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9TH ASSEMBLY OF All Africa Conference of Churches – MAPUTO – MOZAMBIQUE

The Province was well represented at this ecumenical gathering of the churches of Africa. The aim of the Assembly was to look at an African ecumenical response to some of the major issues affecting the world in general and Africa in particular under the theme "Africa, Step Forth in Faith". Rev. Dr. Mvume Dandala, General Secretary, said, "This is the time for Africa to summon courage and speak to these times. Let us return to the countries of this great continent having deliberated on ways of improving the lives of the most vulnerable of our people who are depending on a word from the church." Issues discussed ranged from the crisis in Zimbabwe, to the use of natural resources, and the world economic crisis.

DELEGATION TO THE D.R. CONGO AND RWANDA

The Archbishop, the Most Rev. Bernard Ntahoturi, recently led a 5-strong ecumenical delegation of church leaders from Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo that met with the presidents of the D.R. Congo and Rwanda in order to convey to them a strong message advocating for peace. "People are tired and want an end to the war," they said, "and dialogue costs much less than armed confrontation". More than 250,000 people fled their homes in the eastern part of the D.R. Congo in order to escape the fighting that broke out between the army and rebels in August. The delegation that was initiated by the AACC added their support to Churches in the D.R. Congo who are working with other agencies to alleviate the suffering of people, especially the displaced; and trying to encourage the disarmament and repatriation of armed Rwandan groups living in eastern DRC.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- ◆ In October the Province welcomed Rev. Charles Orodí, acting Managing Director of the Church Commissioners for Kenya, to facilitate a workshop for church leaders on the sustainability of the Church in its mission and development. It was with sadness that we learned of the death of his wife in November. We extend our sympathy to Charles and his family.
- ◆ Representatives from all the dioceses attended the joint funeral service for Flavia Sindamuka, wife of the late Archbishop Samuel Sindamuka, and Andaronika Bishenza, wife of Canon Erasto Bishenza, in late October in Matana Cathedral. The Province extends their sympathies to both families.
- ◆ In November the newly built parish Church and church school at Gatohwe, Bururi, were officially opened. The school was built as part of the partnership with Lambeth Palace with money donated by Irish Aid through CMS Ireland. It will make an important contribution to education in the area, especially in the reduction of class sizes.
- ◆ In 2008 NetsforLife enabled the Province to give mosquito nets to 20,443 households. All together a total of 49,500 nets were distributed as part of the campaign to overcome malaria through education and the use of nets.
- ◆ There have been a number of initiatives in the country to raise awareness of violence and abuse against women and their impact on the family. Representatives from the dioceses participated in the Tamar Campaign organised by the National Council of Churches in November.
- ◆ Negotiations between the FNL and the Government of Burundi have progressed and there is hope that the deadline of 31st December for their conclusion will be met.

THE PROVINCE WISHES YOU A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND GOD'S BLESSINGS IN 2009

