



Congo Church Association

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News from Aru Diocese

Bishop Titre Ande

We had a wonderful ceremony of ordination at Pentecost, 24th May 2015. 14 priests and 5 deacons were ordained at All Saints Cathedral in Aru. We are grateful to our brothers and sisters from overseas who financially assisted us to train all these priests and deacons. As we plant churches in new areas, we are still in need of more well-trained ministers.

Evangelism is going ahead as part of celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Diocese of Aru. We praise the Lord that the fruit is encouraging. We plan to open 9 new parishes in 2015.

We praise the Lord also that the Master's course at the Diocesan Nursing College is progressing very well.



Young people doing evangelism at Ondolea

North Kivu news

Bishop Muhindo Isesomo

Let me tell you about a pastoral visit I made recently to Kamango and Kainama, covering about 650 miles. The trip was very expensive: we spent \$654 on petrol and other needs.

There were soldiers everywhere along the road in the national park between Mbau and Kamango. There were 39 positions and at each position we had to give something to the soldiers. On our way back from Kamango in the park we were in danger of encountering a rebel group who had already killed some people 3 km ahead of us but God provided for us: some soldiers stopped us and asked us to wait. So we spent 2 hours in the forest sitting under trees in the rain.

When we arrived at Mbau, some people asked me not to continue to Kainama. But I said to them that we must go there because God had protected us in the park where we could have died. So we continued our trip from Mbau to Bunia where we arrived at 9pm, and next day we continued from Bunia to Boga and on to Kainama. At Kainama we were made very welcome by local people and by the army. Soldiers were with us day and night.

We thank God because 3,451 people decided to receive Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord when they heard the gospel message I was preaching and 988 people were confirmed.

On our way home from Kainama we met another problem: rebels killing people with machetes around Beni. This caused again the displacement of many people from their homes. Some are hosted in families but living in bad conditions because they don't have any assistance. We need your continual prayers.

Agape - youth work

Rev Bisoke Balikenga



I visited Kenya for two weeks. I went to meet:

1. Rev. Francis Owando of All Saints Cathedral, who brought a team three years ago for a seminar in Mahagi. Now we are planning for them to go to Brazzaville to hold a seminar with the youth leaders. Please pray because it will happen in September this year.
2. CMS Africa: we plan for James to teach at a youth leaders' training in Kasindi in North Kivu diocese on the Uganda border, which we hope to hold in August this year.

Our three students who are studying at Carlile College. The Principal of Carlile College for future students to come: they are keen to help Congo.

Dr. Chiko who teaches Islam at Daystar University, who would like to come in Congo to run a workshop about Islam in order that we can have some knowledge about Islam and how to engage with Muslims. Please pray for us to have funds to run it.

In April we ran a workshop in Bunia for 40 youth leaders and children's workers. We discussed Agape in Boga Diocese and why it is not growing today; the plans for the youth work in Boga Diocese and how it might become self-sufficient; and the relationship between young people and the community. We resolved to work for peace and reconciliation because there is still conflict; to increase our evangelism; and to train young people to be leaders in each church.

Please pray for the peace and reconciliation to continue to happen in our country and churches because it can bring blessing from God.

Personally, I need your prayers because my right arm has less power. It is a bit paralysed with a lot of pain. I saw the doctor in Nairobi and he gave me medicine but he needs to see me again.

News from Bukavu Diocese

Rev Muhindo Matabaro Jean-Paul

Celebration of Women's Day by Mothers' Union

865 women from the churches of Bukavu and from Cyangugu Diocese in Rwanda gathered in St. Peter's Anglican Cathedral in Bukavu to celebrate International Women's Day on 25th March, 2015. The day started with Holy Communion celebrated by Rt Rev Bahati Bali-Busane Sylvestre, Bp of Bukavu, with priests from Bukavu and Cyangugu. The preaching was from Luke 1, 26-36 by Reverend Berth (Women's Secretary of Cyangugu) on "Woman as an instrument of blessing to society".

A Conference led by Mme Jacqueline Ngengele on "Women's Autonomy" and "fighting violence" allowed participants to discuss when, how and why they need autonomy. A decision was taken to become ambassadors of the Gospel of Peace and fight against violence, illiteracy, poverty and HIV/AIDS. After nine months' training in vocational skills (sewing and basket making), 12 raped women graduated by receiving a Certificate from the Mothers' Union. To help them set up, the Mothers' Union offered new sewing machines to each one.



Opening of new churches

In its Evangelism Programme, Bukavu Diocese is encouraging parishioners to improve the condition of church buildings. Early this year, 2 new churches were opened by Bishop Bahati: Panzi parish in Bukavu and Katindo parish in Goma. So building works continue to make churches shine to the glory of God.

Burundian refugees

Bukavu Diocese, working with Fidele Mushamuka (Provincial Development Officer) are providing humanitarian assistance (food, clothing, medicines) to Burundian refugees who have fled into South Kivu, thanks to financial support from various international partners including CCA.

Children's celebration

According to our custom to celebrate Children's Sunday every year, Bukavu Diocese gathered 1300 children from Christian families in St. Peter's Cathedral for a Holy Communion service led by Bp Bahati, a conference and other activities.



Children of Christ the King Parish

News from Kindu Diocese

Bishop Masimango Katanda

Educating children

Making a pastoral visit in the deep Equatorial forest in April 2015, I discovered many forgotten children who never have the opportunity to go to school. They live in remote areas where qualified teachers are not found. So I discussed with local authorities and church leaders how the Anglican Church can take a lead so that together we can build a school with an Anglican teacher. The idea was welcomed, parents are ready to work on bricks and the Diocese of Kindu could help in building three classrooms. Could you join the Diocese to offer these children an opportunity to study? They need someone to sponsor them. Most of their parents are Anglican farmers; they grow rice and cassava to feed their family. Because of inaccessibility there is no market for them to sell produce and get money to send their children for studies.

Evangelism and Poverty: a big challenge for Kindu

Imagine: in the 21st century there are families who have no chairs, no bed, no table, one room for all the family... and we are preaching the love of God for them. They respond quickly when we preach about eternal life but they need our attention while they are living in the same world as their brothers and sisters who enjoy the wealth of the world. They are victims of greed and corruption in society. The most vulnerable are women and children. MU President Mrs. Naomi is working on a programme of church community mobilisation to help those in need to get basic kitchen utensils and train them to transform their lives through a literacy programme. Doing house to house evangelism, I was shocked when I visited these ladies in their home. They were very happy to hear that God loves them and Jesus came to save and have power to transform lives. In most villages around Maniema women carry the burden of the family. They work very hard to feed the family, carrying rice from their farms on their backs during the harvest. I met them and talked to them about God's love and the message of the Gospel.



Bp Masimango watches 2 motorbikes stuck in mud on the way to Kalongola where they have not seen their bishop for ten years due to bad roads.

Visit to UAC

Berdine van den Toren-Lekkerkerker



After many years living in the Central African Republic, I have finally managed to visit DRC, spending three weeks at the Anglican University in Bunia. I received a wonderful welcome and working with the students was a joy.

Bunia is a city of construction with building projects everywhere with a thriving economy. Yet young people are finding it hard to find jobs. Between 2000 and 2003 Bunia was known for the war between the Hema and Lendu.

More than 10 years later, the war is still a daily topic of conversation, while people also worry about the future, especially with elections coming up next year.

One effort for peace is the "Centre de Non-Violence pour la Reconciliation et la Paix", based at UAC. The importance of this work came home to me on the last day of teaching, when an issue was raised that was one of the big dividers between ethnic groups after the war in 2003. Members of both groups were present in class and the tension rose to such a level that I felt I had to step in. I realised that, while all participants saw themselves and each other as members of God's family, the painful history still made emotions rise and listening to each other difficult.

I was impressed by the courage of UAC's leadership, starting new ventures on a shoestring. The Rector told me that if one does not start, things will never happen, so they started and trusted God to provide. The school suffered much during the war and is still rebuilding. Financially it is struggling, and it is short of facilities.

One question concerns whether its 44-acre site could be used to generate income. Or whether the primary school be developed into a quality school, possibly with a secondary school too. (Ed. CCA is about to fund an initial building of 3 classrooms and offices from a legacy) Such ideas need a huge initial investment, but could help UAC to become stronger and more self-sufficient.

Having just spent a month in CAR, it was great to be in Bunia. I now dream of bringing young people from CAR to meet young people in Bunia, who will understand what those from Bangui are going through. They will also be able to show them how to go beyond the current situation, to start building again, to find hope.

Provincial News

Ven Anthonio Kibwel, Provincial Secretary

Anglicans speak out on sexual violence

In February the Most Rev Henri Isingoma, Archbishop of Congo, joined an ecumenical panel at the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict. The event highlighted the holistic role of faith communities in responding to sexual violence, and speakers included the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The DR Congo has experienced some of the worst rates of sexual violence, increasing during its many years of conflict. The church has reached out to survivors, trying to be a safe space for women and to address the root causes of sexual violence. Key questions posed to the panel included "How can church leaders and communities prevent and respond to sexual violence?" and "How can survivors be empowered to ensure that their voices and needs are central to the response of the church?" Archbishop Henri said "We need to move people from ignorance to positive attitudes. We are bringing men, women, survivors together



to tell their stories. We are teaching positive masculinity. When men heard about rape they would rape in revenge, but after our teaching this first response is undermined." Archbishop Henri insisted that the church must overcome culture and traditions and said "We say no more silence. We will speak out."

Diocesan staff IT training.

From January to April, Henri, the provincial telecommunication

officer (pictured left), Robert our telecommunication technician from Nairobi and Mushamuka the provincial development officer spent time with all the Diocesan IT officers to train them. The trainees were taken through the intended objectives of the telecommunication project, what the project wasn't intended for and their own contribution to the project's objective and sustainability. At the end of each workshop, the participants were satisfied and the facilitators felt their aims were achieved.

We would like to get solar panels in order to solve the shortage of electricity. We also want to extend the telecommunication project to Congo Brazzaville.

Peace day forum in Kinshasa

In May, a Peace Day Forum brought together organisations to share ideas for Peace Day on 21st September. Speakers included the US Ambassador and UK



Deputy Ambassador; Sam Lukonde Kienge, Minister for Youth, Sport and Leisure; and Marie-José Kazadi Yamba, Director of the Ministry of Culture & Arts. Representatives from NGOs, education institutions and faith groups, including the

Anglican Church of Congo, shared information about their work. Earlier in May, a team from the Anglican Church met two staff from Peace One Day and shared how the Anglican Church is contributing to the search for peace.

News from Katanga

Bishop Kasima Muno Corneille

I. Literacy classes for women in Kalemie

A literacy centre has been set up with 25 illiterate women enrolled. Not all these women take part regularly in the training – they don't have time. Participation varies between 10 and 15 women. Activities achieved are reading/writing, the 26 letters of the alphabet and combinations of consonants and vowels.



II. Ministry to Widows in Kalemie

The Ministry to Widows sees its vocation as: evangelising, training women holistically, strengthening family life and helping everyone to encounter God through the Gospel so that, once they have become disciples of Jesus, they may be instruments for the transformation of families and society. Activities include: evangelism, Bible reading & prayer, small businesses, microcredit and agriculture for self-sufficiency.

III. Boys and Girls Brigades in Katanga Diocese.

The main objective of the Boys and Girls Brigades is to try to

make young people true soldiers of Christ. The Boys and Girls Brigades in Katanga have 1,030 boys and 640 girls. Difficulties include a lack of materials and equipment for many of the officers. Activities include: training the leaders about building capacity; workshops on the fight against HIV/AIDS; a day of contemplation on the importance of the Boys and Girls Brigades; processions during official celebrations; welcoming and seating visitors in church.



IV. Anglican schools

The Diocesan Education Department comprises 32 primary schools, 11 secondary schools and 2 colleges (a total of 8,425 pupils). 6,100 pupils are in primary school and 2,325 in secondary school or college. 23 primary and 11 secondary schools are approved by the State. The remaining 11 are on track to be approved.



Pioneering mission

Revd Desire Mukanirwa, Provincial Evangelism Coordinator

With funding from the Congo Church Association, I recently led a 7-day workshop on pioneering mission for 6 trainees in Bukavu Diocese. After the training, the 6 participants were taken to visit unreached people in their village, in this case an unusually large camp of 71 pygmies. (Pygmy settlements are usually no more than 20 or so). Pygmies should not be visited empty-handed, so we bought fish and rice to take to them. It was our joy to see that during the training, all the participants behaved very well towards the pygmies. All the camp accepted Jesus.

There is great need in their lives: they lack their own land.

Only one person knows how to write and read. Only four of the children try to go to school, but are always chased away because they cannot pay the fees. They have no livelihood and live in extreme poverty. They wear only what they are given as payment after doing hard work in somebody's field. If they get sick, they use herbal treatment and sometimes die. Their housing is pitiful, with no blanket to cover them at night.

Our pioneering mission to this community should be pursued from many angles, meaning that we have to think of holistic ways to help God's people for his Kingdom.

We thank Bishop Bahati for all his help with training programme and the mission trip.

Boga Diocese

Bishop William Bahemuka

The year 2015 is a special year in our life and ministry. Personally I am marking 25 years of marriage, 15 years of ordained ministry and 5 years of episcopal ministry. As we reflect on that journey, there is a lot God has accomplished through us, and at the same time many challenges and difficulties.

After the synod in January, we still have some pieces to put together to do God's work effectively. We decided at the Synod to have:

1. The new constitution legalized and translated into Swahili to be accessible to all.
2. The strategic plans finalised and churches sensitised to adhere to it.
3. All the diocesan structures and organs put in place to ease administrative operation.

We are going to open two parishes in July: Bunia Ville parish on 12th July and Byoma on 26th July. We will then have 33 parishes.

The Diocese of Boga has a big community of people speaking the Hema language. There is an idea of translating the Bible into that language and promoting the values and culture of the Hema community in order to convey effectively the Gospel of Christ. A Hema ecumenical service has been initiated in Bunia, beginning on 21st June. Hundreds of

people attended and the service was spirit-filled. Reverend Bezalari is coordinating the programme as he has experienced God's forgiving, saving and healing hand.

The main concern we have for this year is the spiritual development of the Church. All the archdeacons and the dean are attending a course on servant leadership following the model of Jesus. In the course, we are exploring all the qualities and characteristics of a servant leader and commit ourselves to living by the same qualities and characteristics in our ministry. With Reverend Ivan Sikha from India, we shared the experience of reaching out to people who have not heard about Christ and are illiterate, so we must talk about Jesus through story-telling.



Creation Care Conference

Rev Dr Kahwa Njojo, lecturer at UAC

In May I took part in a conference in Nairobi organised by Lausanne Creation Care Network. The aim was to encourage people to engage in the protection of creation, understanding it as part of the mission God gave to his church. We all realised our failure to do mission holistically. For too long the church has sought to bring souls to Christ without thinking about how Christians should live a life pleasing to God, not just on a spiritual level, but in wise stewardship of the good things God has given us, not only for our generation but for future generations also. We have a responsibility to look after creation in obedience to God's command and as stewards who must give account to the owner of the creation. UAC has formed an Action Plan, incorporating education of our students in creation care as well as practical initiatives we can undertake in our region.

There were Bible studies on several subjects to help us appreciate our responsibility to protect nature and how

misuse of creation has harmful effects on humanity and on creation itself. At the end, we signed a call to action undertaking to educate our peoples to protect creation, fight against deforestation, re-plant forests, develop beneficial farming techniques ("farming God's way") and protect the diversity of plants and animals. This is about obedience to the will of God. If we don't do it, we will be disobedient to God's call to mission and will lead his people into the sin of not caring for the creation which God's gift to humanity. We need prayer as we put into practice what we have learned.

CCA survey – please participate

Thank you for your continued interest, prayers and donations for ministries undertaken by the Anglican Church of Congo. We are enormously grateful for your generosity in different ways. CCA Trustees have been considering CCA's future and how the organisation might change or develop. We are consulting church leaders in the dioceses and at Provincial level in DR Congo as well as you, our CCA supporters, and those with whom we collaborate, both locally and internationally. Please kindly take a few minutes to complete the online survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/32LFZTD>) or the paper copy enclosed. Your views are vital to help us discern the way forward, with God's guidance, and better enable us to serve the Anglican Church of Congo in the coming years. Thank you for your time!

CCA AGM – 24th October, 2015

To be held at St Andrew's Church, Oxford, Jubilee Building

Come and hear first-hand reports from across DR Congo

If you are coming, please notify Judy Rous judyrous@gmail.com

Praise and prayer

Katanga Pray for lasting fruit and spiritual growth for all who participated in the recent Rooted in Jesus training in Kalemie, Lubumbashi, Likasi and in neighbouring Kasai Diocese, led by Matthew Grayshon.

Aru Praise God for the results of the evangelism work and pray for the 9 parishes to be established this year and for those who will lead them. Pray for preparations for 10th anniversary celebrations in November.

Boga Give thanks for all that was achieved at the diocesan synod. Pray for the 2 new parishes: Bunia Ville & Byoma.

Province Give thanks for progress in the mission training in Bukavu and the telecommunications project. Pray for peace in the nation and the Anglican Church as it seeks to promote peace. Pray for House of Bishops' retreat 18th – 22nd Aug in Butembo led by retired Abp Mtetemela (Tanzania) & SOMA.

North Kivu Pray for peace in North Kivu, for safety for Bishop Isesomo as he travels round the diocese and for efforts to provide for those displaced by violence.

Bukavu Praise God for all that happened at the MU celebration in March and pray for continued collaboration with Cyangugu Diocese. Pray for the youth conference on "Christian youth facing violence" planned for August.

Kisangani Pray for Bishop Funga travelling around the diocese to visit parishes. Give thanks and pray for the new health centre at Ibole.

Kindu Please pray for the church in Kindu Diocese as it seeks to find ways to tackle poverty and lack of education.

Kasai Pray for Bishop Kapinga as he tries to build what is still a new diocese and to develop links with the church around the world.

Agape Pray for the planned youth training at Kasindi. Pray for Bisoke's health, that God may restore him to full strength.

UAC Give thanks for the successful completion of the academic year on 31st July, and for Dr Yossa Way's visit to UK. Pray for the staff of UAC as they struggle with tight finances and seek to plan for the future.