



Martin Gordon

Update from the Edges no.2 | August 2025



Location: DR Congo



What I do: Peacemaking, church planting and building up the body of Christ as part of my role as Bishop of Goma



Empowering people pushed to the edges of life to release their God-given potential

Dear friends,

As I read stories from other CMS partners, my faith is strengthened. They, like me, are working to support people pushed to the edges of life to find a fullness and wholeness in God's love. It is so inspiring to read about indigenous women being trained for mission in Argentina and humbling to hear from my colleagues in DR Congo who are offering trauma support to children impacted by conflict. I hope that you are encouraged by this update from Goma and inspired as you read more stories from the wider work of CMS too.

Encouragement for pastors

This June, for the first time in over five years, all clergy from across the diocese were together in the cathedral. We met to celebrate the retirement of the Archdeacon of Goma, Venerable Canon John Mujana, who has completed 49 years of pastoral ministry. We were able to honour him and say with the Apostle Paul that he has fought the good fight, finished the race and kept the faith (2 Timothy 4:7). Last year he also celebrated 50 years of marriage to Maman Providence. I have temporarily taken on the role of Archdeacon of Goma, before appointing someone else.

We then hosted all 60 clergy for a week-long retreat, where everyone ate and rested well after a very difficult few months. Each of us took the time to reset and re-envision our ministries. We were encouraged to see all our ministry as transforming relationships – with God, each other, ourselves and creation.

The week ended with a gift of a motorbike to each of our archdeacons, courtesy of the Diocese of Nairobi and a generous parish in Jersey. These are the first Anglican pastors in the Diocese of Goma to have motorbikes. The Archdeacon of Nyamitaba told us that one of his parishes is a two-day walk each way, and the hope is that these motorbikes are going to transform the pastoral ministry of our archdeacons.

The new catechism for the Anglican Church of Congo

Following the adoption of the new catechism for the Anglican Church of Congo during our last synod in January we have not been idle. As president of the Theology Commission I have overseen the finalisation of the French text, and we are almost there with Swahili and Lingala. Other dioceses are looking to translate into local languages such as Chiluba and Kinyarwanda.

We were meant to train two delegates per diocese in Goma in March but since the airport is closed, we needed to split the training in two and invite the eastern dioceses to Kampala, Uganda, and the western



The Venerable Canon John Mujana and his wife Maman Providence have celebrated 50 years of marriage

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dioceses to Kinshasa. (Apparently Kampala has always been the place Congolese Anglicans have gone for meetings when the east of DR Congo is under occupation.)

Now it is up to each diocese to train its own catechism teachers, who will in turn teach the catechism to every Anglican church member. In Goma we will start to teach the catechism on Sunday mornings in every parish, beginning in September. The vision of the catechism is to give Anglican believers confidence in the Christian faith and for each of us to continue to be transformed as whole-life disciples of Jesus.

Life under occupation

Informal reports on the ground suggest that looting, theft, beatings, kidnappings and sexual violence are decreasing in Goma, after having peaked at alarming levels in the weeks following the invasion by the Rwandan-backed M23 rebels. There is now an air of calm and a semblance of normality. Traffic jams are returning to the streets. But banks still remain closed, as do courts and prisons. And the economy remains subdued.

All of the South African peace-keepers have left, and the remaining UN troops are severely limited in what they can do. Almost everyone is putting their hope in the US-brokered minerals deal involving Rwanda and DR Congo. Details are sparse and there is much secrecy surrounding the negotiations. People are asking if it will really benefit the east of the country, and whether it will bring security, stability, peace and development. But for most people anything is better than the last 30 years.

Gospel opportunities

Among the chaos, pain and sadness, there are many opportunities that weren't there before. We have been able to visit some of our parishes that have been inaccessible for over three years, to encourage the believers there and to plan outreach activities with them. Because most of the diocese is under M23 control travel from one part to another is easier than it was before. We are planning confirmation services in the other archdeaconries in the next few months.

At the end of May we had our annual mission week in honour of Apolo Kivebulaya, the Ugandan CMS missionary who founded the Anglican Church of Congo in 1896. We focused on four schools in the city of Goma where over 6,000 children heard the gospel and more than 1,000 responded. They were then followed up with their parents and the baptisms have already started.

We also focused on Rutshuru, where evangelism campaigns in two of our schools led to planting a new church. We're now buying land next to a school to build a wooden church building.

There's so much to be thankful for.

Please pray with us

- ▶ That the re-envisioning of our clergy would lead to lasting fruit
- ▶ For the training and teaching of the catechism across the whole of the Anglican church of Congo
- ▶ For the follow up of those who came to faith during the week of mission
- ▶ For a lasting peace, with security and development, in eastern DR Congo

Every blessing, Martin



Photos from top to bottom: The gift of a motorbike means the gift of time. One pastor currently has to walk for two days to reach his parish; 6,000 children heard the gospel in a week of mission



Empowering people pushed to the edges of life

It builds my faith when I hear stories from other CMS partners working with people pushed to the edges of life. I hope that you're inspired as you read about indigenous women training for ministry in Argentina, and about children receiving trauma support here in the DR Congo. Read more at churchmissionsociety.org/empower

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