



# Congo Church Association

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## News from Kindu Diocese

*Bishop Masimango Katanda*

We are seeing some development of the infrastructure in Maniema. The road from Kindu Airport to the town, running past the diocesan office, has been tarmacked, the Kasongo and Kalima roads have been repaired and the government has built more than 15 school buildings as well as local government offices.



In the Diocese too we have seen both spiritual and physical progress as there has been opportunity. Over New

Year, we met with prayer groups from Kalima Archdeaconry at Kakutya.

Bishop Masimango spoke on the gifts of the Spirit (1. Cor. 12.1-31). 302 people attended and it was a time of great blessing.

We also continue to train church

leaders at Berea Bible School. There is no first year this year but we have 4 2nd year students and five in the 3rd year.

We have put tin roofs on 5 churches, with help from CMS Ireland. We also have a motorised canoe, run as a commercial project, thanks to CCA: we have been using it as a ferry at the Kindu river-crossing, but we plan to start transporting people and goods between Kindu and Kambelebele, though the price of petrol remains a problem. We have also been trained recently in running an internet café and have received some computers through the Province to enable us to start this income-generating project.



## News from Aru

*Bishop Ande*

We continue to train our diocesan staff in leadership, with the help of Richard Williams from Chester Diocese. In November 2014, we focussed on managing our feelings and the feelings of those with whom we work.

Also, in November we held our 5<sup>th</sup> diocesan synod which looked at the evaluation of our activities against the objectives that we set in 2007 and the drawing up of a diocesan statement of faith.

We thank God that the Masters course at Aru Nursing School began in 2014.

We continue to pray for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our diocese, which we will celebrate in November 2015.

The synod declared 2015 a special year of evangelism and these activities have already started. May our celebrations motivate us in service.



*Diocesan staff training*

## Brazzaville building work

*Bishop Molanga Botola*

We give thanks to God for his protection throughout 2014. On New Year's Day, services of praise and worship were held in all the churches of Brazzaville Archdeaconry. It was a time to thank the Lord for all he had done for his children in 2014 and to seek his blessing for this New Year.

The Anglican Church in Brazzaville now has its own land in the capital and the work of building a cathedral has been restarted. A temporary shelter has been put up for us to hold services while the building goes on. The church will cost \$80,000 and it is a matter for prayer that we may be able to find the funds to complete this house of God.



Meanwhile we deplore the distressing events that took place last year when DRC Congolese were brutally and inhumanely expelled from Brazzaville. This affected many of our members, who were from DRC, and many lost their belongings. Let's pray that peace and good relations may be re-established between these two neighbouring countries.

We ask your prayers for Ven. Banzouzi Raymond, one of the founders of the Anglican Church in Brazzaville, who is paralysed down the left side. He can no longer walk without a crutch, which is very hard. This is the result of an accident when he was travelling on mission 300km from Brazzaville.

We are planning some training of church leaders this year and the ordination of some deacons to the priesthood. Please pray that we achieve these things.

Finally our thanks go to CCA, CMS, the Anglican Francophone Network, the Archbishop of the Congo and all those who support us in prayer for the work of the Gospel in Congo Brazzaville.



## News from Katanga Diocese

*Bishop Kasima Muno Corneille*



Seven deacons were ordained at Lubumbashi, of whom six had been trained at Lubumbashi Bible School and the seventh had graduated from UAC in Bunia.

Meanwhile Assistant Bishop Elisha ordained 6 deacons and six priests, including one woman, at Kalemie.

Eighteen Christians from St Andrew's Parish, Lubumbashi, have trained to teach the Rooted in Jesus course. They in turn will teach the course to others, in groups of 6. The aim is to strengthen believers and grow the work of evangelism in the parishes of Lubumbashi. These 18 trainers completed book 1 of the course in December and will now start book 2. They include 10 women who are engaged in evangelism.

To help improve food security and reduce poverty, the diocesan community development office has obtained funding from the African Development Bank to set up a project to develop rural infrastructure in Katanga Province. The project aims to increase food production and improve the living standards of the population by rehabilitating roads in the countryside and establishing markets and storage depots in agricultural areas.



## Kinshasa Diocese

*Rev Achille Mutshindu*

We have acquired a new plot of land in the Ngiri-ngiri Commune, purchased by the English-speaking congregation in order to build a church. We are looking for funding to start the work and ask for your prayers.

Last August, His Grace Archbishop Isingoma admitted four deacons to the priesthood and three evangelists to become deacons. Kinshasa has its first woman priest in the person of Revd Lisonge Rosalie.

The Diocese represented the Province of the Anglican Church of the Congo at a visit by the Secretary General of the World Council of Churches (WCC) to DR Congo and at a forum organised by the member churches of the WCC to discuss the recovery of security and society in the country.

To help prevent the prostitution of young girls the Mothers' Union has planned apprenticeships in baking. After completing their training the girls will be able to sell their products to provide for their basic needs. We thank CCA for \$700 which has enabled us to repair the Mothers' Union oven.

Kinshasa has sent its first student to the UAC, from Boma in the Bas-Congo. We praise the Lord for this opportunity and we thank all the partners who support our Diocese in the training of personnel.



## Université Anglicane du Congo

*Revd Canon Sabiti Tibafa Daniel, Acting Vice-Chancellor*

We started the 2014-15 academic year not knowing how many students there would be, given the financial hardship parents face in supporting their children's studies and the competition we face from other institutions of higher learning. We thank God because we have 320 students, 80% of them in the faculties of Psychology and Education Sciences, Civil Engineering and Geology, and the rest in the faculties of Theology, Development and Economic Sciences and Management.

We are privileged to host visiting professors and lecturers such as Revd Martin Nguba, Principal of ISTAS Mahagi, and the Rt Revd Dr Titre Ande, Bishop of Aru. We expect others in March and April: Mr Makuru Mpabaise from Kisangani University will teach in Pedagogy and Dr Cathy Ross from Oxford will lecture in Theology of Mission. We also expect Mrs Berdine van den Toren-Lekkerkerker from Netherlands, who will teach in Christian Education.

At UAC we reconcile theory and practice. In Geology, for instance, students went to a mining area 50km north of Bunia to study types of rocks likely to contain gold. Development students are put in contact with local

farmers to see what they do and give them advice on how to maximise production on a small but well maintained plot. In Civil Engineering, some second and third year students are drawing plans and even conducting small construction works in Bunia, because there is a scarcity of qualified engineers. This is encouraging.

We ask your prayers for the financial constraints within which we operate. Bursaries for theological students are decreasing and we now receive just 11, 7 of them from CCA. North Kivu Diocese is fully supporting five students for both fees and upkeep and Kisangani Diocese is fully supporting one lady.

They emulate the African Inland Church (AIC-DR Congo) which has been doing so for many years: half the theological students this year have come from AIC-DR Congo. Even so, we are worried that one day the Faculty of Theology will be no longer viable and risk being closed by the Ministry of Higher Education if student numbers go on decreasing.

Finally, please pray for the normal running of the institution and for the staff, the students and their families: for peace, love and good collaboration as they live and work together.



*Geology students studying rocks*

## News from Kasai

*Ven. Joseph Kalala Tshibangu*

On 1st February Bishop Kapinga confirmed 69 Christians in Tshilenge.

The health centre is working well. Rent and staff salaries are paid from



the fees paid by patients. Thus, once the rent has been paid, the remaining net income is divided as follows: 65% to pay the staff; 15% to the Diocese; 15% to the health coordination office; 5% set aside.

So far, the staff do not receive a fixed salary because the income from patients and the maternity is very low. We could gain a higher income by performing operations, but we lack any surgical equipment, apart from an operating table. With materials for surgery, paying rent and salaries would become easy.

Last July 25 facilitators and 50 church leaders from Mbujimayi Archdeaconry were trained in ENP. Once trained, the facilitators spread this approach throughout the archdeaconry, with positive results.

The training was then taken to Tshilenge Archdeaconry, where 14 facilitators and 27 church leaders benefited, again with positive results. The same has happened in Kananga.

## Provincial News

*Rev. Désiré Mukanirwa, Mme Godelieve Mugisa and Ven Anthonio Kibwela*

**Evangelism** We praise our Lord Jesus for his great work during 2 weeks of mission and evangelism at Boga. This mission was organized by Boga Diocese and the UK Flame International team. More than 2000 people were reached - soldiers, secondary school students, primary school pupils and other local people. We praise God because

souls were set free, amulets were burnt in Jesus' name, forgiveness took place, and some made decisions to turn back from backsliding. There was prayer and deliverance for cleansing the land; generational sin and curses were ended; physical healing was observed; and above all a good number of those attending came to the foot of the cross and gave their lives to Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

**Mothers' Union** In Kinshasa Diocese we organised a course for 50 girls and young single mothers to help them to be useful members of society. The topics were chosen to help girls avoid prostitution and lead lives following Jesus' example. We set up committees in each parish to help the girls. We also organised a course for 40 pastors and their wives. There were questions and discussion about the family life of pastors and their wives, particularly whether

their lives together reflect the image of God. We committed to helping each other in the challenges we face in our ministry. Outside Kinshasa we have been involved in the Anglican Church's Initiative for the Prevention of Sexual Violence (PSV) in eastern DR Congo, where violence and rape continue to increase. The project aims to raise awareness and train leaders to change beliefs and attitudes to victims of sexual violence in their communities. By doing this the church restores hope to victims. On 4-5 November we held workshops in Goma and Bunia for church leaders and community groups on gender, theology and the judicial process. Now the UN has agreed to finance our project to build a centre at Gety to support vulnerable women and victims of sexual violence.

**Great Lakes Peace Campaign** In November, the Anglican Church of Congo held a meeting in Goma to assess this campaign. We noted some positives:

1. The launch of the campaign was a success.
2. The Anglican and Catholic Churches are more united.
3. Anglicans and Catholics from Rwanda, Burundi and DR Congo participated actively in the search for peace.
4. There have been fruitful contacts between church and political leaders of the Region.

Key activities for the next phase were identified:

5. To write proposals for financially sustainable peace projects in the Great Lakes Region;
6. To document all actions and recommendations.

## News from Kisangani

*Bishop Funga Botolome*

In August and September 2014, we instructed the Diocesan Secretary Ven. Baito Bosolato to make a tour of our archdeaconries to inspect their administration and finances and see whether the archdeacons were really working and whether their parishes were able to finance themselves. The overall conclusion was that work is happening but that the level of poverty of our Christians means that church leaders' lives are difficult.

I therefore authorised him and a group of five others to facilitate a major capacity-building workshop for church leaders to help them to lead in making our church self-financing, rather than wait for the lay members to do something. This workshop took place at Matete in January and brought together all the archdeacons and school head teachers around the new Together We Can (ENP) philosophy. A number of subjects were discussed and the 56 participants expressed their appreciation of the workshop.

## CCA AGM and project grants

*Paul Dickens, Hon Treasurer*

The 2015 AGM will be held in Oxford on 24<sup>th</sup> October, starting at 12 noon – more details later on.

Many of our readers will know that a few years ago the committee recommended and the members approved a new system for distributing grants from General Fund. After deducting the cost of 7 bursaries to the theological training department at UAC and keeping back a small reserve, the balance of the General Fund is distributed equally amongst the dioceses and provincial departments to fund projects which they submit. Some examples of recent projects are: equipment and medicines for a church health centre; contribution towards a clergy pension scheme; travel expenses to outlying parts for confirmation; training fees for clergy and administrative staff; essential office equipment; a motorised canoe; Great Lakes peace initiative; girls' work; assistance to the displaced.

## News from North Kivu Diocese

*Bishop Isesomo*

From October to December 2014, the population around Beni went through difficult times with the killing of civilians, including women and children, by unidentified persons believed to be Ugandan rebels of the ADF (Allied Democratic Forces). These killings with machetes took place in towns and villages near Beni. Reports put the number of the dead at between 100 and 200 people. Local civil society organisations estimate about 10,000 households have fled the atrocities and become displaced from rural areas to the cities. Development NGOs are providing assistance to some of the displaced but the need remains, given the increase in victims.

The Anglican Church of Congo, through its Development and Social Transformation Department working with the Medical Service and the Diocese of North Kivu, identified and

registered more than 260 households who had welcomed the displaced, and needed food, non-food and medical assistance. On 22<sup>nd</sup> December, with financial support from Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) of the USA, we distributed food and non-food items to 120 households totalling 1,137 people. In February 2015 the Anglican Church of Congo, with further aid from ERD, aims to help about 140 displaced households who haven't received any assistance and are still in distress.



*Distribution of aid*

## Boga Diocese

*Bishop William Bahemuka*

We began 2015 with the 16<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Synod, the ordination of 16 deacons and 4 priests, and a healing and deliverance seminar by Flame International. The synod, the second since I came to office, was held from 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> January 2015 in Boga and was the best synod I have ever had. It brought together 140 delegates from all 30 parishes of the diocese. God helped us overcome two main challenges: safe travel of delegates and fundraising for the synod. We saw God answer our prayers as clashes between the army and the FRPI militia were delayed until delegates had returned home. The synod was fully funded by contributions from the churches. A week before, less than 50% of the budget was covered and we were nervous, but God answered our prayers and we had more food than needed: four cows were slaughtered and everyone ate to his satisfaction.

The synod achieved four main objectives:

1. We adopted an amended constitution which clarifies and rearranges the organs and structures of the Diocese and clarifies people's roles - from synod and bishop to catechist and local congregation committee.
2. We agreed the opening of three new parishes.
3. We drew up a roadmap to resolve the longstanding conflict between the Tumaini Centre and a local church

## Bukavu Diocese

*Bishop Bahati*

25 students in 3 Bible schools (Bukavu, Bangwe and Rutshuru) graduated after three years of study. They are now working as evangelists in parishes. In 2015, new candidates have been selected and begun studying.

Bukavu Diocese continues to train staff members in theology and medicine at university. Revd Muhindo Matabaro Jean-Paul graduated in theology at Université Libre des Grands-Lacs. Miss Sarah Bakenyire gained a diploma in theology at UAC. 5 students graduated in evangelism at CCLK. 7 others continue studying theology and evangelism at UAC, UPLGL and CCLK. The Diocese is also training 3 people in medicine at ISTM, BIOSADEC University in Bukavu and Cheik Anta Diop University in Senegal.

All parishes run Sunday schools and, in 2014, Sunday school teachers were trained to lead children in Bible study. In order to promote peace and reconciliation, the youth of Bukavu Diocese have a link with the youth in the Dioceses of Cyanguu and Kivu in Rwanda and Bujumbura in Burundi, involving visits, football and evangelism. Bukavu Diocese sees scouting as a way to educate young people. There are 5

that has been operating on its property. The devil has used this conflict to destroy the peace, harmony, integrity and testimony of the church, particularly in Bunia. We strongly believe that God will hear our prayers on this matter and restore his glory.

4. Five priests were appointed Canons of Boga Diocese: Canon Babote Rwabongo Gustave, Canon Badudu



Tanahiro Thierry, Canon Balinda Kandole Tito, Canon Barozi Ruhigwa Japhet, and Canon Kiza Zaba Jacques.

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January, we ordained 16 deacons and 4 priests, including 2 women. The

deacons were trained in our Bible School. They are deployed as missionaries to reach out with the gospel, plant churches and build their sub-parishes up to parish level before they are ordained priests. That is what we call Vision Apollo 2.

The Flame Seminar, held from 23<sup>rd</sup> January to 4<sup>th</sup> February for 50 clergy and church leaders and 100 women, was a blessing. Many committed their lives to Christ, got healed and were delivered from devils and ancestral bondage.

scout groups in Bukavu, Goma, Rutshuru and Uvira. Many young people, both boys and girls, sing in choirs. They play an important role in worship and contribute to evangelism.

Every month, the women of the Diocese gather in a church for prayer, worship and teaching. A Flame International team visited Goma, Bukavu and Uvira to train 300 raped women in counselling. Many women received healing from trauma and learned counselling skills. The Mothers' Union started the Tamar Project to help victims of gender-based violence. The project has a centre which offers counselling, vocational skills



such as sewing and basket-making, micro-credit & adult literacy. Another centre in Katana offers sewing training, education for orphans, agro-pastoral activities and adult literacy. The Diocesan Medical Coordination organised a workshop for nurses and

pastors on "giving birth at low risk" and "justice and gender-based violence". 30 participants discussed the issues and made recommendations to the Church and government about protecting human dignity.

## Praise and prayer

**Province:** Continue to pray for peace throughout the nation. Give thanks for the work of the Mothers' Union to support vulnerable women and victims of sexual violence.

**Kindu:** Give thanks for peace in the region and a good harvest. Pray for the Diocesan Council being held in March.

**Aru:** In Aru's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, praise God for all that has been achieved and pray for the evangelistic activities planned for the year.

**Katanga:** Pray for the electoral synod in August and the choice of the next bishop to succeed Bishop Kasima.

**Boga:** Give thanks for a successful synod and Flame International workshop. Pray for those recently ordained and sent out to plant churches. Pray for regional peace.

**Kisangani:** Pray for Bishop Funga touring the diocese, conducting confirmations and ordinations. Pray too for the means to be found to re-open the Bible School.

**Kinshasa:** Pray for peace in Kinshasa, following political turbulence early this year. Pray for the Mothers' Union and their bakery project to help young girls earn a living.

**North Kivu:** Praise God for the spread of the gospel in several parishes. Pray for all those displaced by the attacks around Beni and pray for lasting peace.

**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 spread of ENP (Together we can) training in the diocese and the impact it is making. Pray for the St Marcel Health Centre and its staff.

**Brazzaville:** Commit to God plans to train and ordain church leaders. Pray for Bishop Molanga leading this young church.

**Bukavu:** Give thanks and pray for the Mothers' Union project for victims of gender-based violence. Pray for the work of Sunday schools throughout the diocese.

**UAC:** Give thanks for the new students at UAC. Pray for the life of UAC, for the staff and students living and working together. Pray for Canon Sabiti and his staff, managing with very tight finances.