



Martin Gordon

Update from the Edges no. 4 | April 2026



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 reach their God-given potential

Dear friends,

It strengthens my faith and encourages me when I read stories from other CMS mission partners working with people pushed to the edges of life. Use the link at the bottom of my update to read about Josephat who traded a life of being hidden away for a future of dignity and leadership. And to see how mission partner Ann-Marie has spent two decades answering God's call.

Annual College of Bishops and diocesan elections

The College of Bishops met in early February. It is a challenge to get everyone together in person, but Zoom doesn't work well enough in DR Congo for effective decision-making. Most of the bishops travelled to Kampala, Uganda before a 10-hour overnight coach journey to the Diocese of Aru, Archbishop Ande's diocese. Bishop Sabiti, from Kamango diocese, was not with us, as he had been unwell for some time, and sadly he passed away while we were in Aru.

Kamango is now one of five dioceses that will, in the next 18 months, have an election for their next bishop. The others are Kinshasa, Kasai, Butembo and Bukavu. Episcopal elections are often fraught with tribal positioning and personal lust for power. 'Losing' candidates frequently leave the church or seek to destabilise the elected bishop, as happened in Goma with the election of our first bishop.

God gave us real encouragement in the College of Bishops. We heard that there is growth in every single diocese, through a clear focus on evangelism (aiming to grow the Anglican Church of Congo to 1 million by 2030) and a concerted effort to teach the new catechism to every Anglican in every parish in the next two years.

Ordinations en masse

In late February I had the joy of ordaining 20 men into the Church (15 as deacons and five as priests) from across the whole of the diocese. I have had the privilege of teaching many of them over the last six years, and they have all been tested in ministry, and have parish leadership experience.

The Anglican Church of Congo supports the ordination of women, but as a diocese we are only just seeing women emerge from theological training. Also, because ordinands must be married, and due to cultural expectations, female candidates tend to be older – women are better represented in the more established dioceses.

The service was held in the school playground adjoining the cathedral as the cathedral is too small (and



Martin with the newly ordained deacons after the service

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With each other
To the edges**



bomb-damaged from a previous war. It has a slightly wonky wall!!) The service was just under four and a half hours. The persistent rain could not dampen the joy and celebration of the hundreds who came. With these ordinations we have seen a huge leap in clergy numbers from 66 to 81.

Revd Samy Karahu was one of the candidates ordained as priest. Following his ordination he has been appointed to lead one of our sub-parishes in Nzulo, along the lake. Nzulo has already grown rapidly in the last two years, to well over 200 people attending church each week. The diocese bought a plot of land for the church and they are in the process of building on it. They were

previously close to the frontline of the fighting, with many of the residents fleeing, but for now a calm has returned and they are seeing many people come to faith. Revd Samy will be able to baptise the new believers and to ensure that the church receives communion regularly.

Piglets in Walikale

Following the ordinations we held a Diocesan Council meeting where we got to hear the annual updates from our archdeaconries. Verbal reports are extremely important as there is not a culture of written reports. Keeping up to date by phone, WhatsApp or email is challenging with limited network coverage, a lack of smartphones and computers.

We heard that although there is a relative calm in urban areas, rural areas paint a different picture. Many still fear to farm their fields, and some have simply been appropriated by soldiers. In some areas young people are still being taken by force, and young men have fled to the city.

But there were real encouragements. In every archdeaconry, there were over 100 baptisms last year, every archdeaconry bought land and built churches, and held large-scale evangelism campaigns in churches and schools. There are also hundreds of confirmation candidates waiting for the security situation to improve so that the bishop can travel to them safely.

We heard more great stories from Walikale where the two chainsaws we bought for the archdeaconry have been put to good use: two churches have been built, one school is on its way, and two more churches are planned to be finished this year.

With so many mineral deposits education is not highly prized in Walikale, and nor is agriculture. But we have been encouraging the parishes to plant and raise livestock to raise money for mission. We heard of a project in Lufito, where, with local contributions, the church bought a pig. This pig gave birth to 12 piglets who have been sold to help build the church. The locals nicknamed the pig, 'Anglican' and the success of the small-scale project has encouraged other churches in the area to do the same.

Please pray

- ▶ For peaceful elections and transitions in the five dioceses listed
- ▶ For lasting peace in eastern DR Congo
- ▶ For the continued preaching of the gospel, teaching of the catechism and local parish development

Every blessing, Martin



Photos from top to bottom: Bishops waiting in Kampala to take the 10-hour bus journey to the College of Bishops in Aru; Christmas Eve baptisms in Lake Kivu; The newly ordained deacons being presented to the congregation after their ordination; Reverend Samy Karahu, newly ordained priest



Empowering people pushed to the edges of life

I hope that you're inspired as you read about Josephat in Tanzania who has changed his future. And, see how mission partner Ann-Marie has changed global policy impacting women at risk of female genital mutilation. Read their stories and others, at churchmissionsociety.org/empower

Please note that opinions expressed in updates are those of mission partners, not necessarily of Church Mission Society.

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