concern for IPASC!

ISThA

Bishop Ande Titre is still Director of the Theological Institute until it returns, as is planned, to its proper home at Bunia at the end of the academic year in July. There are 26 students, five of them women. Because of a lack of electricity in Aru, they use a generator three times a week so that students can work in the evenings. The Centre for Biblical Formation offers training to women, many of them wives of ordinands who have had much less education than their husbands, and there are 11 students there this year.

The married students live mostly in rented accommodation. One such house was burned down when the parents were at lectures and a small daughter, one of seven children, was cooking dinner and oil caught fire. CCA have paid for the rebuilding of the house, as otherwise the owner would have taken ISThA to court. Ms Kiiza Kawha, the nurse at ISThA for the last 15 years has had to leave, to everyone's great regret. She has become paralysed and can only walk on crutches. Ande describes her as a good model of devotion and sense of responsibility. The return to Bunia will be no easy matter. Trucks will have to

be hired to take 135 people with all their luggage and belongings, on roads where armed robbers may still be encountered. And the buildings in Bunia will require a good deal of restoration.

KISANGANI DIOCESE

Bishop Lambert Funga's wife, Mama Kamanda sadly died in March. This is a great blow for him, for the diocese, and for the Mothers' Union of which she was the President. The bishop is planning to spend some time with Bishop Isingoma to gain experience of how another diocese works, and then he will take an English course in Kampala.

Damalie Sabiti recounts the difficulties faced by the MU worker, Ms Rebecca Otela, in visiting the remoter parts of the diocese. *The only way is by boat. It is always dangerous for them because of the unpredictable weather conditions, overloading of boats, and sporadic looting by armed people on the river Congo and its tributaries. The women work for the daily living of their families by buying crops and other articles and selling them locally. Their husbands are often lowly paid or sometimes go without pay for months.*

NORD-KIVU DIOCESE

Bishop Methusela Munzenda announces that he is to have an Assistant Bishop, Canon Enoki Kayeeyi from Kigezi Diocese, Uganda. He will be, in effect, a Ugandan missionary in Congo, following in the steps of Apolo Kivebulaya. His main work will be as an evangelist, but he will act generally in collaboration with Bishop Munzenda.

BUKAVU DIOCESE

There is sad and serious trouble in the Diocese. When Archbishop Dirokpa set up the new diocese of Kinshasa, he remained for the time being also Bishop of Bukavu. It was clearly necessary to elect a successor there, and a synod was held for that purpose in February 2005. The names of two men were submitted to the House of Bishops, as laid down in the Provincial Constitution. However, it was alleged by two other candidates that the process of election was flawed,

on two grounds: more people were allowed to vote than the Diocesan Constitution lays down, and one at least of the successful candidates did not have the required academic qualification. The House of Bishops agreed that Ven. Ise-somo, Provincial Evangelist, should go to Bukavu for a year to sort the matter out. It is disputed whether the bishops actually annulled the election by the Bukavu Synod, or merely suspended it. In any case, the two unhappy candidates insist that the election should be re-run, and Archbishop Dirokpa is unwilling to agree to this. The situation changes from day to day, and it would not be useful to say more about it here. Much prayer is needed.

KATANGA DIOCESE

Our Chairman, Jeremy Pemberton, with his daughter Phoebe, and Dr Steve Gaze visited the diocese in July 2005, and reported on his visit at the AGM. Bishop Isingoma and Mugisa his wife, who runs the Mothers' Union, have a strong team of leaders and a good diocesan centre. Among other places, they visited a "boys' town project" to rescue and educate 300 street children; and a training project where carpentry, sewing and agriculture are taught. These depend on funds from outside, as does a well-run clinic in the capital.

They also went up-country to Kapolowe, where a church had been badly damaged in a gale. The people had made thousands of bricks and rebuilt the walls. They spent two days in Bunkeya, far from public utilities and transport, in an area that is mineral-rich. They visited, led seminars, worship, singing and preaching. There is a HUGE need for literature; there are no Bibles, hymnbooks or prayer books in the parishes.

Girls' education is particularly neglected. Only 20% of girls even reach what in Britain would be Year 9. Many girls are married as early as 12 or 13, and are never able to achieve their full potential.

Steve Gaze, who is a youth worker, funded by an ecumenical trust, and who grew up in Congo, ran seminars with a youth worker trained in Kenya, Jean Tshiswaka, and spent a day helping choir leaders to understand the role of choirs in church — not to be competitive but genuinely to lead worship.

He hopes to forge links between young people in UK and in Congo, and to set up projects which will help them to become self-supporting e.g. finding markets for copper bracelets made by youth in Congo, and sending wedding dresses to Congo to be hired out.

KINDU DIOCESE

Louise Wright describes a safari in 2005 with Bishop Masimango to places, some of which she had not seen for ten years, and to the town of Kasongo where she had never been at all. She went on the back of a Yamaha 100 motorbike.

For the first four days we travelled the well-remembered routes, stopping to rapturous welcomes at churches on the way. The track through the forest had dried out as we were nearing the end of the short dry season but some of the bridges were as tricky as ever. In some places we saw evidence of the work of various agencies helping in post war reconstruction. We were travelling with our diocesan development officer who had successfully organised the distribution of mugs, jerry cans and cooking equipment from Christian Aid. It was good to see the positive results of the efforts of so many people.

The end of the dry season? A night of heavy rain followed by a slippery journey through a patch of forest which seemed to have missed out on development projects left us all muddy and tired. The next day we had to wait for petrol. Three young men with bicycles had been commissioned to deliver fuel to different points on our journey. The rain had stopped and our enforced stay gave an opportunity to relax and to listen to and encourage the local church. The petrol arrived at four so we set off again to find ourselves in quite a different world. I have often written of Kindu Diocese as a vast area of tropical forest with villages spaced out along the few rough roads. Now we saw a different aspect. As we neared Kasongo the forest thinned out and eventually gave way to open grassland. We could see the vast dome of the sky instead of emerging from "tunnels" of bamboo to glimpse forested hills behind each village. Everything was different. The houses were thatched with grass, not forest leaves. The local language was a different one. At last we could see that the Anglican Diocese of Kindu is not just for people of one tribe. In other places my presence is the only evidence of this!

Kasongo itself was another revelation with its wide tree-lined streets and Arab style houses. There were cars. We hadn't seen one of those since leaving Kindu six days earlier. There was even a Vodacom antenna so mobile phones came out again, though there was no electricity to charge them. Apparently Kasongo was an important centre for the slave trade. They say it is the only place in Congo where there are more Muslims than Christians. People seem free to drift between mosque and church, often depending on which is best at delivering aid. The Muslim women's welcoming group seemed no different from the Christian groups, which come to visit the important visitors (remember that our bishop is also a senator in the transitional government). We spent two nights in Kasongo. Mulenda, the archdeacon of Kasongo is the father of

Selemani and Amuri whom you saw in my last letter so it was good to catch up with the family. This was the first time the bishop had been there too. We were both struck by the enormous needs and the vast possibilities for the gospel in this neglected area.

From Kasongo we plunged back into the forest, now heading northeast towards the border with South Kivu. The people of Bukama hadn't seen a car since we passed there in 1995. Now at last motorbikes can come and go with no problems except the road. In the whole two weeks we met no roadblocks; we saw no weapons; there was no hostility anywhere. In our region, Maniema, the various militias have come out of the forest and have either returned to civilian life or been integrated more or less successfully into the national army. However in Bukama we met Rev Masudi and his wife, Sakina who had been in training last year. They had crossed one of the rivers that divide Maniema from South Kivu to bring confirmation candidates from their parish. He brought a very different story. In Masudi's village there are constant raids and they hear gunshots all the time. It was quite a shock to hear the hardships this young and very enthusiastic pastor has to go through in the first year of his ministry. We were reminded that our prayers of thanksgiving for peace must be accompanied by prayer for the still troubled areas.

We came full circle back to Kalima. The dial on the motorbike showed a journey of more than a thousand kilometres yet there are still large areas of the diocese, which remain unvisited.

The journey gave me a lot to think about in relation to the teaching of church workers and church members. The Bishop too has a new vision about the future of Bible schools. Pray that we will find an effective way to use the limited resources we have to reach people in the whole diocese. One joy on this trip was delivering Bibles, donated by British Christians, for the use of village churches some of which have never had a Bible.

I've been back in Kalima for a month now. The new family in my household have settled in well. The main excitement here is the registering of voters for the first free election Congo has ever known, now postponed till next year (2006). All the young men who have ever picked up a few hints by using our computers are now out in the villages operating computers. It is an incredibly sophisticated system which delivers neat laminated registration cards complete with photos and fingerprints. In theory there is no payment. A common greeting these days is "Have you been dipped?" This refers to the dipping of your little finger in indelible ink after registering so you can't register twice. Some people were afraid there was some magic involved in this, or even that it was "the mark of the beast". Archdeacon Mwenyemali is involved in helping people to understand. One problem he strives with is proof of nationality. In the 1950s

Rwandans and Burundians were brought here to work in the mine. Most of them settled here and think of themselves as Congolese. Yet, when Rwanda invaded in 1997, some of them turned out to be infiltrators. How to guard against this danger without provoking tribalism is one of the delicate matters he has to deal with. The other problem is that the salaries of the various operators are slow coming through. Past experience leads people to suspect misappropriation. Lack of money to buy food soon leads to bribery ("Give me 100 francs and you can come to the front of the queue.") In spite of all this people are hopeful that Congo will succeed in having free elections.

KASAI, EAST AND WEST

These districts have now been detached from Bukavu and added to the diocese of Kinshasa. A Nigerian bishop has been consecrated and will lead the church there as an assistant to the Archbishop. He is Rt. Revd. Abiodun Taiwo Olaye. He will be based in the mining town of Mbuji-Mayi.

*Kathryn and Stuart Broughton spent two years there, preparing the area to become a sub-diocese if not a full diocese just yet. Jane and John Ilton stayed in St Paul's Centre which the Broughtons set up. Jane reported on that visit at the AGM: *St Paul's Centre is lovely. It has one large room for meetings, services, and even as a dormitory if needed. Next to this are a bedroom, store and shower, then a big dining/sitting room, bedroom, scullery, kitchen and bathroom. It has a walled garden, so there is no need for a guard. Outside is a wide boulevard and petrol station, little shops and restaurants, moneychangers with piles of Congolese notes. This is the business centre and the Mayor's house is here.**

There are three million people in Mbuji-Mayi, mainly living in small village-type communities, very basic, e.g. sometimes they have water, sometimes not. Electricity is off all day, so you boil water first thing, cook on a barbecue at lunchtime, and use a small stove in the evening. Very few people actually have electricity.

The diamond mines are there and the rich diamond workers with their 4x4s were in the area, so there was a great contrast between rich and poor. It is Lebanese traders who make the money from the diamonds.

Bishop Abiodun will have a hard task, but at least it seems that he will have a good base to work from.

BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND CHILDREN

One of Judy Acheson's tasks as Provincial Youth Officer is to produce books, which can be a basis for youth groups to work on. One of these has now been completed. It is called "Young people enjoy..." It has been welcomed with enthusiasm by Agape in Bunia, but as she also reports, *It is being used in a young people's prison in Sierra Leone! I hear the Christian, Muslim and animist young people are loving it!! The mission partners have asked me to send them 100 copies to get them into the churches. We have also recently sent 100 copies to the Sudan. We are working on Book 2 and need much prayer. This book is looking at the problems to be found in this country: corruption, injustice, lack of human rights etc. And what our response should be as Christians and as young people.* She and her team are also working on a Sunday School book for young children. However, there is a problem: if you want to sell books, they have to be published through a recognized publishing house. So a publisher needs to be found who will be willing to permit the Church to use their name.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2006

*THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CONGO CHURCH
ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY 25th NOVEMBER*

*AT THE CENTRE, ST PAUL'S CHURCH,
HILLS ROAD, CAMBRIDGE AT 12 NOON*

We recommend travelling to Cambridge by rail. St Paul's is a short walk or bus ride from the railway station. If you are travelling by car it is advisable to use the park and ride system. For disabled people there is on street parking very near to St Paul's Church.

Lunch at the Centre will be provided.

The agenda will include an amendment to the Constitution. The objects of the Association are very narrowly defined at present, viz (a) to advance the Christian religion in the DR Congo (b) to relieve poverty among the clergy of the Anglican Church and widows and dependents of any such persons.

The committee propose that Clause 2 Objects of the Association should now read as follows

- (a) to advance the Christian religion in the Democratic Republic of Congo
- (b) In partnership with the Anglican Church in the Democratic Republic of Congo to relieve poverty and to provide for the needs of refugees and the displaced.
- (c) In partnership with the Anglican Church in the DRC and civil society there to promote and sustain schemes for peace and reconciliation, health, education and community development for the welfare and benefit of the population.
- (d) To relieve poverty among the clergy and former clergy of the Anglican Church and the widows and dependents of such persons

In furtherance of the above objects, but nor further or otherwise, the Association shall have the following powers:

- (i) to educate the British public in the needs of the Church and of the population generally in the DRC
- (ii) to work with other persons and organizations, both statutory and voluntary, in pursuance of the objects of the Association
- (iii) to raise funds, accept, and borrow or raise money for the objects of the Association on such terms and on such security as shall be thought fit
- (iv) subject to such consents as are necessary by law to sell, let mortgage, dispose of or turn to account any of the property or assets of the Association.
- (v) to do all such things as shall further the said objects

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.

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 Rev Willy Bahemuka and his team teaching youth workers from throughout PEAC.
8. Pray for all Bishops, clergy and lay leaders that they may be diligent in prayer and personal Bible reading and that by His Holy Spirit, God would make each one effective in preaching, teaching and caring for those in their pastoral care.
9. Pray for the forthcoming Presidential elections, due in July, and that the whole process might be accomplished in peace and justice.
10. Aru Diocese was inaugurated in November and Rev Dr Titre Ande, Director of ISThA was appointed as the first bishop of Aru. Pray for Bp Ande as he juggles his diocesan responsibilities as well as those at ISThA.
11. Praise God for the staff at ISThA and pray for them as they teach on both the degree course and new courses at the Centre for Biblical Formation. Pray

too for the appointment of a new Director for the new academic year in September to replace Bp Ande.

12. 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. Pray for those graduating in July to be appointed to roles where their gifts may best be used in Christ's service.

13. There are many Bible Schools throughout DRC. Pray that the teachers will teach God's Word faithfully and students will learn well and be equipped for future ministry.

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 that the women and girls will be able to reintegrate into their families and communities after treatment.

17. Give thanks that as peace increases, travel becomes easier. Pray for the Bishops as they make pastoral visits and take confirmations, and that they will nurture and encourage many in their Christian faith.

18. Remember Health Centres and their staff across the country and nurses in training, praying for God's blessing upon their work and studies. Pray that they may show Christ's compassion and love as they care for the sick and dying.

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 HIV/AIDS. Pray for effective on-going teaching in schools and amongst young people raising awareness of AIDS.

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

23. Pray for mission partners working in Congo: Francesca Elloway (Aru), Judy Acheson (Lubumbashi), Eric and Sandra Reid (Lubumbashi) Louise Wright (Kalima) and Pat Nickson (Aru). Pray for Assistant Bp Abiodun Taiwo Olaye and his wife (from Nigeria), based in Mbuji-Mayi.

24. 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 fruitful ministry for all chaplains and clergy working in schools and universities.

25. 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.

26. 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.

27. Pray for both the leaders and members of AGAPE youth groups throughout the country, asking that the young people may grow in maturity as followers of Christ, reach out with the Gospel to their peers and stand firm in their faith.

28. Pray for the members and leaders of the Mothers' Union groups throughout the Province and for their impact on their families, churches and communities. Remember too Damalie Sabiti, Provincial MU worker.

29. 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), Bp Ande (Aru), Asst Bp Molanga (Kinshasa) and Asst Bishop Abiodun (Mbuji-Mayi).

30. 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.



TREASURERS

Tim Rous

This newsletter coincides with the retirement as our Treasurer of Tim Rous. Tim has been Treasurer for longer than any of us intended, and this is because we have not been able to find a replacement until recently. He has managed our accounts meticulously. When he took over there had been a hiatus caused by the unexpected and unavoidable departure of our last Treasurer through ill health, and there was a considerable amount of catching up to do. Tim settled down to this and has worked very hard indeed to give us clarity and transparency in our accounts so that we can get the maximum use out of all the money that you give to us for the church in Congo. We owe him a very great debt of gratitude - thank you Tim.

Paul Dickens

I am delighted to be able to announce that our new Treasurer is Paul Dickens, whose address and contact details appear on the front of this newsletter. We are enormously grateful to him for taking on this role. Please send him your donations!

Jeremy Pemberton



SPECIAL APPEAL 2006

BIBLES - HYMN BOOKS - PRAYER BOOKS

After the success of our last appeal last year for church roofs we are asking our members this year to give us an extra gift for Bibles, Hymn Books and Prayer Books. For many people these are the only books they have, and so many of these precious resources have been lost in the disturbances of the Civil War.

When Jeremy Pemberton visited Bunkeya last year he met a catechist who was running a sub-parish with five churches. 'How many people have Bibles in your churches?' 'No one.' 'What, not one person?' 'No one'. 'Well, you surely have a Bible at least.' 'No.' They had no Bibles, no Hymn books, no Prayer books. And the pastors confirmed that this was not uncommon. These things can be bought – beautifully produced and bound hardback copies of Bibles in all kinds of languages are available at the greatly subsidised price of, for example, \$3 for a Kisanga Bible. But this is beyond most people's resources.

Our gifts can help bring the Word of Life and the resources for their worship to people who need them as much as many other necessities. Will you please help - £100 will buy enough of these to equip a small church with a stock of all three. Can you please give and ask your friends to give? Could your church make this a special project?

BIBLES – PRAYER BOOKS – HYMN BOOKS

HELP US EQUIP THE CHURCH FOR WORSHIP AND MISSION

Please **fill in the enclosed form**, together with the Gift Aid declaration if you are a UK tax-payer. Gift Aid is a wonderful way of increasing the amount received by the CCA by 28p in the pound at no extra cost to yourself.



THANK YOU