



*Republic of
Cameroon*



*République
Démocratique
du Congo*



*Republic of
South Sudan*



*Republic
of Kenya*



Rwanda

The Africa Appeal

Trinity 2022

Dear Supporters of the Africa Appeal,

Unrest in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo linked to Islamic State

On April 8th Bishop Steven Ayule-Milenge asked Archbishop Haverland for our prayers due to increased terrorist violence in the eastern portion of the Democratic Republic of Congo: “I would like to ask you to help us with prayers because it seems that the Islamic State is gradually settling in eastern Congo. A bus bomb exploded and killed 8 people in the city of Goma which is close”.

Researchers at the Program on Extremism at George Washington University have produced an article discussing Islamic State expansion in central Africa which paints a chilling picture of the recent evolution of links between local Islamic terrorist groups and the Islamic State.¹ There is mounting evidence that Islamic State is now more closely connected to local terrorists in DRC and other central African countries.

¹ [The Islamic State in Congo English.pdf \(gwu.edu\)](#)

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, South Sudan, Kenya and Rwanda. These fast-growing churches 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), Bishop Alphonse Ndutiye (Cameroon), Bishop John Kamande Ndegwa (Kenya) and Fr Niyibizi Mvuka Chadrack (Rwanda). Previous issues of this Appeal can be found at

<https://www.traditionalanglican.ca/news/africaappeal/newslett>

On June 12th, Bishop Steven wrote again, describing the acrimony and suspicion between Congolese and Rwandan authorities as they accused each other of supporting armed groups fighting in areas close to the border between the two countries. Disputes between Rwanda and DRC have been ongoing for some time; when I was in Bukavu, DRC, near the frontier between the two countries, the border just on the outskirts of the city had been closed by Rwanda.

The violence is why Bishop Steven has his doctor, and, at that time, his bank, in Bujumbura, Burundi, even though it would be so much easier to go to Cyangugu, just across the border in Rwanda. Africa Appeal recently sent funds to enable Bishop Steven to visit this doctor in Burundi. His medical visit included an electrocardiogram and blood work which were satisfactory except for the need to lose weight and reduce cholesterol.



Bishop Steven noted that the Easter Consecration and Dedication of the new Holy Trinity Cathedral in Bukavu, which has been in progress since 2007, has taken place. It was funded by groups in the Anglican Catholic Church, USA. The accompanying photos show the interior of this new Cathedral. The Bishop thanks “our Lord Jesus

Christ and the various partners, friends and parishes who assisted us in achieving the realization of this magnificent building”.



Worsening security situation in Rwanda involves DRC

Like Bishop Steven, Father Chadrack in Rwanda also asks for our prayers, “Keep us in your prayers; we are in fear of war between us and our neighboring country Congo”. A periodical called Euronews gives a summary of the tensions that underlie Father Chadrack’s concerns.²

He thanks us for sending funds so he could seek medical advice about his back pain. The doctors have given him medication and suggested that bicycling might help to improve his back. Here is how he injured his back in the first place:

When I was six years old in 1994 during the war and genocide of Rwanda, we ran and hid in the church looking for safety. When killers approached us shooting at the church building people stormed out running for their lives. I ran and was shot in the leg and fell in the doorway, many people trampling on me. Luckily I did not die. The same day I lost my siblings and my two parents. From that day I developed back pain; a little twist to my back can cause a lot of pain that can last for a month. This problem makes it hard for me to travel the hilly terrains of Rwanda on foot or in motorbike. ... Last week we had a lot of rain and as I was walking home from church I slid due to the hilly nature of Rwanda and fell down, reawakening the back pain.

The Rwandan Church is in need of old metal roofing sheets (less expensive than new) for a church with a leaky roof as the rainy season approaches. We have had similar requests for “tôles” for many years in Congo, Cameroon, & Rwanda; the price was always around \$10 per sheet. But that price is now at least \$15 per sheet - which is why Father Chadrack is suggesting using recycled sheets. This is one of those times where a small donation can make a big difference to a congregation in Africa.

Government regulations make construction and food production more difficult in Cameroon

Concerning the construction of a security wall which has been mentioned in previous Appeals, Bishop Alphonse is pleased he had the foresight to purchase materials such as cement, concrete, rebar, gravel, and sand several months ago. Lockdowns and illness related to COVID have prevented him from making as much progress as expected but having materials on hand when it is possible to proceed will be helpful. Current regulations regarding the purchase of cement or rebar require a licence (tax authorization) and supporting documents showing the origin of the funds used for the purchase. Churches must also show that the building under construction will contribute to the growth of the Church and benefit the people of Cameroon (i.e., charitable works). The objective is to prevent groups such as Boko Haram from using buildings, perhaps to store weapons.

² [Rwanda and DRC tensions of 'grave concern', African Union leader says | Euronews](#)

Bishop Alphonse sends information about the state of the Church in Cameroon. There are eight priests and two deacons plus some lay missionaries. His priests are liable to fall ill and cannot afford vaccines or medicines; the faithful of his Church offer solace but are too poor to help financially. The past few months have been especially difficult due to COVID and other endemic diseases but slowly they are resuming their duties.

His nine parish locations are as follows:

Cathedral (under construction since 2013): Nsimalen, Yaoundé

Sacred Heart Parish: Nkolya, Southern Cameroon

St Augustin Parish: Nkolbisson, Yaoundé Nord

St Basile Parish: Leboudi, Yaoundé Nord

Sacre Coeur Parish: Akonolinga, Eastern Cameroon

Jesus Miséricorde Parish: Messamena, East Cameroon

St Jean Christophe Parish: Monatele

St Agnès Parish: Ntui

St John the Baptist Parish: Edéa

There are also seven chapels and congregations where we are just starting to make our presence known. The Diocese has around 2,700 souls.

Unlike the Cathedral in Nsimalen which is the focus and central office for the mission, the other places may only have chapels built of temporary materials to house the altar and the Blessed Sacrament. In Nkolya, the church building is better built but it is not finished and some construction costs are still owing.

Bishop Alphonse and his flock have started a farming project. They have rented two large plots of land and are in the process of planting banana trees, tomatoes, papayas and cassava. They have also ordered chickens for breeding. The village workers are very motivated and everyone is hoping for the rains to be “normal” this year.

This project is especially important due to increasingly complicated government regulations that paralyze commercial and marketing processes. Shortages and high prices make some foods difficult to obtain, especially for the poor. If Bishop Alphonse can produce enough food to make a difference in the diet of his parishioners, their health could improve and they would be more resistant to the diseases that are always present.

Bishop John visits missions in Kenya and plans for the future

On March 27, 2022, Bishop John Ndegwa and his wife visited two of his outlying missions. After a 5:30 am start and breakfasting with the deacon in charge and two elders, Bishop John distributed gifts: a public address system, Kikuyu Books of Common Prayer, calendars and rosaries. The Kenyan Church’s mission fund (supported by their chicken project as described in previous Appeals) assists this mission in paying their rent (4,000 Kenyan

shillings per month³) and provided the wood for the altar and 16 benches. Eventually the parishioners hope to build a church on their own land. In the meantime, they struggle to pay rent. During this visit, the name of this new Mission was decided: St John of Damascus, in Kagio.

Bishop John then proceeded to the main mission focus of the day - Saint Patrick's mission at Gatwe village in the County of Kirinyaga. After morning devotion with the early birds and Catechism instruction, the Eucharist Mass began and a child was baptized and the mother and a youth were received into the Church. Kikuyu BCPs were given to the elderly and 20 additional copies were left with the priest. After various visits, one to a woman more than 100 years old (see photo below), gifts were given; these included a public address facility, two digital candles and more Kikuyu BCPs for family use. Digital candles (battery operated) are



less expensive to use than wax ones and they do not blow out in a wind – which is important for some missions that meet under a tree or under a shelter that is open at the sides.

This mission pays its own rent from parish offerings. The main need is a plot of land to construct a church whose value has been ranging from Ksh 400,000 to 500,000 in the area (around \$4,400 - \$5,500 CAD).

The aim of the mission to the elderly is to bless and appreciate them and to receive blessings from them in return. The mission to the priests and deacons aims to thank those who have served the Church voluntarily since inception and to encourage them to serve God even more.

Bishop John wrote in May that a new mission, Saint John's Kathaka, in Kagio village, Kirinyaga County, is having difficulty with its rent. The Mission Fund of the Kenyan Church has been paying their rent; this is a great drain on the fund. In addition to a rental increase due to inflation, the landlord is now asking the mission to pay rent for the remaining part of the year all at once instead of monthly. He is afraid that the Mission might move in the near

³ One hundred Kenyan shillings equals around \$1 CAD. So rent for the St John of Damascus Mission is around \$40 CAD.

future, leaving him with the expense of repainting the house in order to attract a new tenant. Although asking for eight months rent up front is a large expense, there is the advantage that this would provide stability to the mission, enabling it to concentrate on outreach. The required amount is Ksh 4,000 x 8 months which totals Ksh 32,000 (\$350 CAD).

Mission visits are expensive: Ksh 5,000 for fuel, 3,000 for lunch for the missionaries, 3,000 as a gift for the elderly (2,000 in an envelope from men and purchased presents valued at 1,000 from women) and Ksh 18,000 for a public address facility. This is a total of around \$300 CAD. Some of his Missions have not been visited for five years. Since their missionaries are often Deacons and not Priests, the members of the mission parish have likely not received Holy Communion in all that time.



Because of his lack of ordained priests, Bishop John is looking for an institution to which he could refer young seminarians to study theology up to the Certificate level and possibly later to the Diploma level. The men called to serve in his Church have educational levels ranging from high school to university graduation, not usually in fields related to theology. Although most of them will need to make their own applications, Bishop John is considering assisting them in paying their tuition fees. He is seeking more information (prerequisites, tuition fees) from the International Leadership University School of Theology⁴ based in Nairobi. Whichever institution he chooses, paying the full cost of university training for priests is likely beyond the scope of Africa Appeal. Perhaps there is an individual or parish that would like to sponsor a scholarship?

As this Appeal, and also previous Appeals, illustrate, Bishop John is a busy man. His doctor has told him to take better care of his health and he has indicated that he would like to hire some additional administrative support either on a monthly or piece work basis. This would enable him to delegate the more routine tasks and free him to get on with expanding his diocese and caring for his postulants.

⁴ <https://kenya.ilu.edu/school-of-theology/>



Bishop John has this to say, “Our observation is that although windfall support is good for boosting our work or taking care of urgent occurrences, a smaller but regular support is much more helpful since one can plan within that margin and still be productive in the long term”.

Some readers will remember that, when Kenya was added to our list of African countries, we made it clear that the Appeal could not afford to send funds on a regular basis. We were, and are, sending monthly amounts to DRC (\$400 CAD), Cameroon (\$300 CAD), and South Sudan (\$300 CAD). Despite being very close at times, we have never missed a monthly transfer. We send money to Rwanda and Kenya when there is a particular need.

Our worry now is that inflation will prevent our readers from being as generous as they would like to be. Nevertheless, we have decided to send Bishop John \$150 CAD every three

months. This is roughly equivalent to what we sent to him last year on an ad hoc basis. We hope that receiving this regularly will be helpful to him. Perhaps he will hire a secretarial assistant.

When I travelled years ago in Congo and Zambia, and later, during my journey to Cameroon, I was left with the strong impression that the future of the Christian church might belong to those who have the greatest need of the message of the Gospels. And that in time, as those who have rejected the faith have need once more, it will be those who were once so needy who rebuild Western Christianity.

May God preserve us all in these difficult times and may the Church in Africa continue to be our hope for the future.

In Christ,

David+
(Father David R. Marriott)

How to support these churches:

There are no deductions from money received by the Appeal; the full dollar amount is sent to Cameroon, Congo, South Sudan, Rwanda or Kenya. Administrative costs, eg, money transfer fees, are paid from gifts received for this purpose.

In Canada

The Parish of St. Bride

By  see <https://www.parishofstbride.com/africa-appeal>

or

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

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 St. Paul Missionary Society, The Anglican Catholic Church, PO Box 5223, Athens, GA 30604

In Australia and New Zealand

Anglican Catholic Church Missionary Diocese of Australia and New Zealand Appeal Fund

By cheque made out to: ACC (OP) DAT and sent to
Missionary Diocese of Australia and New Zealand
C/- 5 Fallow St
Chermside West, Qld. 4032 Australia

If you intend the donation for a special ACC (OP) project, please let us know, so we can designate it accordingly.

By Direct Deposit to:

Anglican Catholic Church (OP) Diocesan Administrative Trust
or ACC (OP) DAT (for short)
BSB 034-064
A/c 335868

Please note the intentions for the donation on the direct deposit details.

Please be aware that given the current Australian Law situation, we are unable to offer any tax deductible receipts.

In the UK

Cheques should be made payable to Anglican Catholic Church - Diocese of the United Kingdom and marked on the back "Mission". If you would like to designate a particular county please indicate which one. Mail to: Diocesan Treasurer, ACC Diocesan Office, St Nicholas House, 42-48 High Street, Lydd, Kent TN29 9AN.