



Burundi

Gitega Diocese
Matana Diocese

November 2019



CMSI Global Update

Dear Burundi supporters...

The Church in Burundi continues to grow and to flourish despite the very challenging ministry context. These challenges arise from global as well as local factors. Climate change resulting in very long dry seasons followed by extremely heavy rains which cause flooding, landslides and wash away top soils. The stressed economy where many live well below the poverty line unable to access health care and education. Also a very complex political environment with simmering tensions and mistrust. The Church has a message of good news for all people, a message of reconciliation, and it is inspiring to see the creativity with which followers of Christ are responding in practical ways to bring hope and transformation.

Thank you for your prayerful and generous support over the past year that has enhanced and enabled the work of our partners in Matana and Gitega – it is both a great encouragement to them and a very practical demonstration of the family bonds that unite us. In Burundi the local church is the most cost effective, appropriate and holistic deliverer of help and hope in community, meeting the everyday needs of the poorest and most marginalised people.

'The Anglican Church here in Burundi is known for the practical help we offer our people.'

Guy [EAB Communications officer]

News from our Global Partners

Matana Diocese

Mission outreach remains a priority for the church and this continues to bring church growth. New congregations are forming, meeting to worship and working together to build churches. An application to Bishops' Appeal was granted and CMSI has forwarded these funds to provide the roofing materials for 3 churches.



Jenny with Rev Salvator

In October I met Rev Salvator of Mahwa parish who was delighted to hear that his church would now be able to put the roof on 'We are determined that we will celebrate

Christmas 2019 in our new church, the walls are complete, we just need to add the roof, now we have the funds we can get on with the work!'



Mahwa Parish Church awaiting its roof

With improved access across the country following the Chinese road building programme, there are mosques being constructed in all the small towns. Securing land for building churches for the new congregations is becoming increasingly urgent as there are government restrictions on the proximity of places of worship in the towns.

Bishop Seth was planning to visit Northern Ireland this month following a meeting in London, but unfortunately his visa application was delayed due to some administrative hiccups and so he was not able to travel in time.



Bishop Seth at confirmation service in Mahwa Parish - November 2019

Gitega Diocese

Congregations continue to meet in temporary buildings, making bricks and praying for the resources needed to construct their own churches.

At the end of October the diocese arranged a Crusade with the theme from Exodus 35 encouraging all God's people to contribute to the work of His Kingdom.

Evariste and Arsene, the two sponsored students studying at Bujumbura Christian University, continue with their theological studies, and are enjoying the brand new buildings and facilities at the Faith Centre Campus.

The diocesan development department is planning a project to assist local communities who do not have access to clean water. Each community is asked for a small contribution towards the costs of improving the hygiene of their natural springs. They will then be assisted with skilled labour, cement and pipes and receive training on the construction and management of the protected spring.



Open natural spring



Improved natural spring

Provision of clean water has a dramatic impact in the survival of children and the health of whole communities and is therefore a priority for the diocese. CMSI is encouraging link parishes to support this venture.

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Burundi



Faith Centre Campus, Bujumbura

The opening of the new Faith Centre Campus marks a huge achievement for the EAB, the realisation of an ambitious vision and a tribute to the generosity of many. Bujumbura Christian University is now housed here and there are wonderful conference and accommodation facilities that can host workshops and will provide a source of income for the future. The provincial offices are in an adjacent compound, a lovely hillside location overlooking the city away from the hustle and bustle of downtown Bujumbura.

2020 is designated as National election year. Please do continue to pray for the political situation, that elections will be conducted in a free and fair way, so that people can have confidence that their leaders are truly representative and have the concerns of all their people at heart.

Remember Archbishop Nyaboho, Bishop Aime Joseph and Bishop Seth as they give leadership and vision to their pastors and congregations. Pray that the church may continue to be known as a place where people can find hope and practical help as they fend for their families in this lovely little country that continues to struggle as one of the world's poorest nations.

Thank you for your ongoing concern, prayers and involvement with our partners in Burundi.

With best wishes for the coming Advent Season,

Jenny

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