

# *The Africa Appeal*

*St. Columba of Iona & St. Bride of Kildare,  
The Traditional Anglican Church of Canada (ACC-OP)*

*August 2012*

If someone was just to give you \$5000, how might this change your life? Would it have any sort of major impact? Oh, I know: it would help pay the mortgage some; it might also help you reduce that credit card debt you never meant to have: but a major impact on your life? I think not: at least for most of us living in North America, Australia, or Britain.

One of the more difficult tasks I have faced in the conversation about the two different societies: that of the 'West' and that we are working with in both Cameroon and Congo (DRC), is to deal with the difference in underlying values: whether it be the colossal difference between the poverty line here in Vancouver as compared to Cameroon and Congo, or the simple understanding of what money can buy, or what money you need each month to have a modest but reasonable lifestyle. And the conversation goes both ways: and neither understands the other, the differences are so great: but that understanding might be helped by the matter of \$5000.

Because, in Congo, the gift of \$5000 from Anglican Aid Abroad, in Australia, is enough to ensure that those children who were due to go to secondary school, but were not able because of the distance to walk and the danger from militias et al., will now be able to attend their school in the village of Mosho. \$5000 will build the building that is needed: the government will provide the service: staff and basic equipment. And this will change lives, it will change them in dramatic fashion: as it is only through education and a good understanding of good governance, and also of the mechanisms being used to oppress with which they are only too familiar, that the situation in Eastern Congo, in the two provinces of Nord and Sud Kivu: a beautiful land scarred by so much violence. Attached to this Appeal is a note from the Telegraph in the UK from August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/democraticrepublicofcongo/9450002/Half-a-million-Congolese-flee-in-face-of-Rwanda-backed-rebellion.html> And there is also, from Canadian sources, an Associated Press release at <http://www.vancouversun.com/Oxfam+says+hundreds+being+killed+raped+homes+torched+security+vacuum+east+Congo/7049984/story.html>

Now, these two articles refer to the province of Nord Kivu, and the capital Goma: but the same problems, the underlying challenges by militias to the federal Congolese forces, is not limited to the north, but has also infected Sud-Kivu, making it too dangerous for Fr. Steven Ayule-Milenge and his clergy to visit some of the parishes. But life goes on: if you have a family to feed, and children to get ready for school, and crops to cultivate – the fighting sweeps by, you escape into the jungle for a few days (or weeks) and then go back home, repair the damage, gather your belongings, and rebuild your lives: and the key to the future has to rest with the children and their school!

It is the same in Cameroon, but, thankfully without the overt violence and killing. But that which is the same is the understanding that it is through the provision of a sound educational foundation that we might see the ability of these children develop to an optimal level: they are only too well aware of the power of this education to give them each a great boost in their effort to achieve their full potential in life: and so it was wonderful to be able to assure Fr. Alphonse Ndukiye that after so many challenges in the first years of operation for the St. Augustine of Canterbury primary school that funding had been received sufficient to assure the payment of rent on a new building, ready for the new school year in September. In the spring, matters were becoming very serious: the teachers were working for no pay, in the hope that moneys would be found in due course, the rent was unpaid, and insufficient funds accrued here in Canada: when Anglican Aid Abroad was able to step into the breach, and assure that the year would end successfully. It has now been our turn, thanks to the generosity of a Canadian donor, to make sure that the school year 2012-2013, will get off to a good start: with our prayers that we shall be able to continue some support, even when parents are doing their best to cover day to day expenses for the school.

The school would prefer to own land, and not pay rent: it is better: but whereas land in some Congolese villages might be available at reasonable prices, or through the local authority, it is not so in Yaoundé, so until we are able to find some \$20,000, it will be necessary to keep on with the rental subsidy.

Many thanks for all who have been able to support these two churches: the participation has also to be shared with all those members of the parishes involved, for the great work and effort that they have put into the building of the churches.

- The widow's project in Mosho (DRC) is once more looking to lease land: they have demonstrated their success in the two crops harvested last year: it is coming time to seed a new crop: but they have to find the money for the lease: and, as you know, this project feeds their families, provides some income for clothes, school fees, & health care which would otherwise be lacking.
- In Cameroon, the 'Paroisse St. Eleuthère, Monatele' has been established and the parish is attempting to build their new church: but note what the community has given: a technician has drawn up the plans, and has estimated the needs for planks, roofing sheets and nails. The people in the community have given the land for the church, as well as the trees which will provide the lumber for the construction. What is needed? It is simple: money is necessary to pay for the planks to be sawed at a local sawmill, for transport of the wood, so that building might continue: but note that this is a partnership where local parish communities do as much as they can to complete the projects, but know that they do need some extra help from those of us in our part of the world.

It may be that at some future date, the debt will be repaid by our African brothers and sisters in Christ, coming to the aid of the west – so little by little, we can make sure that their success will allow them to come to our aid in the future, as we have tried to do for them now.

In Christ,

*David+*

There are no deductions from moneys received by the Appeal: the full dollar amount is sent to either Cameroon 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 11070B Sunshine Coast Highway, Halfmoon Bay, BC, V0N 1Y2

*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:**

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.*

From the 'Daily Telegraph', August 3, 2012.

## Half a million Congolese flee in face of Rwanda-backed rebellion

A rebel army has used guns and recruits supplied by a British ally to help create almost half a million new refugees in the Democratic Republic of Congo, according to the United Nations.



About 470,000 people have left their homes since the rebellion broke out Photo: AFP/GETTY



By [David Blair](#), Mike Pflanz in Nairobi

4:49PM BST 03 Aug 2012

The population of a single camp, known as Kibati, has trebled in the last 10 days alone to reach 30,000 people.

"Many of them have no shelter," said Marie Cacace, from Oxfam's operation in [Congo's](#) eastern city of Goma. "This is not the first time that many have been displaced and people are still arriving at the camp every day."

A new rebel group, styling itself the "M23" movement, began a mutiny inside Congo's army in April. Its fighters now occupy an expanse of volcanoes and rainforest near the eastern border with Rwanda. Much of the local population has fled, with about 470,000 people leaving their homes since the rebellion broke out four months ago, according to the UN.

President Paul Kagame's government in neighbouring [Rwanda](#), a long-standing British ally, has given the insurgents "direct assistance", found a UN investigation. This included breaking an arms embargo by sending "weapons and ammunition" into Congo, along with "Rwandan youth and demobilised ex-combatants" who became rebel fighters.

Mr Kagame also sent Rwandan troops into his neighbour, with his army intervening "into Congolese territory to reinforce M23", found the UN. Bosco Ntaganda, the rebel leader, has been indicted for alleged war crimes by the International Criminal Court and banned from leaving Congo. But the investigators photographed a house that he owns in the Rwandan town of Gisenyi.

In all, the UN reported "overwhelming evidence demonstrating that senior [Rwandan] officers, in their official capacities, have been backstopping the rebels through providing weapons, military supplies, and new recruits".

Rwanda has adamantly denied the accusation, but Germany, Holland and America have all reduced their aid. Britain, Rwanda's largest bilateral donor, has chosen not to follow. So far, no portion of Britain's £75 million programme has been suspended. Instead, London has "delayed" a payment of £16 million that would otherwise have entered Rwandan government coffers last month.

Inside Congo, many people fear that the rebels will advance on Goma, the largest city in the east. If so, Kibati camp would be vulnerable because it lies on the main road entering the city from the north. "What will happen if the rebels come to Goma? They will have to go via Kibati, so that's a huge risk for the people there," said Ms Cacace.

Located under the smoking peak of an active volcano, Mount Nyiragongo, Kibati sits on the black lava left by past eruptions.

Annie, a 22-year-old refugee, arrived in the camp two weeks ago with her three children. "I am scared that the rebels will come here and then what will happen to us?" she said. "Although they [my children] are young, I know that child recruitment is happening. We have lived in a state of fear for months."