



Republic of Cameroon



République Démocratique du Congo



Republic of South Sudan

The Africa Appeal

Epiphany/Lent 2016

Dear Supporters of the Africa Appeal,

For this newsletter, I would like to focus on the achievements of Bishop Garang in South Sudan where, despite the many serious concerns that exist due to the recent war, hope is emerging (both politically and for the Church).

Great joy in South Sudan as the new Cathedral takes shape

I have just received a note from Bishop Garang in South Sudan in which he writes, “It was a great joy for the congregation because [of] the people who had never seen electric light in their lives and it was a great encouragement to them and to the entire Diocese.” He is speaking about the local response to the great cathedral project in the Diocese of Aweil.

It is hard for us to comprehend the joy which people feel when they see their home community starting to take shape and become a true community. What is being achieved by Bishop Garang, his clergy and people in South Sudan is very much like the work which was started in Britain in the 19th century by the Oxford movement in East London, Portsmouth and other places where the quality of life was poor – like the quality of life in South Sudan.

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 and South Sudan. These fast-growing churches, together with the parishes of the TACC, 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) and Father Alphonse Ndutiye



Above - Throngs attend services at the new Cathedral in South Sudan



The interior of the new Cathedral in South Sudan

Bishop Garang reports, “We got funds from Bishop Stephen and his congregation at St. Matthew’s, Newport Beach, USA; and I am happy to report that we have been able to do the plastering, painting, construction of toilet/bathroom, made benches and installed solar panels, which were the big concern and have put the solar panel also in the church and now there is light and even during Christmas the congregation celebrated Christmas with the lights and the new year also.”

The goal of this major project has been to give everyone hope for the future, at a time when the future didn’t look good. For “if our community can achieve this, then we can achieve far more when we can take charge of the future for our families”. This is how people feel and they are very thankful for the support that has been given.

Possibility of political solution to provide peace in South Sudan

A ‘Huffington Post’ report states: “The peace agreement that (South Sudan) President Salva Kiir finally signed on August 26, 2015) - that will hopefully ensure an end to South Sudan's current conflict - includes justice provisions that offer a chance to break a decades-long cycle of brutal abuses that South Sudanese have endured with no hope of recourse.”

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/elise-kepler/hope-for-justice-for-sout_b_8055438.html

The Bishop describes the situation in South Sudan, “Thousands of people are starving and many are sick and there is fear that many will lose their lives as a result of starvation and diseases if nothing is done. So we need to pray for God’s intervention to let the needs be known. We thank God for the peace and we need to pray for reconciliation, forgiveness and lasting peace in South Sudan. Parts of the team of the rebels arrived Juba in December and some are expected this month and the formation of unity government needs to be done this month. There is economic crisis in the country which needs prayers for God’s intervention.”



The faithful fill the Cathedral - standing room only at the back

The Bishop described the effect of this economic crisis, “The rise of the prices because of the economic situation in the country has made things to be very difficult and life difficult for the people of South Sudan. A bag of cement was 150 pounds (CDN\$36) but now has gone up to 700 pounds (CDN\$167). We were able to do plastering, painting of the church inside, construction of toilet/bathroom, made some benches

and installed solar panels. We still need US\$7,000 for three more solar panels, benches and toilets/bathroom and US\$25,000 for fencing of the church compound. Therefore we ask for your prayers for God’s provision and thank you very much for your concern and continued support.”

Pastoral care priorities for Bishop Garang

As Bishop Garang travels throughout his Diocese, he distributes much needed food, supplies and medical support.





Newly constructed toilet block in South Sudan

A major concern for the health of people living in very primitive conditions is the need for hygienic treatment of waste matter. In Central and East Africa, the second major cause of sickness (after malaria) is dysentery which is directly related to a lack of clean drinking water and a lack of toilet facilities. The people of Aweil, with financial help from

California, have built a toilet block.

Exchange rate issues: your donation is especially important now

Most of you will be aware that the value of the Canadian dollar relative to the US dollar has declined recently. Our dollar is now worth only 70% of the American dollar. Since the banking and foreign exchange systems in some African countries are not well-developed, funds sent to the Democratic Republic of Congo are dispensed in US Dollars. This, combined with transaction costs, is having a significant impact on the local value of the funds we send overseas, especially to the countries where most of our support is sent: Congo and Cameroon.

In Cameroon, A family offered the land to the church. Fr. Alphonse accepted the land in good faith: but as with an old testament 'gift' (Abraham's 'purchase' of the Hittite's tomb for Sarah...Genesis 23.9), some payment was expected - in the tradition of the country. The land title transfer was made, but the family were hit by medical problems during the wife's pregnancy, and so resorted to the traditional courts for help: where the ruling was for payment to be made by the church.

The situation was made more complex because the land title transfer was also important: the Cameroon government required any church to own land before it could be officially recognised: important for Fr. Alphonse who, with help and support from the Archbishop, had to see off a 'false bishop' who appeared & claimed to be the valid bishop. Fr. Alphonse was successful because the ACC has met the government regulations. This sort of situation is foreign to most of us, with social services and a safety net which can catch us - we pray!

I encourage all of you to pray for South Sudan as they move towards peace, for the continued success of the Church there, and for the work of Bishop Garang. We must also remember in our prayers the Churches in Congo and Cameroon where there is great hunger for the Word of God and where rapid church growth is creating financial challenges.

It is discouraging to think that our donations have less power due to the unfavourable exchange rate, but we must not let that stop us from sending what we can. Even small donations can make a difference in what Bishop Garang, Bishop Ayule-Milenge (Congo), and Father Alphonse Ndutiye

(Cameroon) can accomplish. If we receive more from our benefactors, we might even be able to offset the drop in value of the Canadian dollar.

In Christ,

David+


(Father David R. Marriott SSC)

How to give support to these churches

There are no deductions from moneys received by the Appeal; the full dollar amount is sent to Cameroon, South Sudan or Congo. Any overheads are paid from gifts received for this purpose.

In Canada

The Parish of St. Bride

By  (new!) see <http://parishofstbride.webs.com/>
or
c/o 20895 Camwood Ave., Maple Ridge, BC V2X 2N9

The Parish of St. Columba,
c/o Box 894, Sechelt, BC V0N 3A0

*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

Anglican Aid Abroad, PO Box 256, GRANGE, QLD 4051

Or

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 the UK

Cheques should be made payable to “Anglican Catholic Church - Diocese of the United Kingdom” and marked on the back: “Missions – Cameroon, Congo or S. Sudan” as appropriate and sent to:
Diocesan Treasurer, ACC Diocesan Office, St Nicholas House, 42-48 High Street, Lydd, Kent
TN29 9AN