



Congo Church Association

Issue
No. 68

October, 2014
Reg. Charity No. 285760

News from North Kivu Diocese

Bishop Muhindo Isesono

We thank God for two workshops held at the diocesan office recently. The first was a three-day meeting of the head teachers of all the church schools to prepare for the start of the new school year.



The second workshop, in September, was for military chaplains and was led by Bishop Isesono. The aim of this workshop was to follow up on the evangelistic campaigns that we ran for the soldiers in 2008, 2009 & 2012, during which 16,000 soldiers heard the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ.



We thank the Lord who graciously enabled us to re-open our Bible School at Mbau in July, led by Rev Jean Bailensi. CCA contributed to his training. The Bible School had been closed for over 6 years owing to the insecurity in the area. We need your prayers however because so much in the Bible School was destroyed by the



rebels. So there are no tables, no chairs, no benches, no glass in the windows, no books.

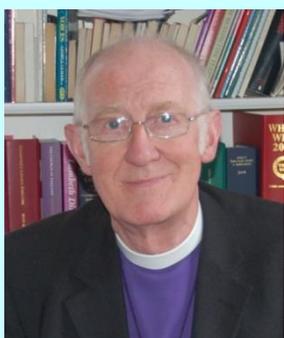
In view of the economic situation in North Kivu Diocese, we have started a project to build a 34-room guesthouse at Butembo. We have no money for this project except gifts from a few church members and other friends, but we have made a start and have already built one floor of reinforced concrete. Please pray that we may be able to

complete the project, so that one day the income from it may enable us to help vulnerable people in the diocese, such as widows, orphans, the elderly and those displaced by war, and to support the training of pastors.



Sadly, on 18 October Baliesima added this news: "I would like just to mention the situation that has erupted in Beni territory due to war related atrocities. On 2 October ADF NALU rebels from Uganda killed 4 people and kidnapped many others at Kisiki, near Oicha town. On 7 October 9 people were killed at Bakaiko quarter in Oicha. On 15 October, they killed 32 people in Beni. This night 17 October they killed very savagely 24 people at Eringeti. The population is in massive displacement and do not know what to do. Please continue praying for eastern DRC."

Bp Michael – RIP



We record with sadness the death of CCA's Patron, Bishop Michael Scott-Joynt on 27th September and extend our heartfelt sympathy to his wife Lou and their family. Bp Michael became Patron of CCA in

2000, and visited all the dioceses in Congo over the next 10 years. He became a trusted friend and wise counsellor to the Church leadership, offering pastoral and prayer support. Through their correspondence, Bp Michael was well informed of the realities in eastern Congo, and he was a tireless advocate for justice and peace in DRC in the House of Lords. Bp Michael was a wonderful friend and brother in Christ to us all, and together with his wife Lou, they offered hospitality in Winchester to the CCA and many visitors from Congo. We thank God for Bp Michael's life of dedicated service to Christ and pray for Lou as she mourns.

© Diocese of Winchester

Provincial Youth Department

Rev. Bisoke Balikenga, Provincial Youth Co-ordinator

In the past year we have run training courses for youth leaders in 4 dioceses and a seminar on reconciliation (Boga Diocese). Here are some highlights:

Kindu: This course benefitted youth leaders from remote parishes as well as those from town centres, giving them the chance to exchange ideas. We feel it will have a positive impact because of the quality of the teaching and its appropriateness for training young Christians, taking account of the local culture. At the end the participants asked for more visits from the provincial co-ordination team. However we will try to work with diocesan co-ordinators so that they can run training courses themselves.

Kasai: Youth leaders came from all over the two Kasais: 22 attended from 9 archdeaconries. The aim was to train trainers from each archdeaconry who could then teach parish youth leaders. A former student of CFEJ (our training centre in Mahagi) is now a deacon in Mbuji-Mayi and director of Agape in Mbuji-Mayi Archdeaconry. When he returned from Mahagi he deserted the Church, but he has now returned and was very happy to attend the course and have a chance to teach and share his experience. As a result he committed himself to reactivating Agape in his archdeaconry.

Bukavu: 13th to 18th July 2014. Our most recent course included two trainers from CMS Africa. The theme was "Young people renewed in the image of God." Our desire was to lead the young people into spiritual, social, moral and cultural wellbeing. They face multiple challenges: poverty, corruption, materialism, insecurity, unemployment, unbelief and sexually transmitted diseases. We planned the training within this context. We aim to prepare the young people for their life in 10 or more years when they will be responsible for the life of the Church and the country. For this we need to continue the Agape philosophy of encouraging them to exchange ideas and to discover, develop and use their abilities, gifts and talents where they are.

New students: Carlile College, the Church Army training centre in Nairobi, has agreed to sponsor 4 of our girls to study there; they need your prayers.

News from Katanga Diocese

Bishop Kasima Muno Corneille

Mothers' Union: Katanga Diocese MU celebrated Mary Summer world day on 30th March with 8 MU members from the Anglican Church of Tanzania. The service was held in St Paul's Cathedral in Lubumbashi. Thirty-three women and one man were accepted as new members of the MU. Finally the MU of Katanga Diocese and the MU of Tanzania exchanged gifts.



Anglican schools: From 19 to 20 September 2014, the Co-ordinator of Anglican schools organised a training seminar for 75 teachers of the Anglican primary and secondary schools. The subjects covered included: pedagogy with regard to gender; class management and discipline; keeping proper documentation; the law covering the Anglican schools.

Diocesan Development Office - ENP programme

(Ensemble Nous Pouvons!): A new programme from the provincial development office led by Mushamuka Fidèle started in Katanga in July. This programme organised a training of trainers, and 30 volunteers were trained: pastors, members of the MU, youth and lay people from the different parishes of Lubumbashi.

They learned about:

How to mobilize their own resources in the community.

Bible study.

What is ENP (Together we can).

How to bring positive change in the community.

Gathering information on the needs of the community.

How to plan for action and how to raise awareness in the community.

This ENP programme will build capacity in our parishes and in our communities. For instance, in Kapolowe Mission, Kapolowe Gare, Likasi, Buluo, Mokambo and Lubumbashi, Christians and the community are working to improve their lives by doing income-generating activities.



Pastoral visits in Kindu Diocese

Bishop Masimango

We give thanks to God who enabled the Bishop and five companions to make a pastoral visit to Lusumba, Bukama and Kayuyu Archdeaconries, which together comprise 18 parishes with more than 7,707 Christians. In two of them people have a very low standard of living which prevents them from supporting their clergy. The whole community lacks decent health care, schools and roads. Such a visit is only possible during the dry season, as the roads are impassable during the rainy season.



Crossing the Kama River to reach the parishes of Bikenge and Lusenge

In each parish, a confirmation service was organised by the archdeacon and the pastor. The main preacher was Rev Canon Kandolo Mukota, who preached on Ephesians 4:11-16 with the theme of "the duties of clergy and Christians in God's Church".

We also held ordination services in three parishes, ordaining 8 new pastors.

The members of each parish council were brought together for a workshop on the role of a parish council in the proper functioning of a parish. Church elders were encouraged to work in a spirit of love as members of the body of Christ and to take responsibility for the local churches by using local resources (the faithful, the land, forest, water, etc).

The Bishop also met local traditional and political leaders.



Mgr. Masimango meeting local traditional and political leaders

During our visit we noted much that is positive:

The churches are constructed in fired brick despite their straw roofing;
Strong involvement of women in church activities;

The parish councils function well in almost all the parishes visited; Good collaboration between the heads of schools and pastors. Good collaboration with other church communities.

But there are also problems:

Resistance to the Gospel and some customs which do not conform to the word of God;
Religious syncretism in the most distant parishes, where the Church cannot solve the difficulties of daily life (chronic disease, extreme poverty, divorce, unemployment, etc);
A lack of pastors in the more remote archdeaconries;
Weak administrative leadership by some pastors.



Churches constructed in fired brick with straw roofing

Brief news from Kimbilio in Lubumbashi

Jean Bosco Tshiswaka

On 30th August Kimbilio Children's Mission joyfully celebrated five years since it started working in Katanga Diocese to take care of street children. The celebrations were attended by guests from England and Lubumbashi and children under the care of Kimbilio, as well as some children who have been reunited with their families.

The celebration had three key elements:

The fifth anniversary of Kimbilio: Today the mission has four sites: a day centre providing meals and care to about 40 children each day, two transit homes which care for 12

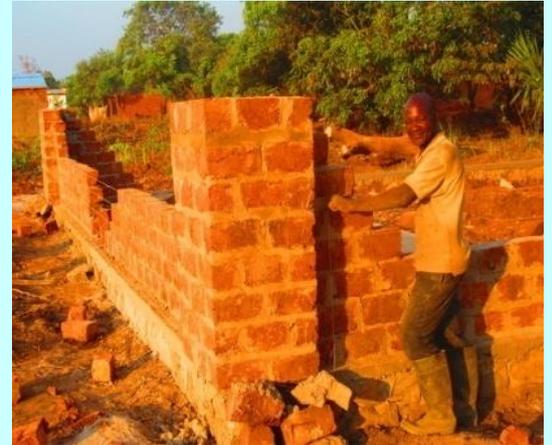


boys and eight girls preparing to be reunited with their families, and one permanent home which looks after and schools ten children. To date, Kimbilio has reunited 44 children (37 boys and 7 girls) with their families.

The official opening of the girls' transit home: The home was handed over to Kimbilio by local partner Katanga Border Post who had built and furnished it.

The launch of preventive activities by Kimbilio: These include raising awareness among parents, churches and other organisations of how to work together to stop the "street children problem". In this regard, Ian Harvey and Jean Bosco Tshiswaka took part in a roundtable in Kinshasa from 21st to 23rd August on the theme "Stop the practice of accusing children of witchcraft," organised by the British organisation SWCA and EPED, a clergy organisation in Kinshasa.

Also, a chapel is being built for the children living at Kimbilio in Luwuwoshi. In July a deacon was licensed and the chapel was named "God our refuge".



For more news, see www.kimbiliocongo.org

Provincial News

Ven Anthonio Kibwela, Provincial Secretary

In August, after much prayer and meditation, the House of Bishops elected Archbishop Isingoma Kahwa Henri to serve a second term of 5 years as Archbishop of the Congo. Bishop Funga Botolome is the new Dean of the Province.

In July, the Province welcomed the Executive Secretary of Anglican Mainstream, Rev. Andrew Symes. He visited Kinshasa and Lubumbashi and led workshops with people involved in youth leadership and with clergy, lay ministers and their wives. During the breaks it was good to hear participants' testimonies of faith and ministry among young people and their future hopes.



In August the new Provincial IT officer, Kyausa Henri (pictured right), arrived in Kinshasa and started work. He will handle issues related to telecommunications in the Anglican Church of Congo.



Earlier in the year, Rev Désiré Mukaniwa began work as Provincial Co-ordinator of Evangelism. He has already been busy: drawing up a strategic plan for evangelism; travelling to other dioceses; engaging in evangelism in hospital, prison and schools; delivering a weekly radio broadcast; organising a workshop for pastors on leadership and integrity; and much more.

Church building in Brazzaville

Bishop Molanga Botola

The big news is that we have recovered our land from the woman who claimed to own it. The matter went to court and cost us a lot to resolve. Now we have re-started the work of building the church and, as you will see from the photo, on 10th August we held our service at the building site. That day we also took a collection for the building work and, as you can see, put up marquees on the building site.



News from Aru Diocese

Bishop Ande

The Lord is continuously blessing us through evangelism in planting churches in new areas like Faradje, Djugu & Isiro. We also have a church planting project in Dungu.

We had great blessing in August with a youth conference where hundreds of young people gathered in their arch-deaconries with great speakers for hearing the Word and social activities. We praise the Lord because their number is increasing in the Church.

It was also a blessing to have students and staff members from The Bishop's High School of Chester. Such visits help us to exchange experiences.

Flame International team were here in Aru in September for a church leaders' conference and a workshop for vulnerable women. Their outreach with our team to the police, army, prison and hospitals showed the Lord's blessing upon his people.

CCA contacts: Chair: Judy Rous tjrous@ntlworld.com; Hon. Secretary: Rosemary Peirce 01993 200103; Hon. Treasurer and Newsletter Editor: Paul Dickens 01525 210210 Website: www.congochurchassn.org.uk E-mail treasurer@congochurchassn.org.uk

Boga Diocese

Bishop William Bahemuka

God chose the Church to convey his will; how do we do it?

We were blessed with two important seminars this year. One was organised with SOMA, the second with CMS Africa. In both seminars, the main theme was about the Church! How does the Church convey the will of God, the Kingdom of God to the lost? It starts with personal transformation that extends to the family, the community and the nation. To succeed in this mission of Christ, we need to live an exemplary life, be the light and salt of the world, the letter of Christ, ambassadors and faithful servants of Christ.



For the last two years, the Diocese of Boga has been greatly affected by the prevailing insecurity in the region.

That insecurity was caused by armed militia groups: ADF and NALU from Uganda, FRPI of Cobra Matata. The churches in Bukiringi, Isura and Zunguluka have seen many people internally displaced. We thank God that the situation is slowly coming back to normal though the militia activities have not yet fully ended.

On Sunday 14th September we installed a new Archdeacon of Gety and confirmed 175 candidates. We had a wonderful service attended by Chief Peke Kalyaki Olivier. He conveyed a strong message of peace and called for all the



Christians to pray for Walendu Bindi. We concluded the service with a prayer for peace. This came after the failure of peace talks initiated by the chief and elders with Cobra Matata. People were anxious as the army and UN forces were planning to use force to end the conflict. The Church in this special situation has to convey God's will of peace. It has to begin within the Church.

Kasai Diocese

Bishop Marcel Kapinga

Ordination of deacons

16 deacons in Mwene-Ditu and Luputa Archdeaconries were ordained on 10th August. That makes 7 priests and 42 deacons ordained since the inauguration of the diocese. Before this there had been a severe shortage as the last ordination had been in 2007. Now just one archdeaconry, Kabinda, remains and ordinations will take place there in December.

Training of preachers with Langham Preaching

By the grace of God Bishop Isesomo of North Kivu and Rev. Mike from France trained 29 preachers at Kananga in July, while Rev. Nsubayi who studied at ISThA trained preachers at Mbuji-Mayi. Kasai Diocese consists of two provinces: Mbuji-Mayi is the capital of Kasai Oriental and Kananga of Kasai Occidental.

Literacy classes

Eight MU members who were trained to teach literacy last November (see February newsletter) have been making the

effort to teach women here to read and write, each aiming to teach 25 women. Already 137 women have completed the course and they will surely reach their target of 200 women.

ENP training for leaders and facilitators



2014 is a year of joy in our diocese. Provincial Development Co-ordinator Fidèle Mushamuka and facilitator Jean Pierre Mugarwa from Boga came to the diocese in August to train trainers in ENP ("Together We Can"). This training,

which brings a change of mentality and behaviour in individuals and communities, is already showing positive results in the Church, in that we now have 20 facilitators and 25 community leaders trained to equip the Church and make it visible.

Praise and prayer

Province: Give thanks for the leadership of Archbishop Isingoma and pray for him as he begins his second five-year term. Pray for Henri Kyausa as he begins work as Provincial IT officer and Rev Désiré Mukanirwa in his new role as Provincial Co-ordinator of Evangelism.

Kindu: Pray for the work of mission in Kasongo, Punia and Shabunda Archdeaconries where the Church's growth remains stagnant. Pray too for those, often untrained, who lead churches in remote parishes.

Aru: Praise God for the newly planted churches; pray for those who lead them and for the November diocesan synod.

Katanga: Praise God for the growing ministry of Kimbilio. Pray for 6 new pastors who were ordained in October.

Boga: Pray for the continuing restoration of peace and stability in the diocese and for the new Archdeacon of Gety as he leads the Church in the Gety region.

Kisangani: Pray for Bishop Funga as he spends a month travelling round the diocese and for the 23 new deacons being ordained. Pray too for the work of evangelism in Equateur province which is proving hard work.

North Kivu: Give thanks for the workshop for military chaplains and pray for their work. Pray urgently for peace in the diocese following recent massacres near Beni.

Agape: Give thanks for all youth leaders who have received training in the past year and pray for them as they seek to put it into effect. Pray for young people in DR Congo to grow in their faith and commitment to God.

Kasai: Give thanks for the eight MU members who are teaching other women to read and write. Pray for the 16 deacons ordained in August as they embark on their ministry.

Brazzaville: Pray for the work of building a church in Brazzaville and the greater work of growing the Church in the Republic of the Congo.

Bukavu: Continue to pray for the Church's outreach to those affected by war. Give thanks for the youth leaders' workshop held there in July.

UAC: Give thanks for all those who graduated from UAC in July. Pray for the staff as they operate amid very tight financial constraints and for the continued work of developing the university campus.