

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

June 2012

In Yaoundé, Cameroon, when it rains, the deluge pours down on your head: it is as if you are in the shower: and now is the rainy season. So when Fr. Alphonse and Fr. Jean-Blaise had made a visit to the new parish in Monatele and were returning to home in Yaoundé, the car broke down, and so they started to walk: and then it started to rain. With nowhere to find shelter, they managed to get back to the city, but the result has been a fresh bout of malaria for both of them! Now, what do you do when your doctor tells you that you need such and such a medication: but you have no money? As Fr. Alphonse writes: ‘All the priests are living in poor circumstances: The owner of the house where Fr. Petrus lives, which is near to the parish church, so that he can take care of the (daily) parish activities, has told him that he will no longer allow him to stay there rent free: all the small amounts that we have been able to give the owner have long gone: as you know, Fr. Petrus plays a large part in the life of the parish, and I do not want to see him having to live far away from the parish church.’

Because of Australian government regulations, money from there might not be used for any clergy or parish support: this has meant that the generosity of our Australian brothers and sisters will permit the primary school of ‘St. Augustin de Canterbury’ to pay the rent as well as to pay the teachers, and the children will be assured of their place in the classroom. So the school is in good shape, even though the land still needs to be purchased for a new school to be built; also, the sewing school is growing and in good shape and the computer school is working well: it is just that the clergy need a place to live and enough money to buy food, and the medications which they need for such things as malaria! Can you help? With an accrual of small amounts over each month, the benefit to the church in Cameroon will be immense.

In the parish St. Francois d’Assise, the village of Mosho, in Congo: The widows’ project has brought results: we have seen the benefit both for the children in these families, but also in the community as a whole, where people are able to see that there is a way forward and that the future can be brighter, especially for the children. It is this that proves the focus of this appeal letter.

The political situation in the entire region of both the province of Nord-Kivu and Sud-Kivu is very fragile, with armed militias warring for control of the places where there is a good opportunity to profit – illegally, from the trade in mineral ores mined from the range of hills called ‘les Monts Mitumba. This has meant that projects such as the widows’ food project become yet more important, as it is by improving nutrition for the children that you allow them a chance to make progress at school, and it is by making good progress at school that we might see a new generation of competent leaders, able to see beyond the promise of quick riches.

The widows’ project has made their second harvest: this time 380 kg of beans has been gathered in: the manioc is still growing, to be harvested at the end of July. At that time, the land will be returned to the landlord, who will take charge of the farm: but in the fall, it is hoped that we will

be able to assist these enterprising widows of St. Francois d'Assise, Moshosho, to make a new lease for the land, and continue this very valuable work.

If you look on the government of Canada website for travel advice for this part of Congo (DRC) it is very clear:

(http://www.voyage.gc.ca/countries_pays/report_rapport-eng.asp?id=332000)

OFFICIAL WARNING:

Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada advises against all travel to the eastern and northeastern areas of the DRC.

Points of entry from Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda

Except for the city of Bukavu -- where the situation is somewhat safer but where we advise against non-essential travel -- points of entry/exit from Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda should be avoided at all times because of the continuing insecurity and lawlessness in these areas. The DRC borders with Burundi and Rwanda could be closed on short notice.

Provinces of North and South Kivu

You are advised against all travel to the Kivus, including the city of Goma. Armed conflicts continue despite the signing of peace accords in 2008 and the presence of UN forces. In January 2009, Rwandan government troops and the Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC) of the DRC launched large-scale joint military operations against rebels of the Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda in North Kivu. Members of armed groups involved in these clashes continue to plunder and commit violent criminal acts against civilians, including murder, kidnapping, armed assault and rape. The resulting humanitarian crisis has contributed to the increase in population movements between June and September 2011 with this trend being more acute in the eastern provinces of the DRC. In addition, the number of security incidents and attacks against humanitarian workers has increased in 2011 with many cases reported now in urban centres.

New clashes erupted in North Kivu province in April 2012 following the announcement of President Joseph Kabila's intentions to arrest General Bosco Ntaganda. Deserters of the FARDC loyal to Ntaganda are currently fighting against the military and police units in the area.

Local businesses and services, including the airport, are often disrupted in the provinces of North and South Kivu. Canadians in the region should carefully evaluate their need to remain there.

But if the province of Sud Kivu is home, it is where you are from, where you live as best as you can, you really do not have an option, but to live your life in the best way possible for your family and yourself. Even if the situation is so bad that the government aid agencies are not prepared to come to your village, you have to cope: even if the large charities like World Vision or Oxfam are unable to function because it is simply too dangerous for their staff, you have to carry on living as best you can. And the one place that you can find some solace, support and encouragement is the church: where the Eglise Anglicane Catholique du Congo (ACC-OP) is ready and able to ensure that all moneys which we can send to them will be carefully managed and used for the essential programmes for each community.

With God's help, and the schools in action, we might see a far brighter future for so many whose lives have suffered immense deprivation: we are on the path to this achievement in both Cameroon and Congo.

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 Cameroon, the concept of education as a key to the future development of each individual and thereby the society as a whole has been well rooted in the leaders of the church, and especially in the mind of Fr. Alphonse Ndutiye. Once more, we have cooperation between the government and the church, working together to provide opportunity to those who would otherwise miss the chance to learn basic skills in their youth.

However, the church in Cameroon has experienced rapid growth in demands placed by the people of the parishes – so that the idea of growth by one parish each year has had to be set aside, to allow for the development of more parishes necessary to respond to these growing demands.

What this has meant is that there are parishes where the Mass has to be said outside: often under a tree for some shelter: but it means that in the heavy rain, just as in Congo, it becomes very difficult to protect the altar from the down pouring rain. In the early days, we were able to send materials so that Fr. Alphonse could build a shelter over the altar: the people had to be out in the rain, but they would accept this in order to have the possibility of worshipping God in the Anglican Catholic Church of Cameroon.

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.

In Christ,

David+