



DR Congo

Bukavu Diocese (with Goma)

Kindu Diocese

North Kivu Diocese

November 2019



CMSI Global Update

Dear DR Congo links & supporters...

Ebola continues to be the greatest concern of our partners in DRC. The border checks between DRC, South Sudan and Uganda have proved effective in preventing any further cases in those nations, but the number of cases in DRC continue to grow. Fear and mistrust of the vaccine and treatment clinics, mixed with ongoing local conflict, has resulted in treatment centres being attacked. The church has a strong role in promoting awareness of suitable precautions and reducing the fear surrounding the treatment centres. Our partners in DRC are thankful for your prayers and request that you will not stop praying for them at this time of high risk.

Both N. Kivu and Bukavu Diocese requested funds to help them set up WHO recommended health precautions to attempt to contain the spread of Ebola. Parishes linked with these two Diocese were able to make very generous contributions to help provide Chlorinated water washing stations at churches and other Diocesan institutions.

From 22-24th October Archbishop Masimango gathered the Bishops at a round table event entitled "Faith in times of Ebola". This was the title of a manual and training sessions written out of the experience of churches in West Africa during their Ebola Crisis in 2013-15. It was agreed that the church would undertake further training workshops to strengthen the capacity of religious leaders to respond and to make training available in French, English and Swahili so that local leaders can pass on the message appropriately.

This Archbishop of Canterbury stood with the church in DRC in its struggle against Ebola when he joined the 37th session of the House of Bishops in Goma recently. Archbishop Justin Welby travelled from Goma to Butembo, the home of Bishop Isesomo, and headquarters of North Kivu Diocese. There he was able to see the impact of Ebola on communities and paid a visit to an Ebola treatment Centre.



Archbishop Justin Welby visits an Ebola treatment centre in Butembo.

Mama Mbambu recently wrote of how the fear of Ebola remains, but she ended with thanks to God for answering prayers for the children of the Diocese: "We thank you for your pleading (in prayer) because it is not easy. We pray for you too. Thank you for your daily prayers because until now there is no case of Ebola among the children."



Visit of the Bishop to the Compassion for Children in Distress Centre

At the Compassion for Children in Distress Centre (CCD) Mama tells us that by far the most of the monthly funds go on medical care for the babies. Simple safe nutrition is important for these little ones.

We are thankful for a new parish link for N. Kivu who will be assisting with welfare needs of the children in the Diocese.



New house completed by Congo Church Association/St. Andrew's church UK

Bishop Isesomo and his team have been busy with church planting and evangelism in spite of the extra workload from Ebola. Recently the Bishop was able to attend a Langham preaching programme which he found useful for thinking about new discipleship initiatives. He asks for prayer especially for Lubero territory where new churches are being planted and therefore new buildings needed. The bricks and other materials for building can often be procured locally but the iron sheets for roofing is more difficult to afford.

In Bukavu children's health has also been a priority. Rev. Muhindo Matabaro Jean-Paul reported that a new paediatric room was dedicated in St. Matthew's hospital. There is capacity to host 50 children in this new facility. A ground breaking program on Mental Health for pastors, youth, women and men is currently being implemented in the Diocese through seminars and conferences by the specialist in Psychiatry. Mental health issues are often labelled as spiritual problems, and cause much stigma for those affected and their families. Yet the church is making every effort to expand understanding and give both treatment and acceptance to those impacted by the trauma of war and many other mental health issues.

In Kindu the Archbishop's priority is the building of schools: he says that "Educating marginalised, poor people is a good way to fight poverty, and free their minds".

With the support of link parishes the Archbishop hopes to be able to complete up to three out of the ten school building improvements which are required. Pray for the children of Kalongola, Alunguli and Milanga villages as the church seeks to improve their standard of schooling.



Archbishop Justin Welby with the House of Bishops in Goma October 2019

With best wishes for the coming Advent Season,

Linda

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