



*Republic of
Cameroon*



*République
Démocratique
du Congo*



*Republic of
South Sudan*



*Republic
of Kenya*



Rwanda

The Africa Appeal Advent 2021

Dear Supporters of the Africa Appeal,

A lot has been happening since our last Appeal. There has been good news – Bishop Alphonse’s security wall in Cameroon is on the way to completion; Bishop John’s seminary is developing well. But storms, COVID and accidents continue to be part of the lives of our fellow Christians in Africa.

Three fatherless children in Congo now attend school

Long time readers of this Appeal may recall that six years ago we reported on the plight of three young women who were raped by unknown assailants: Faraja, Wivine and Baraka. They subsequently were found to be pregnant. Africa Appeal helped them pay the maternity bill and bought them each a sewing machine so that they would be able to earn a living. They have since managed to make a living from sewing.

Three children were born: Elie (Elijah), Gloire (Glory), and Anaweza. Children in Congo born from unions with unknown men do not know their families (in effect, they

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, South Sudan, Kenya and Rwanda. These fast-growing churches 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), Bishop Alphonse Ndutiye (Cameroon), Bishop John Kamande Ndegwa (Kenya) and Fr Niyibizi Mvuka Chadrack (Rwanda). Previous issues of this Appeal can be found at

<https://www.traditionalanglican.ca/news/africaappeal/newslett>

are rejected by their families). It is the Anglican Catholic Church, Holy Trinity Parish, Bukavu that they consider to be their family. Over the years, these children have been looked after all day by the parish until their mothers come in the evening to pick them up. Bishop Steven, in particular, would look after them in his office.

These children have a problem attending school because the Congolese government has not yet passed a law recognizing children born of sexual violence; they are only registered in the civil registers to obtain their certificates of nationality. Another issue is money. Normally, the children would have started going to school last year, but their mothers could not afford to send them.¹ On October 4, 2021, Bishop Steven enrolled them in a modest primary school near the parish. School fees including supplies and uniforms are \$500 USD each per school year. The bishop cannot pay these without outside assistance.

The Appeal is sending \$700 CAD (\$500 USD) to Bishop Steven for the school fees for a third of the year for the three children. We are hoping that we might receive donations to cover the rest of the year, and on into the future, so that they will be able to continue their studies.

Here are photos of the children. They are, from left to right, Gloire Matabaro the son of Faraja, Anaweza Mutayongwa the daughter of Baraka and Elie Mushamuka Batumike the son of Wivine. The second photo shows them in their school uniforms.



¹ Link to recent World Bank article about education reform in DRC. <https://blogs.worldbank.org/education/free-primary-schooling-drc-where-we-are-road-reform>. Another link to a different point of view from Equal Times. Equal Times is a trilingual news and opinion website focusing on labour, human rights, culture, development, the environment and the economy from a social justice point of view. <https://www.equaltimes.org/in-2019-the-democratic-republic-of?lang=en#.Ya-yNb3MLIU>

These children have asked Bishop Steven a difficult question. Being at school has shown them that they are different from other children in having no fathers to attend school meetings with the other parents. One remarked that he has never seen his dad at home; the other children around them have mothers and fathers, but he has only a mother. Bishop Steven asked them whether they thought they were all God's children. They said yes. So, he said, "Why are you still looking for a father; you have your most High Father who is in heaven?" One child said he still did not understand so Bishop Steven explained that God is represented by your Papa Bishop who is in front of you with his partners who help you to study. They answered, "Ah! We now understand".

If these children are to have a chance of overcoming the circumstances of their births, they must receive some education so they can help themselves. Note that you can designate your Appeal donation to this purpose.

On October 10th, we heard from Bishop Steven about an armed attack on the Church of the Holy Trinity in Bukavu. Their sacristan was hit on the head with the butt of a gun and then severely beaten. The attackers claimed to be there to kill the Bishop and when they entered his office and found no cash, they broke into the office of the secretary-treasurer and took a laptop and \$200 from the cash register. They took two more laptops from the Diocesan Office for Medical Works and the Schools Coordination Office plus \$112. Five doors are so severely damaged that they must be replaced along with their locks. The laptops and doors must be replaced. If you can help it would be much appreciated.

The attackers made it clear to the sacristan that they were "sent to kill your bishop". The police were called and arrived 30 minutes after the thieves had left. Last week the thieves attacked the Saint François Xavier Parish of the Roman Catholic Church.

The lawlessness of eastern Congo and the inadequacies of the police are realities that Bishop Steven and his people must cope with on a daily basis. On November 3rd, organized violence erupted. At around 1am, the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Congolese National Police (PNC) were attacked by an unidentified rebel group armed with heavy weapons. A particular target was the Kavumu airport (37 km from Bukavu) with its military and police camps. In Bukavu itself, fighting between the rebel group and the DRC army and police forces was concentrated in the north, west and south areas of the city – not the eastern side near the Rwandan border which is where Bishop Steven's Holy Trinity Church is located.

Bishop Steven reported that the army asked the population to remain calm and not to go out of their homes. Later in the day, the governor of South Kivu Province announced on television that order had been restored and that it was safe to go about your business. The government forces captured 36 rebels, killed 6 and wounded 4. On the government side, two soldiers and a police officer were killed.

On October 24th, Bishop Steven ordained to the diaconate two men as well as a priest for Bukavu. The two laymen had no money to buy their cassocks and clergy shirts. A cassock, locally made, costs \$50 USD and a clergy shirt \$15 USD, as compared to around \$50 here in Canada. The diocese will provide each with stole, collar insert, and New Testament. The Appeal was able to send the money for this.

The new deacons will be working in new mission parishes: Mr. Pierre Damien Bitute at Sainte Agathe Ikoma in the Walungu Territory and Mr. Paulin Tshongo Polepole at Saint Joseph, Goma, Province de Nord-Kivu. The new priest, the Reverend Jacques Kusinza Kahuyenge, serves at Saint Michel Bagira in Bukavu. Please pray for their safety and the important work they do.

Security still huge concern in Cameroon

Bishop Alphonse writes from Cameroon that diocesan finances are improving. The sewing workshops are providing some income; \$220 was raised by making school uniforms. There is a small laying chicken project producing eggs for the children. Bishop Alphonse provides pastoral service in a hospital and in the prison and receives about \$90 every three weeks depending on the hours worked. Various crops are raised: cassava, carrots, cabbage, eggplants, manioc and bananas. Recently a harvest of cassava sold for \$200, however soon after, heavy rains damaged crops and on October 23rd, ripe bananas and manioc were stolen which was a grave loss both financially and nutritionally.

In late October, the parish of St. Matthew the Apostle in Ottawa voted to send \$5,000 CAD to Africa Appeal for Bishop Alphonse to complete the wall around the Cathedral compound – see the last Appeal for a description of the work already completed on this project. We hope that the wall will keep out miscreants who steal and damage property, affecting the food supply for the Bishop and his family and hindering his work building the church.

Bishop Alphonse started buying materials in November. His plan is to have all the materials on hand when the workers start so there will be no delays due to shortages. This, and having money to pay wages promptly, should enable him to find and retain good tradesmen. In actual fact, heavy rains, COVID restrictions and difficulty finding transport to bring the sand from a far off river bed have caused difficulties. But Bishop Alphonse is persevering and has made good progress.

Bishop Alphonse writes that he was able to help two of his clergy who were ill; they are doing a little better now. “Elsewhere in the villages our parishes and chapels are very poor. But our priests and catechists have the fields of agriculture and some livestock.” To summarize his report to Synod, he has a total of 3,390 communicants with 1,590 in good standing. He has six priests and three deacons to administer 12 parishes, five missions and five congregations.



In mid-November, there was a hurricane in Yaounde with wind and heavy rain which brought down four of the nine poles that bring electricity from the main road to the Cathedral compound. The cost to install new poles and restore electricity is over \$1,000 CAD which is beyond the capacity of Africa Appeal, although the Appeal was able to send \$500. We have contacted Father Neil Edlin of

the Diocese of the Holy Trinity which has agreed to send the balance (and more) through the St. Paul's Missionary Society. Lack of power has meant that the electric floodlights which are an important part of cathedral security do not work. With restored lighting and a completed wall, we hope that theft and vandalism will be a thing of the past for Bishop Alphonse.

Growing Rwandan Church is building an addition on St. Barnabas church in Gatovu

At the end of October, Bishop Shadrack in Rwanda visited St. Barnabas, Gatovu in the northwest part of Rwanda. As described in the last Appeal, this is one of the parishes that we have supported in the past by sending funds to enable them to conform to government regulations regarding cleaning and social distancing to fight COVID.



There were 800 parishioners at St. Barnabas before the COVID pandemic started and the church was already crowded. Now, with new rules about seating distances the crowding problem is even more acute. Only a handful of people are able to attend the service each week. They plan to build an addition to their church (5 m by 20 m) for which they estimate \$700 will be necessary to buy building blocks. They already have stones for the foundation and sand and the parishioners will provide their labour. We have been able to send \$500 to enable them to get started and are hoping that there will be a donation of \$200 to enable them to finish the job.

Kenyan Church focuses on clergy education

The following is paraphrased from Bishop John Ndegwa's report to the Provincial Synod in October 2021. It describes Bishop John's very organized approach to training clergy to serve in his Diocese.



The Anglican Catholic Diocese of Kenya (ACCK) was planted as a missionary diocese by the Anglican Catholic Church in 2007. At that time membership consisted of 2 families with neither building nor canon to inherit. Since then, the Church has grown to include several parishes and missions. A few years ago, with a view toward accelerating growth, the ACCK received 15 pastors from local Churches. However, they were unwilling to conform to ACC faith and norms, and subsequently left en masse. As a result, at the 2015 Diocesan Synod, the ACCK passed a resolution to cease reception of clergy from other Churches, but instead to recruit men from within the ACCK to train as deacons and priests.

The Church commenced seminary studies in what has recently become known as Saint Jude Seminary². Applications to the seminary are evaluated on a case-by case basis. Full training for the priesthood requires a two-year accelerated course of study: in year 1, postulants are trained as deacons; in year 2, deacons are trained to be priests. Seminarians are also trained and encouraged to develop income-generating projects that can be used to support their future parishes.

In September 2021 a new group of seminarians began their studies. During the academic year, seven postulants will be trained as deacons, and three deacons will train as priests; next year the seven deacons will study for the priesthood.

The amount required for training a deacon to priesthood is \$600 per year. Additionally, the new priests need chalices, ciborium, patens, and vestments - especially chasubles and matching stoles. Donations of these items, or funds to purchase them, would be much appreciated.

Should God call you to “adopt a deacon” by supporting him in training for priesthood, or to donate to the Seminary, Africa Appeal will gladly pass on your donation and, of course, provide you with a charitable tax receipt.

² www.acckenya.webs.com/seminary.htm

Some readers will remember that Bishop John is himself a student – of St. Bede’s Anglican Catholic Theological College based in Victoria, Canada. The tuition fee for one of their courses has increased from \$200 to \$300. Africa Appeal will continue to pay these fees as funds allow.

Bishop John was pleased to tell us that he has acquired 120 laying chickens from a reputable farm and they are expected to begin producing soon. The idea is to provide eggs for the seminary initiative for the next year both for income and for food and to help the seminarians understand what is involved in rearing chickens to make money for their missions.



May the blessings of Christmas be yours this season and may we all pray for our church and for the church in Africa.

In Christ,

David+
(Father David R. Marriott, SSC)

How to support these churches:

There are no deductions from money received by the Appeal; the full dollar amount is sent to Cameroon, Congo, South Sudan, Rwanda or Kenya. Administrative costs, eg, money transfer fees, are paid from gifts received for this purpose.

In Canada

The Parish of St. Bride

By  see <https://www.parishofstbride.com/africa-appeal>

or

c/o 20895 Camwood Ave., Maple Ridge, BC V2X 2N9

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 St. Paul Missionary Society, The Anglican Catholic Church, PO Box 5223, Athens, GA 30604

In Australia and New Zealand

Anglican Catholic Church Missionary Diocese of Australia and New Zealand Appeal Fund

By cheque made out to: ACC (OP) DAT and sent to
Missionary Diocese of Australia and New Zealand
C/- 5 Fallow St
Chermside West, Qld. 4032 Australia

If you intend the donation for a special ACC (OP) project, please let us know, so we can designate it accordingly.

By Direct Deposit to:

Anglican Catholic Church (OP) Diocesan Administrative Trust
or ACC (OP) DAT (for short)
BSB 034-064
A/c 335868

Please note the intentions for the donation on the direct deposit details.

Please be aware that given the current Australian Law situation, we are unable to offer any tax deductible receipts.

In the UK

Cheques should be made payable to Anglican Catholic Church - Diocese of the United Kingdom and marked on the back "Mission". If you would like to designate a particular county please indicate which one. Mail to: Diocesan Treasurer, ACC Diocesan Office, St Nicholas House, 42-48 High Street, Lydd, Kent TN29 9AN.