

EGLISE ANGLICANE DU CONGO DIOCESE DE KINDU

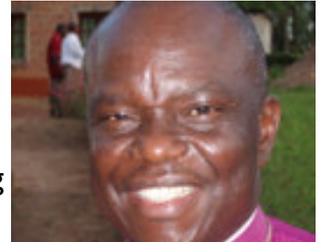
Diocesan Bishop: Rt. Rev. Masimango Katanda
c/o B.P. 5 Gisenyi, Rwanda Email: angkindu@yahoo.fr

ISSUE 5

DECEMBER 2008



Bishop Masimango writes :



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Bishop Masimango talks about the state of the country	1
AIDs and the Church	2
Berea Bible School	2
Children's ministry	3
Bishop's travel	3
Ongoing training of pastors	3
Plans	4
Visitors	4
Your Prayers are needed	5

About the state of the country

Most of the provinces within DR Congo are peaceful with the exception of North Kivu and Ituri, (with the major towns of Goma and Bunia). Conflict has erupted in these regions again and there are now tens of thousands of displaced people.

In Kiwanja, 65 kilometres North of Goma there have been many clashes between opposing forces. News of a massacre taking place there has been disturbing.

The reasons for the conflict in eastern DR Congo are complex and include unfinished business after years of war in that area, soldiers issues as well as ethnic minorities looking for a voice.

The church has taken the initiative through the AACCC (All Africa Conference of Churches) to challenge both the government and rebels to take part in dialogue instead of resorting to violence and war.

About the state of the Maniema

The diocese of Kindu is more secure than any other part of the country mainly due to its geographical situation. Maniema, where Kindu is the capital is isolated and land locked with no border with any

neighbouring countries.

The only way the conflict in the east has affected Maniema has been the movement of soldiers through the area as they have been relocated from Shabunda in South Kivu to Goma and have passed through Kindu to use the airport.

Recent storms in the area have caused catastrophic damage. Wind, rain and flooding of rivers has destroyed 300 houses in Kindu affecting 800 families that have had to seek temporary shelter.

Price rises: Until recently all fuel has come to Kindu by plane from Goma and prices reached about \$3.50 per litre. Now fuel is starting to arrive by canoe from Kisangani and prices have dropped to about \$2.20 per litre.

Food availability

Food shortages this year and associated price rises have shocked the population. As the rainy season has started most of the population of Kindu have been working in their fields particularly planting rice. This has been a good sign and it is hoped that prices will drop with the next harvest. and that food security will be assured.

AIDS and the Church

The church has a responsibility to teach people about AIDS and to challenge wrong ideas. It also has a responsibility to help people with AIDS to know the love of Jesus by providing physical, emotional and spiritual support.

A seminar on AIDS was held recently to encourage church leaders as well as

school teachers, mothers union groups and youth groups to be involved in teaching about AIDS. There is still a huge amount of ignorance in the community.

The seminar was attended by diocesan staff representing all these groups. The plan is that they will now start training other



Participants enjoying a skit at the AIDS seminar

leaders to carry out this important task. A follow up meeting is planned for January to encourage them and to identify and help with any problems they may have encountered.

Berea Bible School

Student interviews. Recently the Bible School staff, including the Bishop, carried out pastoral interviews with the final year students. What we heard was encouraging.

There has been quite a change since we interviewed these same people before they began their training.

On their part they are feeling equipped and ready to leave the security of Berea (after one more term) and to start working in ministry jobs. One student said "I am not worried where I am sent or what job I am given. I am confident I can do the job".

On our part we were encouraged to see that they have not just grown in their

academic understanding but it is clear they have also grown in both spiritual maturity and practical ministry skills.



Students moved into the new accommodation block this term

Life at Berea. We are relieved in same ways to near the end of this first term with the added responsibility of the families of the final year students. Saleh and Veronique had a baby just a few weeks ago and there were a number of health

crises. However the most challenging thing was the rapid increase in food prices coupled with a decrease in the availability of food in the markets. It took some feats of imagination and logistics to get hold of enough food. We would like to express our appreciation to Sydney Diocese who have funded much of the food and medical costs of the students.

The new accommodation block has been a great success together with the addition of solar lights in the classroom so the students can study even longer hours!

Please pray for the students as they go home for a holiday (December) followed by a 2-3 month parish placement.

"I am not worried where I am sent or what job I am given. I am confident I can do the job".

Children's Ministry

Some aspects of Children's ministry in the Diocese of Kindu is at an early stage. Some churches run Sunday Schools, primarily with singing, and the Diocese runs 31 Primary and 30 Secondary Schools.

Our desire is to see the churches trained and equipped for ministry to children. We also want to find faithful teachers who will make a weekly commitment to teaching, and to

encourage the churches to support teachers in this ministry. Our aim is to provide training through seminars and through modelling good teaching, so children are taught interactively, at their level, in a fun and interesting way, that will bring the Bible to life, touch their hearts and change their lives.

Each school has chosen one of the teachers to act as chaplain

along with their regular work. They hold a service each week (again mostly singing) with all ages together. A syllabus has been prepared and work has begun on a small booklet to help teachers in their preparation, but this is a big project that will take time.



Child in a village church on the outskirts of Kindu

Bishop's travel

Bishop Masimango and his wife, Naomi attended Lambeth 2008. While in England they also visited their Parish Links of St Martins in Jersey, Sheringham in Norwich and Chippenham Parish in Bristol.

Prior to Lambeth Bishop Masi-

mango attended a workshop in the Netherlands looking at church based organisations and homosexuality issues.

On another trip Bishop Masimango travelled to Bujumbura in Burundi for a consultation with ICCO (a Dutch organisa-

tion) on training in conflict analysis. He then flew to Butembo in order to monitor the elective synod of North Kivu Diocese as they look to replace Bishop Munzenda who is retiring.

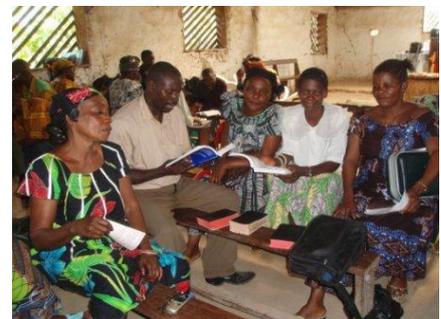
Ongoing training of pastors

This year we continued with the plan to hold a seminar once a year to train pastors and their wives. In August they all came together for a week of fellowship and teaching. They received training on preaching and as well as teaching on sexual issues, and stress and trauma.

Some time was used each day to provide teaching and re-

sources on how to train catechists (lay leaders) within each parish.

As well as the teaching it was an important time for fellowship as many of the pastors work in isolation. Roads are poor, distances are great and they have no reliable means of communication. A year can pass without receiving news of their colleagues.



Small group work at the conference for pastors and their wives

Plans

Diocesan council is to held shortly in Kalima. Kalima is 105 kilometres from Kindu and many of the delegates, coming from different parts of the diocese will either have to walk or travel by bicycle. The main purpose of this meeting is to provide follow up to decisions made at the last Synod. In particular the focus on parish based activities will be reinforced so that parishes will better understand their role in equipping and helping their Christians to grow.

Deacon training. A six week course to train deacons will be held in January and February 2009. About 20 Evangelists who have previously completed Bible School are expected to attend. Once ordained they will work in parishes that at the moment are run by evangelists, or will replace clergy who are retiring.

Muslim evangelism There is an ongoing need for evangelism in Muslim parts of the diocese. In particular we are looking for people who will partner with us in this important task.

Visitors

The Diocese of Kindu is always happy to receive visitors although many are put off by only having a flight in and out of Kindu once a week.

Faith Blake, Personnel Secretary from CMS-Australia visited in September. Various matters were discussed with her including:

- the role of Mission Partners
- CMS Aus support to the diocese through the Bible School and scholarships to send people to study theology at Iringa in Tanzania.

Thanks: We would like to thank the parishes of St Peter's Weston, Gungahlin and other Christians in Australia who have funded a new motor for the bishop so that he will be able to visit parishes. At this point the bike is ordered but stuck in Beni, about 1500km away because of transport difficulties.

Urban evangelism The traditional base for the Anglican church in Maniema has been in the rural areas and there has not been much progress in planting churches in the larger urban centres such as Kindu. Planning is underway to plant churches within Kindu's suburbs and to find appropriate ways to reach a more urbanised population.



Since the war many people have gone back to school and university. Here a church choir assists at graduation celebrations for one of our diocesan staff

-The need for other mission partners to come to assist with teaching in the Bible School, community development, and administrative assistance. The possibility of sending short term mission partners was also discussed..

Venerable Isesomo head of the Provincial department of evangelism visited Kindu in July to provide follow up to the preaching seminars that had been received through the Langham Partnership. He is aiming to set up preaching clubs throughout the Province

the focus on parish based activities will be reinforced so that parishes will better understand their role in equipping and helping their Christians to grow.

Prayer

The Anglican Diocese of Kindu needs your prayers and support.

Please pray

- For peace in DR Congo
- For our pastors and lay readers who are working without being paid regularly
- For the upcoming Diocesan Council meeting that there will be useful discussion and good decision making
- For Mission partners working in Kindu where life is not easy
- For Bishop Masimango in his leadership of Kindu Diocese
- For children's ministry especially in schools
- For bible School students who will be on placement in parishes between January and March.
- For the deacon's course starting on 18th January and running for 6 weeks.
- For the Bishop's motor bike to arrive soon from Beni.

Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to others who may be interested.

If you would like to be a partner in our ministry or if you have any questions about any of the work mentioned or would like to support us financially as well as in prayer, please contact our diocesan office for more details at angkindu@yahoo.fr

