

DIOCESE OF KINDU

| [email zachkatanda@gmail.com](mailto:zachkatanda@gmail.com)

Archbishop Masimango writes

State of the Country

It is 20 years since DRC's constitution was passed and the first democratic elections were held. However the democracy is still quite fragile. The current President Tchisekedi wants to lengthen his mandate and change the constitution. Many MPs enter politics as a way out of poverty and make grand promises that are not kept once they are elected.

Every day people are disillusioned with the way power is abused and especially in the rural areas there is little sign of any progress. People find their own way to survive in the absence of leadership and functioning government.

Education levels are dropping. Even though primary school is free there are often 100 children per classroom. It is often women who keep the family going by selling small things on the roadside to make a living.

The M23 rebel group controls parts of Eastern DRC. On a personal note this means I cannot visit my daughter and grandchildren who live in Goma. The rebel group is an alliance that includes key former DRC leaders. However the rebel alliance is not popular with much of the population, leaving the future uncertain.

State of the Church

At the last national Anglican Synod it was resolved that each diocese should aim to grow by 1,000 new members each year. Help was received from Relay Trust with funds to develop a new catechism and to train people to teach it.

In Maniema we are concentrating on evangelism and church planting in the town of Kibombo. We have held several evangelism campaigns but it is hard to grow a presence there without land for even a temporary church structure. Land costs approximately USD 15,000. We are also planting churches just south of Kindu and have 2 new parishes trying to establish congregations and buildings.

After the creation of the new Diocese of Kalima we have a smaller more manageable Diocese. Our new strategic plan is concentrating on growing churches and helping Christians to grow spiritually.

Our largest church building is full and overflowing and we desperately need to build a Diocesan cathedral.



Bishop Masimango and Naomie

Training for Women

Several groups of women in the diocese have been trained in financial management under CMS-Africa's Women Empowerment Programme (WeP). This has been very successful with one group already forming their own co-operative. The groups are co-ordinated by Mothers Union.



New co-ordinator

Revd Therese Mamba Dembo has completed a degree in Theology at Africa International University in Nairobi Kenya thanks to a scholarship from CMS Australia. She has been appointed as the new co-ordinator for ministry to Children and Young Women.

Berea Bible School

It is 20 years since Berea Bible School started. This year there are 18 students of whom 10 are in 1st year and eight are in 2nd year. All come with families.

Over the years the teachers have changed as some have retired and some have died. However the syllabus remains basically the same.

With the visit from the Richards in May, a review of the syllabus was carried out with the teachers, the Archdeacons and some student representatives. Apart from suggestions to update it and add a few topics, all overwhelmingly reported that they can see the benefit of the teaching and the teaching method,



Bishop Masimango with students and teachers at Berea Bible School. Rev Feruzi is the current Director.

Berea does not teach classic Bible school subjects but all the traditional content is covered through subjects that focus on ministry outcomes and provide a context for the teaching material. A number of students and former students commented on how they have been helped by subjects such

as Caring for Your Spiritual Life, How to Preach and How to Understand the Bible.

By far the majority of those now being ordained have studied at Berea Bible school and it is clear that Berea has had a positive impact on the diocese.

Diocesan Schools

There are now 139 Anglican schools in Kindu Diocese. Of these, 71 are primary schools and 68 secondary schools.

We are grateful to Open Well (Oxford) and to Anglican Aid (Sydney) for the assistance we have received to rehabilitate four schools and to build five new schools. In July we will be holding a conference in Kindu for all the teachers of the Anglican schools in the diocese. The aim of the conference will be to build relationships between schools and church and to build the capacity of teachers to teach their usual subjects as well as to teach religion. We would love each student to know the gospel.

Please pray for teachers who haven't received government salaries for a long time. They are working without any pay, hoping that eventually the school will be registered with the government and they will receive their salaries.



Pastors Conferences

In May we held two seminars for pastors in two different parts of the diocese. The theme of both was Ministry and Leadership.

The first was held in Kindu and pastors came from the Archdeaonaries of Kindu and Elila. Students from Berea Bible School also joined in and there were a total of about 70 participants.

The second conference was held in Mabikwa, about 65 km from Kindu and pastors came from the five archdeaonaries of Mabikwa, Kampene, Kayuyu, Bukama, and Kihembwe. Recent conflict between people groups in one part of the diocese made it impossible for the Archdeacon and pastors of Kasongo Archdeaconary to travel safely.

The Bible studies and Bible talks were from Paul's first letter to Timothy.

Pastors were encouraged by the teaching and fellowship and were challenged to persevere in ministry, to safeguard what is taught and to reject wrong teaching.



Pastors studying the Bible together in Mabikwa



Young men making bricks by hand.

Report from visitors- Malcolm and Elizabeth Richards

"We are very thankful to God for opening the way for us to spend three weeks in Kindu Diocese in May. Despite an Ebola outbreak in the country, mislaid luggage (only four days), cancelled flights, and seemingly impassable dirt roads, we were able to teach at two pastors conferences and to catch up with many old friends and former students.

It is an encouragement to see our former Berea Bible School students now in ministry roles and in charge of parishes, including one Archdeacon. The vision for Berea Bible school was to see people well trained for ministry and able to handle God's word.

Malcolm also enjoyed the opportunity to preach at 2 confirmation services and to confirm a total of 147 people.

We once again experienced just how hard life is in this isolated part of central Africa. Many people die from diseases that would be preventable in other parts of the world. There is a daily struggle for survival."

Please pray for

- Evangelism and church planting in Kibombo and Kindu.
- An end to the Ebola outbreak in NE DRC
- The conference for Anglican School teachers to be held in July.
- Pastors who attended recent clergy conferences; that they will use what was taught.
- Berea Bible School students who will complete the academic year at the end of June and travel home for the break.
- Bishop Masimango as he leads the diocese- for good health, safety when travelling and wisdom to use the resources they have.