

The Africa Appeal

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

September 2012

In Cameroon, especially in the cities like Yaoundé, the crime rate is very high: anyone perceived to have even a little money or possessions are at risk of burglary by the many that have even less: the crime rate is so high despite the efforts of the police and civil authority. The British government has the following on their website: 'Incidents of mugging and banditry, sometimes armed are a problem throughout Cameroon but prevalent in Yaoundé, Douala and Limbé. There have been attacks in the Mont Febe area of Yaoundé: we advise against going there alone.'

The Canadian government adds, 'Violent crime is on the rise, particularly in Yaoundé and Douala. Armed burglaries and attacks are common, particularly in urban centres, in tourist areas in the north, and on rural highways. Do not resist robberies as perpetrators may use violence. Violent assaults on taxi passengers can occur. Petty theft is prevalent and occurs on trains, buses, and taxis. The Hilton and Mont Fébé hotels offer a shuttle service from Nsimalen Airport to downtown Yaoundé. You should use this service or arrange to be met, especially after dark. Avoid isolated and poorer areas of Yaoundé, in particular la Briquetterie, Mokolo, and Mvog-Ada. Canadians should avoid travelling alone or after dark. Do not show signs of affluence.'

So we should not be surprised that amongst those who are thought to 'have a little money' includes parish clergy: especially if the thieves think that there was money in the collection plate! And now, Fr. Alphonse has had his home robbed, the living room left bare: but his work continues: perhaps we can learn from such dogged persistence and determination! I spoke with Fr. Alphonse today on the phone: I asked if they had left his bed, but he said that no, it had been taken, so he has had to sleep in the church for now! ([Late News September 6th: last evening, we sent Fr. Alphonse \\$200: he has bought a bed a coffee maker and some pots & pans.](#))

As the government has decided that all schools must be registered, and to be registered they have to have title to property, Fr. Alphonse and his board of directors for the Ecole St. Augustin, have arranged to construct a new school on property to be paid for over time: Anglican Aid Abroad gave funds to allow the school to clear past debts and be viable for the future, and we have been able to provide sufficient financing to allow this project to move forward, in full compliance with the new government policy. Registration for the new school year has been on-going as the building is made ready.

The government is supplying some of the books necessary for the school, but there are shortages of textbooks for various grade levels. It may be that we can source some surplus books from the French language school boards: but then we have to ship them to Cameroun, and this is very costly.

Whichever way, either local purchase or shipping used we will, with your generous help, do our best to ensure a good education becomes possible for these children.

At the same time, the Sewing school has been expanded to a second location: providing a good basic fashion education for, at present, 17 more students. The first school, dedicated to Ste. Marguerite Marie Alacoque, is at the parish of St. André, Ngoulmekong, Yaoundé, and the second is some 7 Kms distant, dedicated to Ste. Agnès des Béatitudes.

In a country where it is politically correct to be Christian, the Christmas Mass at each of the four parishes will be broadcast on national television across the nation of Cameroon: which will in turn bring more people to the Anglican Catholic Church in Cameroon.

In the DRC (Congo), Fr. Steven is struggling with the dangers inherent in being a priest in a war zone: the escalation of violence (again) has proven very disturbing: but against this backdrop, the new school in Mosho is now in operation, with the three primary grades meeting in the morning followed by two secondary classes in the afternoon. Fr. Steven adds that this will further provided employment for 7 people in the village.

The war zone is to the north, but if you try and take your farm produce to the next town, you will encounter barriers across the way, and militias demanding a tax of \$1 - \$5 to pass by: imagine the damage some 10 or more of these 'tolls' will cause to the profit you had thought to make from selling the produce!

Here is a report by Fr. Steven as published in "The Anglican Missioner", A Seasonal Journal of the Anglican Catholic Church, Missionary Diocese of Australia & New Zealand, and Bishop Iverach:

République Démocratique du Congo

By: The Very Reverend Steven AYULE-MILENGE (Bishop Elect)

'For 11 years now the Republic Democratic of Congo has endured wars that have plunged many families into mourning with very ominous consequences and perverse effects. The Province of South Kivu where people lived only with agriculture and small commerce [has been] stripped of all by the foreign armies and the local militias. Most infrastructures have been sabotaged or burned down. Soldiers and armed civilians rape women and girls (including minors) and have made many widows and orphans. Words fail to describe the atrocities, misery and the traumatism of which our people endure. Some people, following these unhappy events, call [for] the death that lingers to come and take them, being destitute of the necessities of living. Women are raped everyday by the militia army, which is a shame act in the African's culture. Raped women are considered as prostitute[s] in the villages.

To recover the joy to live these women have a need of the psycho-socio-economic support. The children who were born from sexual violence are victims because they are not accepted in the Congolese's society or community. The rapist father is considered as a criminal and his mother a prostitute. With that situation the child is isolated in the community. He doesn't have right to be registered at the communal office because he is not born in legal marriage. The mother also is refused by her husband or family. The mothers arrive at the Church to request assistance; their children often become street kids, smoking hemp, drinking, and robbing.

The Missionary Diocese of Congo has tried to feed and pay school fees of some kids with assistance from Father David Marriott's parish in Canada but the resources were very limited. It is very difficult for the diocese to take care of school fees for all children. Our Diocesan Development Office has thought the solution, the only way in which the church may be able to help them, is education through the diocesan's schools - primary and secondary. The Anglican Catholic Church, Missionary Diocese of Congo was allowed by Congolese's Government to open 25 schools around the Province South Kivu on condition it build the school, then Government will pay the teacher's salary.



The diocese needs assistance to build modest primary or secondary school buildings with planks (see picture) in the villages or townships. One school of six classrooms, bureau and seven toilets may be built with a budget of \$US 7,000.

The second project is to help the women victim of sexual violence with US\$100 **capital for a small business** to help feed her family because the African woman is the main agent of the development and the family's survival.

The third project (for raped girls) is the **training in professional service** by learning sewing.



Others prefer to breed goats (a breeding goat costs US\$50) and we have started this project in the parish of Saint Francis of Assisi- Moshosho with the help of Father Alan Koller of the Anglican Church of America; the project has given good results for widowed women.

The breeding of rabbit is so very important for food sustenance of orphans and poor kids, to

fight malnutrition in the villages; **rabbits are also raised**, a breeder rabbit cost US\$15.

Another project is the need of **bikes or bicycles for the clergy**. Our priests are walking long distance of about 50Km to visit the chapels of his parish. A bike costs US\$100 in the local shop. No one of our 18 priests has a transport means; even I as bishop elect I am walking long distance to visit the parish. The roads are very bad and other place the fragility of the State has allowed

continued human rights abuses in the ongoing Kivu conflict which need the leaders to be very strong and work hard and also be brave and wise in his Ministry to confront many issues.'



(Note from Fr. David: when I was leaving Congo in 2007, I was able to leave enough funds for four bicycles: but that was now 5 years ago, and they, the bikes, have had to endure some very hard journeys!)

The widows' farm project in the parish of St. Francis of Assisi, Mosho has just harvested some 500 kg. of manioc (cassava): this is the staple of the diet in the region: the crop has to be cut into small pieces, pounded in a mortar, and then left to dry in the sun for a time, when it can be cooked: to get rid of toxins, it has to be boiled, and as it is stirred, it forms a sort of undercooked dough, which is then eaten, accompanied by some flavour from a gravy or soup. The parish has determined that the full amount of 500 kg. should be held for the families who have grown it, to ensure adequate diet for the next months, given the violence occurring in the region.

In a little more than one month, this church, the 'Eglise Catholique Anglicane du Congo', will have its first Bishop: Fr. Steven is due to be consecrated Bishop at the College of Bishops meeting in Florida in October: Pray for him.

A note as to why we concentrate on Congo and Cameroon: it is simply that we are working in collaboration with Archbishop Haverland and the Missionary Society of St. Paul, who support many of the other nascent churches around the world, but have entrusted us – in a sense by default to try and help the two churches which have been received from the old Traditional Anglican Communion. This stretches our resources for now, but the future will perhaps bring us into contact with a wider range of needs: there are many out there!) There are also constraints on our work by the requirements of the Canadian Revenue Agency, and the office for Canadian Charities.

DRM+

How to give support to these churches:

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.