



Republic of Cameroon



République Démocratique du Congo



Republic of South Sudan

The Africa Appeal

March, 2014

The Africa Appeal is an outreach project under the care of the parishes of St. Columba of Iona and St. Bride of Kildare who are part of the Traditional Anglican Church of Canada (TACC). With the help of traditional Anglicans in Australia, the USA and the UK, we send money to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Cameroon & South Sudan. These fast-growing churches are members of the Anglo-Catholic Church - Original Province which is a worldwide communion of traditional Anglican Churches. Funds collected are used for clergy support and various projects developed and run by Bishop Steven Ayule-Milenge (Congo), Bishop Garang (South Sudan), and Father Alphonse Ndutiye (Cameroon) such as building schools, a farming collective for widows, and sewing classes for victims of rape.

Bishop Steven to visit Cameroon

Plans are underway for an Episcopal visit by Bishop Steven Ayule-Milenge of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the church in Cameroon where Fr. Alphonse Ndutiye is Vicar General. This is planned for July, when the dry season will make it easier to travel over unpaved roads. As mentioned in previous newsletters, travel within the Congo is difficult and expensive, and Bishop Steven is planning to include a visit to the clergy and parishes in Kasai Oriental Province (in the centre of DRC) on his way to Cameroon.

Wikipedia tells us, “The Democratic Republic of the Congo has fewer all-weather paved highways than any country of its population and size in Africa - a total of 2,250 km, of which only 1,226 km is in good condition”. Because of this, Bishop Steven will fly from Bukavu in the east of DRC to Kinshasa in the west and then back to Mbuji-Maya, the capital of Kasai Oriental Province, in the centre. In terms of distance, this is similar to a flight from Saskatoon to Toronto with an additional flight back to Thunder Bay – a long journey.

Huge need for the Gospel in Africa

But what drives Bishop Steven, Fr. Alphonse, and also Bishop Garang in South Sudan is that when you arrive at the distant parts of their dioceses, there are just so many people who are waiting for the Sacraments and each one is an individual who is committed to his or her faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour.

One thing which strikes you when you land in Africa is that there are so many people walking in the city or town as seen here in a photo taken in Bukavu. We look at photos of the crowds wherever they are, and we must take a step back, and understand that behind each face in the photograph, there is an individual who has many of the same dreams and ambitions that we have. It is for this reason that we are called to demonstrate our Christian faith by our support for those who are working through so many trials and tribulations from which we have been spared.



Challenges in Cameroon

To prepare for this Episcopal visit, Fr. Alphonse is working hard to complete all the administrative and government requirements for land purchases for churches and the school, so that the Anglican Catholic Church in Cameroon can be formally recognised by the government as a church, and an approved administrator of the primary school. As he writes, this is very difficult when he has so many projects to coordinate, as well as the training and education of ordinands, who could receive extra training before the episcopal visit – if only there was funding to provide for this! We are thankful that Fr. Alphonse has a small income from his hospital visits as a chaplain and the regular visits he makes to say Mass at the city jail.

It is only with your support that this church and its clergy are able to keep up their efforts to bring the Gospel message to the people of Cameroon. They are trying valiently to respond to the many demands for more and more parishes and churches! We pray that this will, in time, allow the church to become self supporting, and there has been good progress with the projects so far – similar to the work by Bishop Steven and his clergy and good lay-catechists in Congo.

The challenge is well understood – as Archbishop Haverland writes to Fr. Alphonse, “I do wish, of course, that we had additional funding for your development of congregations and humanitarian ministries. The basic situation remains unchanged. A very small group of people in wealthy countries supports a much larger mission in the poorer parts of the world.”

Education and health care are the responsibility of churches in developing countries

The work of social development in the developed world is mainly undertaken by the government. Indeed, in some countries (secular states like France, Australia, Mexico) a church is not even permitted to participate in any educational or health projects, or in their funding.

This differs from the developing world, where governments struggle with the immense demand for security, health care, and education. These governments enlist support from all possible sources, especially churches. We in the Traditional Anglican Church of Canada are able to offer this support through bishops and clergy who are, like us, members of the Anglican Catholic Church-Original Province. They administer local projects with funds provided by you through the TACC.

The DRC is an example of this approach; churches run the schools and health centres. Bishop Steven Ayule-Milenge writes to emphasise the importance of the school programme in Congo as showing the way forward for a more peaceful future for the students. This is linked to the improvement of the health centres, also supported by the Federal and Provincial authorities and the Anglican Catholic Church of Congo. His words demonstrate the enormous scope of the work that he has undertaken along with his clergy, and with that all important group of lay-catechists, as shown at right, who teach the Gospel message in the villages and towns.



Fighting in South Sudan continues, affecting government support for communities

Bishop Garang writes to let us know that the fighting we hear about - the very vicious fighting - does not encroach on the Diocese of Aweil. But it would be an error to assume that all is therefore well. The economy of this fragile country is seriously harmed by the violence, so the people living in the villages of Aweil cannot expect much help from the government. This means the work to keep healthy, attend school, and build community, falls once more on the church.



What a wonderful symbol of the determination to build a community of believers is the construction of a cathedral church. This is similar to the energy and drive of those who built the magnificent Gothic cathedrals of Europe. But there is a cost, and the bills need to be paid: from roofing sheets to cement, from doors and windows to chairs and, in a country with little law and order, \$13,000 for a security wall. Can you help? Bishop Garang wrote me asking that I might send any moneys received to date and I would dearly like to make that transfer of funds!

I am happy to report that we have been able to maintain the regular support to which we committed ourselves, but it really does depend on you for any and all of the extra needs which are common to

each of the three churches. Perhaps we need a drive for the purchase of roofing sheets at around \$15.00 per sheet?

With thanks for your support,
And with prayers for a Blessed Lenten observance,

In Christ,
David+

How to give support to these churches:

There are no deductions from moneys received by the Appeal; the full dollar amount is sent to Cameroon, South Sudan or Congo. Any overheads are paid from gifts received for this purpose.

In Canada

Donations are tax deductible and can be sent to:

The Parish of St. Bride, c/o 20895 Camwood Ave., Maple Ridge, BC, V2X 2N9

Or

The Parish of St. Columba, c/o Box 894, Sechelt, BC, V0N 3A0

Please make a note that the funds are for the Africa Appeal on the front of the cheque. Tax receipts will be issued by the parishes.

In the USA

The ACC Mission Fund, The Anglican Catholic Church, PO Box 5223, Athens, GA 30604

In Australia

Anglican Aid Abroad, PO Box 256, GRANGE, QLD 4051

Or

A safe and inexpensive way of sending your gift is to make a deposit at any WESTPAC BRANCH to our Account at Morningside: MISSIONARIES OF ST ANDREW – ANGLICAN AID ABROAD 034 058 58 0656 -- Or use the INTERNET.

If you need a receipt for tax purposes or acknowledgement in the newsletter, please write to tell us your name, details of the deposit and enclose a self-addressed envelope. If you intend the donation for a special project, please let us know, so we can designate it accordingly.

In the UK

Cheques should be made payable to “Anglican Catholic Church - Diocese of the United Kingdom” and marked on the back: “Missions – Cameroon or Congo” as appropriate and sent to:
Diocesan Treasurer ACC Diocesan Office, St Nicholas House, 42-48 High Street, Lydd, Kent
TN29 9AN