



Republic of Cameroon



République Démocratique du Congo



Republic of South Sudan

The Africa Appeal

Fall/Thanksgiving 2017

Dear Supporters of the Africa Appeal,

Fighting displaces over a million people in Congo affecting members of ACC parishes

While the fighting near Fizi territory described in our last Appeal appears to have been resolved, attacks by the Mai-Mai militias¹ continue and government forces continue to oppose them. Bishop Steven Ayule-Milenge sent these messages to Archbishop Haverland.

#1 on September 27th: “This is to inform you that during the night of Saturday through Sunday the 25th September 2017, the Christians of the Parish of St. Andrew, Mboko were woken by an attack by the Mai-Mai militias who then attacked the villages of Katungulu as far as Makobola, where is found the monument to the Massacres which was photographed by Father David. The chapel of St. Paul Sandja, where you took the photo under the mango tree and the Parish of St. Andre Mboko are now under the control of the Mai-Mai. Today, I have received a call to say that the combat is 20kms from the town of Uvira.”

“The Mai-Mai are integrated with the civil population, so that the government military have difficulty identifying those who are Mai-Mai from those who are not. This is

¹ The Mai-Mai militia are private armies which are set up by criminal groups and which control illicit mining of precious minerals.

The Africa Appeal is an outreach project of the Traditional Anglican Church of Canada (TACC) administered by the parishes of St. Columba of Iona and St. Bride of Kildare. Along with traditional Anglicans in the USA, Australia, and the UK, it supports churches in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Cameroon and South Sudan. These fast-growing churches, together with the parishes of the TACC, are members of the Anglican Catholic Church (ACC) - Original Province, 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 Wilson Garang (South Sudan) and Father Alphonse Ndutiye (Cameroon).

because a number of the population are supporting the rebels because these are their children.”

“Please pray for our Diocese.”

#2 on September 27th: “The latest information is that the town of Uvira is in panic, as a group of Mai-Mai had tried to bypass the highway to descend on the town of Uvira by way of the mountain which overlooks the town, but some 5 kms from the main highway towards the mountain they had been rebuffed by the government forces.”

September 28th: The situation in Uvira is a little calmer this afternoon, after the government forces sank a motorised pirogue (boat) which had a machine gun mounted on it: this had been used by the Mai-Mai to capture several different villages. The Mai-Mai have now been pushed back some 25 kms from Uvira according to Radio Okapi and RTNC².

Bishop Steven’s vivid reports are corroborated by the following articles from official sources. News reports from IRIN³ provide the following information:

“Militia attacks and army reprisals have uprooted 1.4 million people in a previously stable region of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The conflict has helped double the number of displaced people in the country in the year to June. The Catholic Church reports killings of over 3,000, amidst UN reports of mass graves and widespread abuse of civilians.

“Refugees have fled to Angola, agricultural land lies idle and humanitarian agencies are ringing the alarm bell at the prospect of food shortages and continuing violence.”

“The clashes have pushed the DRC to the top of an unenviable league table: it is the country with the most internally displaced people (IDPs) in Africa. At the end of June, 3.8 million people out of the DRC’s population of 75-85 million were displaced, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Just 12 months ago, the figure was 1.7 million.”

Stephen O’Brien, the UN’s Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, told IRIN that “there has been this new, very serious spread of humanitarian need as a result of the massive escalation in violence in different areas” in the DRC.

According to the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), since August 2016, 1.4 million inhabitants of Grand Kasai—which encompasses five of the DRC’s 26 provinces—have been forced from their homes, escaping violence perpetrated by a variety of militias and the Congolese government. 850,000 children are among them.

According to Médecins Sans Frontières, in under a year, Grand Kasai “has transformed from a peaceful area in a troubled country to the epicentre of one the most serious humanitarian crises in the world”.

² Radio Télévision nationale congolaise (RTNC) is the national broadcaster of the central, African state of Democratic Republic of the Congo. Radio-Télévision nationale congolaise currently broadcasts in Lingala and French, and English.

³ After 19 years of award-winning humanitarian news and analysis, IRIN, originally the Integrated Regional Information Networks, left the United Nations in January 2015 to launch as an independent, non-profit media venture.

<https://www.irinnews.org/analysis/2017/07/31/briefing-conflict-kasai-drc>

This is clearly a very serious situation. Perhaps what bothers me most of all this is the fact that we rarely hear of this in any of our news reports: 1.4 million people displaced – and no news??

Famine continues in South Sudan

In South Sudan, the major health risks come from famine and lack of clean water, with a second major risk being too much water, which might damage the essential crops, as well as cause swarms of mosquitoes to appear with the high risk of malaria and other disease. The photo to the right shows that by August, the rains had started in earnest.



As the rain falls, the growth of the crops is incredible. When complete lack of food is replaced by more readily available food from quick growing crops and the hope of a good harvest in time, other problems arise - the major one being diseases including malaria.



We are grateful to the generous funding from Voice of the Martyrs Canada which has enabled us to dig two wells in South Sudan to provide clean drinking water. At left is a photograph of the Baau village well being installed.

The Diocese of Aweil is classified by Non-Government Organizations as being in “food crisis”, with Aweil East at the point of moving up to the “food emergency” classification unless adequate supplies from relief agencies are received. Once this happens, the food must reach each village and then be shared out fairly to those in need. This can be very difficult to achieve. In the Diocese of Aweil, the Bishop works with the NGOs and takes care of his people in this essential pastoral support.

It is perhaps noteworthy that, in South Sudan as in Congo and Cameroon, where the church is the centre of the community, there is a profound acceptance of the role of the clergy in their support for their community. The role of the bishop expands to include some extra duties: distribution of medicines for one and of food for a second. In these next photographs, we can see the calm and respectful way that this work is carried out, even at a time when elsewhere in the country, fighting continues.



Cameroon: Father Alphonse the builder

I have written in past Appeals about several of the parishes and projects of this nascent Diocese but when I translated Father Alphonse's diocesan report for the Provincial Synod taking place this October I was overwhelmed at the number of building projects he has on the go in Cameroon. His diocese has a cathedral under construction, eight parishes, schools and trade training, and health centres. The remarkable thing is that he has done this with very little funding.

There are no new photographs in this Appeal from the church in Cameroon because Father Alphonse has no camera. The one which he had been using is broken and he has no money for a new one. Used digital cameras appear to sell in Yaoundé for \$60-\$100, significantly higher for new ones. It may be possible for one to be bought from Amazon and shipped direct to Father Alphonse.

As I wrote in the last Appeal letter, “the water and electricity to the cathedral, his home, and the new Nsimalen health centre had been cut off for non-payment of the account”. As of the writing of this Appeal, Father Alphonse still has no water or electricity supply for either the Cathedral or for his home.

It is difficult, but we have had to advise Father Alphonse that as things stand, we are unable to increase his regular stipend of \$300/month. We depend on you, the benefactors for any extras which we can send to alleviate the financial shortfalls in the major projects ahead.



I have included this photo (which appeared in the last Appeal) of Father Alphonse and his building contractor, one of two men working to build the cathedral. Both are hoping that the church will pay them later. Because they are not receiving regular wages, they did not have enough money for their children to attend school. But I am happy to say that we have been able to send two payments of \$200 which have resolved this particular crisis. There will no doubt be more of them.

Also from the last Appeal: Father Alphonse suggests that he might buy a concrete block maker for the church. It seems a very good idea but the cost of this machine is listed at US\$8,500. Father Alphonse has a contact who has quoted US\$3,500. This amount is far beyond

our Appeal budget, but if a parish would like to adopt this worthy project, please let me know.

I think you will agree that all three of these countries need our prayers and support. Please consider making a donation if you are able - you can designate it for whichever country or project you prefer. And something we can all do is respond to Bishop Steven’s request that we pray for peace and safety to return to his Diocese.

**In Christ,
David+
(Father David R. Marriott, SSC)**

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

The Parish of St. Bride

By  see <http://parishofstbride.webs.com/>

or

c/o 20895 Camwood Ave., Maple Ridge, BC V2X 2N9

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, Congo or S. Sudan” as appropriate and sent to: Diocesan Treasurer, ACC Diocesan Office, St Nicholas House, 42-48 High Street, Lydd, Kent TN29 9AN