

DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING FOR DR CONGO

Saturday 22 November 2008

Goma Situation

- Pray for the people of Goma, Rutshuru and the surrounding area, beset by fear, hunger, sickness and displaced from their homes and IDP camps. Many homes have been burnt and crops destroyed by fighting. It is rainy season and the people lack adequate shelter and access to food, sanitation and medical services. Pray for God's protection, comfort and provision in their great need.
- Remember the church leaders and workers, doctors and health workers, aid workers, and MONUC (UN peace-keepers) as they work in very challenging circumstances.
- Pray for all those who have been raped and tortured, for their care and healing. Pray for an end to the use of rape as a weapon of war.
- Pray for strength and wisdom for the church leaders in Goma and the region as they seek to respond to the needs all around them. Remember all those who have opened their homes to displaced people and are sharing their slender resources.
- Pray for the Rwanda and DRC Governments, Presidents Kagame and Kabila and the rebel leader, Laurent Nkunda of CNDP, as well as other rebel groups, to engage in dialogue, and find solutions to the conflict with a comprehensive peace agreement.
- Please pray for God to overrule in these tensions and for peace to come.

Dungu Situation

- The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) have waged a 20-year war with the Ugandan Government. In recent years, they have set up bases in DR Congo, Southern Sudan and Central African Republic.
- The LRA have recently abducted young men, women and children in the Dungu area in DRC. Pray for their protection and speedy release.
- Pray for wisdom for churches, and for those NGOs working in the area, especially in providing aid for internally displaced people and those who have fled into the bush.
- Pray for protection for church leaders, who often become targets.

- Pray that during this time of insecurity, people would turn to the Lord and be strengthened in their faith
- Pray for peace and justice in northern Uganda; pray for the efforts of President Museveni and Government members to succeed as they negotiate with the LRA in the run up to peace talks in December.

Situation in Ituri Region

- Pray for those who are working for peace and stability in Ituri, especially around Bunia, that lasting peace may come.
- Pray for dialogue between the authorities and those whose aspirations have not been met and are taking up arms; pray for disarmament and reintegration of militia groups.
- Pray for those displaced from their homes yet again: for provision of food, medical care and shelter, and courage to return home when security is assured.
- Pray for church leaders as they minister to the people and share God's Word, and work for peace.

“Blessed are the peacemakers”

A Prayer for the People of D R Congo

O God,
 Loving parent of all,
 comfort your children
 displaced, wounded, lost or orphaned by conflict in D R Congo;
 and give the people of that country
 courage to seek enduring peace with justice and freedom,
 that their children might grow up without fear,
 for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ

Amen

Litany

Let us begin in silence, recognising God's presence with us and recognising also with perplexity and pain God's presence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Silence

We shall use a short litany in two sections. In the first, each time you hear the word '...Congo', the response is 'we give you thanks O Lord.'

For the diverse beauty and potential glory of all your creation, and especially the land and people of the Congo, **R**

For the faithful and perfect witness to your love borne by Jesus Christ your Son to the whole world, including the people of the Congo, **R**

For all those who despite their flaws have mirrored that witness in the proclamation and living out of the gospel among the people of the Congo, **R**

For the worship and mission of the body of Christ in Africa, and particularly of the Anglican Church of the Congo, **R**

For faithful and persevering parishes, for health care and education, for work with young people and for the Mothers' Union, for evangelism and training, for ministry and service to the desperate in the Congo, **R**

For your steadfast love, for Christ's bearing of the world's woe, for the promise of ultimate reconciliation and the hope of glory even in the Congo, **R**

Silence

As we move from thanksgiving to intercession, the response to the words '...and we turn to you' is 'hear our cry O Lord.'

When we recoil from the worst of the forces of evil, from oppression and corruption, from cruelty and great suffering, and we turn to you, **R**

When we long for the leaders of the peoples, especially in the Great Lakes region of East Africa, to find in their hearts compassion, wisdom and the springs of right action, and we turn to you, **R**

When we fear for the well-being and the very lives of your poor and those we love, when our hearts are breaking and we turn to you, **R**

When we see discord and hatred seeming to prevail and bitterness fuelling human hearts for violence, and we ache for change and we turn to you, **R**

When we hope with passion for the development of life, material emotional and spiritual, and find our hopes in part frustrated and we turn to you, **R**

When we wait boldly for the coming of your kingdom and lament the dullness of our perception of your mission and the fragility of our participation with you, and we turn to you, **R**

We pray now in turn and in silence for each of the dioceses of the Anglican Church of the Congo:

Aru, Boga, Bukavu, The Kasais, Katanga, Kindu, Kinshasa, Kisangani, Nord Kivu

Blessed and holy Trinity,
within the mystery of your perfect love
the Son knows the depth of human brokenness,
the Spirit is constantly in movement for abundant life,
the Father is working out your glorious purpose;
receive our thankfulness and attend to our plea
for the whole life of the Province of the Anglican Church of the Congo,
heal its brokenness, renew its life,
and bring to fulfilment your purposes for it and through it,
for the sake of your kingdom, through Christ,
AMEN.