



Congo Church Association

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Report of assistance to the victims of war in Rutshuru

Bishop Bahati Bali-Busane Sylvestre

The church has been giving assistance to people returning to their homes from the displaced people's camp in Rutshuru, North Kivu province, offering them basic food with moral and spiritual comfort. In February 2014, with financial support from the Congo Church Association, the Diocese of Bukavu assisted 80 families composed of 252 people who had recently returned to their homes in Kiwandja, Nyamirima and Ishasha in Rutshuru territory after a long stay in displaced people's camps.

The food was distributed at the Anglican church in Kiwandja where the people were invited. First of all, the beneficiaries were led in prayer and heard the word of God from the Archdeacon of Rutshuru, Ven Kakule Kitsyirwa who spoke on Psalm 23, "The Lord, our Shepherd": - He provides restoration, protection and accommodation. Then we gave out 3

kinds of food: 12 kg of beans, 2kg salt and 15kg maize flour were distributed to each of the 80 families. The assistance was provided efficiently and the beneficiaries received it with thanks. Nyirakabura Agnes is 97 years old. She came from Kinyandonyi, a village in Rutshuru. She says: "I was surprised to see the rebels coming to attack a widow like me during the night. I blessed them but they ate my potatoes cooked for my lunch of that day. Also, they broke the door of my house. But they missed interesting things to steal in the house. Then they asked me, "Did we offend you?" I said no, but only because of fear. Now I live in the displaced people's camp where I should be compared to a little child because I depend on other people to get something to eat."

On behalf of all the beneficiaries of the assistance received and distributed from Congo Church Association through Bukavu Diocese, we thank the Lord for enabling you to grant our proposal in favour of the victims of war.



Bp Bahati visits returning people in Ishasha village after their long period of displacement.



Congo-Brazzaville – a new venture

Bishop Molanga Botola, Assistant Bishop of Kinshasa, based in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo



Pastoral visit to northern Congo

In March I visited Pokola, a parish in Brazzaville Archdeaconry more than 1000km from the capital. It has several sub-parishes, some of which I also managed to visit. This 10-day trip took place thanks to financial support we received from Congo Church Association. Pokola is a major centre in the midst of a large forest and boasts a mixed population from Cameroon, Central African Republic, Rwanda, DR Congo and Congo Brazzaville, including some pygmies. Apparently local people are much given to occult practices, although this is improving thanks to the presence of the churches.

I travelled with Ven. Banzouzi (evangelism officer) and Mme Marie Lobela (responsible for women and family ministry). Our visit, the first by an Anglican bishop, was well received by everyone, whether Anglican or not. While there we were able to:

- Hold discipleship classes, attended by Christians from other churches too.
- Teach on the role of women in the church and how they could better support themselves and their families.
- Baptise new converts and confirm some who had been baptised long ago.
- Visit the sick and also the local political, military and religious leaders.

We saw the hand of the Lord at work, with remarkable results:

- Some people confessed their sins and committed to follow Christ.
- Some who had left the church because of disputes decided to return.
- Some non-believers decided to turn to Christ and come regularly to church to learn and in due course be baptised.

Some local leaders whom we visited promised to attend church regularly.

In short, we thank God for the joy which all showed in hearing His word, which bodes well for the growth of the church there. We will be sending the evangelism officer back there to follow up. Although the Christians work hard to sustain their church, they need some help to develop spiritually, socially and economically, notably training and financial support for their leaders, the building of local churches and visits from their bishop. We send heartfelt thanks to our brothers and sisters of Congo Church Association for financing this visit, which has certainly contributed to God's work in Congo Brazzaville.

The church's land in Brazzaville

We praise God that we have recovered the disputed piece of land owned by the church in Brazzaville. To do so cost us \$30,000 which was generously donated by one of the local Christians. Thank you for your prayers. Now we can try to raise money to continue building a cathedral on the land.

Provincial Youth Dept. Agape

Rev Bisoke Balikenga, Provincial Youth Coordinator

Receive our greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now in DR.Congo we are doing a bit okay. Praise the Lord. But there are still small areas where there is conflict plus the consequences of the war. Many people are still traumatised and the Church needs to work hard to give people hope and a good future so they can grow in their spiritual life.

In April we went with our small team to Komanda in Boga Diocese where we have a lot of Gety people who ran away from Gety because of the chaos which is still there, though it is now only in some places that there are problems. Some people are planning to go back but some not yet decided. We need to pray for them.



On 17th April we went to Bamande where we have pygmies living in the forest. We went to give them food and to find out how we can reach them with the Word of God and to open an adult literacy class. Really they need to know how to read and write. They are saying that they need to be valued like other people, and so if they learn to read it will be better for them. We gave them beans and salt which

was a gift from a church in America. Many people were surprised to see that the Anglican Church thinks to help the pygmies. We were really encouraged to find there one of our youth leaders, Wathum Nyipir, who trained in Mahagi. He speaks the same mother tongue as the pygmies so he will be a good resource for us when we are able to start the literacy programme. Among the pygmies a lot of young people asked us, why not start a program for the pygmy youth in order that they can be like other young people? Please pray. They asked us for Bibles but first they need to learn to read and write.

Recently, Rev. Azama, the Provincial Girls' Worker, flew home from Bunia to Kindu with all her family. She was based in Mahagi where she ran the girls' dormitory and helped the secondary schools with good teaching. But her health was not good and she found it so hard to stay away from her home in Kindu for so long – she worked for five years here in Bunia and Mahagi without visiting her family in Kindu. She arrived in Kindu safely and people really welcomed her there. She will now stay in Kindu and be working with us from there.

In June I attended a Church Army conference in Nairobi. I had good meetings with Church Army people to see how the Church Army can work with us here in DR Congo among the young people.

Here is my programme for the second half of 2014: From 13th to 19th July we were in the Diocese of Bukavu to train 60 youth leaders, and had two people from CMS Africa to teach with us on that training. In August we will be in Brazzaville to visit the youth and to hold a workshop together with SOMA plus people from All Saint's Cathedral, Nairobi, Kenya. In September we will have the board meeting in Mahagi. There are important decisions to be made about the future of ISTAS and CFEJ. Please pray for God's choice of leadership. In October I will be in Ethiopia with Faith2Share before coming to UK to visit CMS, link churches and many friends. Please pray for our programme: we need the will of God to be done.

CCA AGM - 11th October, 2014

To be held at The Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide
Westminster College, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0AA

Guest speakers Revd. Bisoke & Dr. Francesca Elloway
Come and hear first-hand reports from across DR Congo

CCA contact details

Chairman: Judy Rous tjrous@ntlworld.com
Hon. Secretary: Rosemary Peirce 01993 200103
Hon. Treasurer: Paul Dickens 01525 210210

CCA Financial Report

Paul Dickens - Hon. Treasurer

During the last 4 years, income to General Fund has been steadily declining, so it is heartening to find that, this year, the trend has been reversed and income was up by about 5% over 2012/13 levels.

Whilst continuing to pay UAC bursaries and keeping a prudent reserve, we have implemented the new system of inviting dioceses and provincial departments to apply for support for their specific projects. The General Fund balance of £18,000 (excluding legacies) was divided into 12 equal grants of £1,500 and used to support projects such as: buying equipment and drugs for a health centre; a capacity building workshop for clergy & laity; a pastoral visit to North Brazzaville; emergency aid for displaced families, student bursaries, office equipment, clergy pensions, and a diocesan synod.

Special appeals have raised £1,142 for books for UAC and enabled us to send £870 in response to crisis appeals in both Goma and Boga. We, and the Anglican Church in DRC, are truly grateful for all your support.

News from UAC

Revd Canon Sabiti Tibafa

Inspection from the Ministry: Every two years inspectors come from the Ministry of Higher Education to check our students' progress. This year they came from 8th to 15th June. The files of 71 students finishing their studies in 1st and 2nd degrees in all the 6 faculties organized by UAC were examined to the satisfaction of the inspectors.



Books for the different faculties: We are happy and thrilled to say that CCA and friends have been able to purchase relevant books for all the faculties this academic year. At least 10 new volumes for each faculty have been acquired thanks to Amy Ross, students from Westminster College and many others. We praise God and are proud of all of them. We now have 70 new books mainly for Psychology and Education Sciences, Economic Sciences and Management, Architecture and Mines and Geology. We also have about 20 books downloaded from the internet and made into booklets.

Spiritual activities: All the UAC community is very involved in spiritual activities. We have now started an English Service in Yambi Yaya Church, initiated by Revd Bisoke Balikenga and All Saints Church, Bunia Parish. This is catching the attention of young people, members of staff and expatriates of Monusco.

Other news (happy and sad): We have new-borns on the campus: twins in the family of Revd Dr Kahwa Njojo and Mugisa Muhasi and a baby girl in the family of Revd Kamana Niyonzima and Revd Mediatrix Uwingabire. There have been deaths that affected both students and staff members: 5 students have lost relatives; Revd Kambale, our chaplain, lost his sister and I lost my elder brother, young sister and cousin.

The campus: We are happy that we now have 12 lecture rooms. This means that we intend to function next academic year entirely here at our campus in Gbanday near Bunia Airport and no longer hire the hall at Yambi Yaya belonging to Boga Diocese.

Thanksgiving: We would like to thank all our church leaders, donors and all the friends who are fighting hard to improve the life of the community at UAC. We thank all the members of staff for the sacrifice they accept to make UAC work in spite of the shaky and uncertain budget they live on.

Brief news from Kimbilio

Jean Bosco Tshiswaka

Kimbilio children celebrated the International Day of Street Children on 12 April 2014; they and the adults who came to Kimbilio House that day (including Bishop Kasima of Katanga Diocese) joined hands to express their solidarity with other children in the world and call for UN recognition of this day, so that their rights could be respected. There was dancing, testimony from the children, theatre and football, and children from the day centre, the transit house and Kimbilio House ate together in celebration.

We give thanks to God and thank people of good will, for through their prayers, spiritual and financial support, the Girls Programme which began a year ago on 5th June 2013 has seen huge progress. These girls used to come to the Kimbilio centre every Wednesday to learn dress making and went back to the market and to the street where they were sexually abused at night. Today in response to the prayers of the churches supporting Kimbilio, God has moved the heart of a representative of KBP, a local company, which bought a house, modified it and equipped it for the girls from Kimbilio.



This house will serve as a girls' transit house before they are reintegrated with their families. The new house welcomed the first girls on Friday 13th June 2014. It is a well-equipped house capable of accommodating 12 street girls who will be reunited with their families after 4 months of re-education with Kimbilio.



Gill Venton from the Parish of St John, London spent a month with the girls teaching them to make handbags which will be sold in England to support the girls programme. Kimbilio's success is the reintegration programme which reunites children with their biological or foster families. So we give thanks to God who enabled us to reintegrate 5 boys and a girl during the past term. It is now 5 years since Kimbilio began in Katanga Diocese. It is still growing, with 4 sites of activity: the day centre (Centre Kimbilio) operating in St Paul's Cathedral, the transit house for boys (Kimbilio Transit), the long-stay house for boys (Maison Kimbilio) and now a transit centre for girls (Maison Kimbilio for Girls). As Kimbilio grows, so our needs are also growing. So we continue to ask for spiritual and financial support from the Congo Church Association in order to respond to the needs of our mission. Pray specifically for the following needs:

- The construction of a permanent house for the girls with a dressmaking training workshop;
- The construction of a chapel in Maison Kimbilio;
- A pick-up truck to allow mobility and supervision of the Kimbilio sites.

We thank you for your spiritual support for Kimbilio which deals with children in a difficult situation on the streets of Lubumbashi. May God bestow his blessings on you.

Provincial News

Ven Antonio Kibwela, Provincial Secretary

Peace Initiative

The 'Peace in the Great Lakes' initiative continues. This is a joint venture of the Roman Catholic, Anglican and other churches of Congo, Burundi and Rwanda. It aims to strengthen our contribution to the peace process by mobilising our congregations to:

- Praise God for the progress towards peace;
- Witness to the Christian faith in Jesus Christ, who calls on all men and women to love one another;
- Invite all peoples of the region to live together peacefully as brothers and sisters created in God's image;
- Convey the voice of the populations to the forums where decisions are made.



Provincial IT

Since the Telecommunications Project started, the Provincial office has lacked an IT officer so all IT activities were supervised by Mushamuka Fidèle. A Provincial IT officer, Henri Mambwe, has now been appointed and will start in the near future. We welcome him to Kinshasa and wish him success.

We will speak out (www.wewillspeakout.org)

In February 2014, the Anglican Church of Congo, Tearfund and other partners launched an initiative to end all forms of sexual violence against women and girls in conflict-affected

areas; and to acknowledge the positive role men and boys can play in restoring society and redeeming manhood. We believe that the Church should always be a place where social norms and



attitudes can be challenged. The Bible teaches that all humans should be treated with love and respect and that men and women are created equal in the eyes of God.

In June 2014, Archbishop Isingoma took part in a global summit in London (you may have seen it on the BBC News). The theme was: "End Sexual Violence in Conflict". Archbishop Isingoma talked about the holistic role of the Anglican Church of Congo and other faith communities in working towards this goal.

The Anglican Church of Congo has been working with governments, the UN and a wide range of committed NGOs to raise global awareness of the scale of sexual violence in conflict and to promote changes in how the international community perceives and responds to it. To date 140 countries have endorsed the "Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict", which was launched at the UN General Assembly in September last year. The goal is to translate this political commitment into practical action that makes a genuine difference on the ground in conflict-affected countries.

Meanwhile the Province received a grant of about £1,000 from CCA to purchase equipment for the provincial office. The money has been used to buy a laptop and basic equipment for the office.

Aru Diocese

Bishop Titre Ande

We have set up a website for the Diocese of Aru: www.aru-diocese.org. We hope it helps us to stay in touch with all of you who support us in our work in the diocese.

Nurse Training College

In general, health care in this part of the country is not good. Most health centres and hospitals are poorly equipped, and doctors are scarce, so most medical care is undertaken by nurses. The majority of nurses are A2 (registered nurses) or A3 (enrolled nurses). With the lack of doctors, there is a great need for more highly trained A1 nurses who can diagnose, make decisions and plan treatment, as well as to educate and promote primary health care.

The Diocese of Aru responded to this need by establishing the Aru Nursing College in October 2010. It is an A1 Nursing College (ISTM/ARU), offering a 3-year university level training. The aim is to train competent, qualified and creative personnel who will enable our health institutions to organise and manage, with intelligence and determination, a health system capable of preventing illnesses and restoring health. We train students in Midwifery, Hospital nursing, Teaching and Administration of nursing care, Nutrition and Dietetics, Dentistry, Lab Techniques, Paediatrics and Anaesthetics.

The first joyful graduation happened in August 2013. 44 students, including 19 women, successfully completed their 3 year course. Most have now completed the 6 months post studies training and are already working in hospitals.

I must relate the story of one graduate student, Alio, (shown here with his father) who funded his own training and paid his fees by making and selling charcoal. He committed himself to it and achieved his ambition. He couldn't believe that he had made it!



This academic year, 63 students are expected to complete the course (42 in Hospital nursing, 11 in Midwifery, 5 in Paediatrics, 2 in Anaesthetics, 2 in Teaching and Administration and 1 in Nutrition and Dietetics). They are currently on placement in hospitals and health centres and will undertake their final exams in July 2014.

New Archdeaconry

On 11 May 2014, we inaugurated a new archdeaconry in Djalasiga. The new archdeacon is the Venerable Leandre Ukethweng'u. Members are committed and it gives hope for the church's future there.

New Christians

After Easter I visited Kumuru, 82km from Aru, to conduct a confirmation service. Kumuru is on the border close to South Sudan and Uganda and in the past there has been rebellion there. But now it is over and most of our Christians have come back. Many people are joining our church. The service lasted for over five hours and we confirmed 543, mainly adult, candidates.

Boga Diocese Mothers' Union

Mrs. Irene Bahemuka, President

We praise God for his mercy upon us since the beginning of this year. Here are some activities we have achieved so far:



In January we travelled to several parishes to teach. Sometimes we had to cross the river to reach a parish and sometimes we walked a long distance. With our philosophy of 'together we can', men were

involved in teaching some subjects and microloans were given only to seven women in each parish.

In February the Diocese opened a ministry of looking after abandoned children. The Mothers' Union department was appointed to head this ministry.

The vice-coordinator and the agronomist are shown here with some of the children. We ask for prayers as this ministry is going on, so that these children may know the love of God and have life in a good environment.



On Easter Day, we had the privilege of teaching the congregation in our churches about child care. In all our churches, women are the ones who lead the Sunday schools. Because of the number of children in each church, five women have to be with them every Sunday.

In May a SOMA team came to our diocese. God answered our prayers, the conference went well and ten women who participated at Bunia have testified to their joy at learning about counselling. Then the team went to Boga where they taught about "making God's kingdom visible". Many Christians renewed their relation with God and every participant got a certificate. 25 women who came from four archdeaconries were determined to teach other members. The conference had a very good impact on the life of each one of us because we found clearly that we have to make God's kingdom visible wherever we are. At the end, we did a closing prayer outside the cathedral. In June we had a fellowship for 1 week using the MU Wave of Prayer, then we fixed the last week of the month for prayer requests.

Conclusion

There are other activities which we didn't achieve. There are other places we cannot reach because of insecurity. We ask for your prayers and assure you that we remember you all the time. God bless you!

Praise and prayer

Aru: Give thanks and pray for all who serve in the church's health centres, especially those taking finals at Aru Nursing College.

Bukavu: Give thanks for the church's ministry among those displaced by war and pray for those returning home to rebuild their lives. Pray too for the diocesan synod to be held in late July.

Province: Give thanks for Archbishop Isingoma's involvement in the conference against sexual violence in conflict and pray for an end to the widespread violence against women in DRC. Pray for the House of Bishops and Executive Council of the Anglican Church of Congo meeting at Butembo in August.

Kasai: Fidèle Mushamuka, Provincial Development Coordinator, is visiting in July to train ENP community mobilisers: pray that this training may help them make a difference in their communities.

Kisangani: Give thanks for Bp Funga's 6 week visit throughout the diocese. Pray for outreach amongst the youth in church schools.

Boga: Pray for the work of the Mothers' Union: their work in Sunday Schools and their new ministry of caring for abandoned children. Pray for the Executive Council meeting in August.

Kindu: The annual teaching conference for pastors and their wives takes place in August. Pray for God's encouragement and equipping of these pastors faithfully serving in remote parishes.

UAC: Pray for the staff of UAC as they complete this academic year and begin to plan for the next. Pray for many new students to enrol and the reputation of the university to grow.

North Kivu: Pray for the ongoing work of evangelism and discipleship, and the prison visiting ministry of the Mothers' Union. Pray too for peace and rebuilding in the Watalinga area after the huge insecurity and displacement 6 months ago.

Katanga: Give thanks for the work of Kimbilio among street children and pray for the new house for girls, that it may be a place of safety and healing. Pray for the diocesan synod, being held soon.

Brazzaville: Give thanks for the final resolution of the dispute over the church's land. Pray for the people in Pokola. Pray for peace to return after the expulsion of many DRC citizens from Brazzaville.

Agape: Please commit Bisoke's plans to the Lord and especially the planned visit and workshops in Bukavu and Brazzaville.