

The past week spent in Boga Diocese has been varied and useful. I spent the time in Bunia as the guest of Bishop William and his family. We spent time discussing the future visit of the Bishop of Birkenhead and a team of people

who will run courses for the Pastors of Aru and Boga.

I also visited ISPASC and met the degree students and saw the refurbished houses which are now dormitories for girls. The well which has been dug produces filthy water so I am hoping the water filter I brought from UK will be used on the site to provide safe drinking water for staff and students.

Claire, the wife of Rene Gayana, cooked a lovely meal so all the staff and I ate together which was a very special time.



*Degree students in the main hall*



*Lunch!*



*Two of the three student houses*



*The well and the filter which is going to Bunia*



We visited a small Health Clinic near to ISPASC where qualified students are working.



*Clinic exterior*



*Pharmacy*



*5 bed ward*

The Diocese provided a visit to Komanda, to meet Pastors from a wide area surrounding this village. The Archdeacon was recovering from an appendectomy so the Bishop and I visited him in hospital.



*A group of children with church back left*



*A typical village house*



*Bishop William with the Archdeacon and his wife*

This was a good visit for the Bishop and the Diocese Secretary as they were able to discuss administrative issues and the Bishop's vision for introducing commercial farming. The area clings to subsistence farming which barely provides for each individual family.



As we returned from Komanda we visited Nyankunde, the birthplace of IPASC which was totally decimated by rebels during the conflict. It was a very moving experience



to see for myself the devastation experienced by Pat Nickson and the members of IPASC.

I visited two families of IPASC. The previous Executive Director, Elias Assia, and Rene Gayana – a friend of longstanding who also came to UK to help promote the work of IPASC. While at the house of Elias, the Bishop of Aru also joined us for lunch and took me back to my host in his car.

*Bishops William and Ande*



Another day was spent visiting the Anglican University (Theology); a Health Centre where I met the newly



appointed Director of Health Services who travels all over the Diocese, visiting Anglican Health Centres and ensuring their good practice. (He is in desperate

need of a motor cycle in order to be able to do this effectively the roads to some of the remote villages being barely passable);

and finally the 'goat project' which is part of the AGAPE youth work. The goats were housed in a shed on stilts while they acclimatise to life in Congo having been brought in from Rwanda.



On the last day. Sunday, we were present at the commissioning of a new Chapel in Bunia. The service lasted four and half hours! The new parish choir sang and six others came to support the service. There were many speeches and then some fund raising for 3 doors as the building is only partially completed. Only in Africa.....!!!!



*It was too hot to be inside so we sat outside and the dust blew over us. The altar is a simple table.*

*One of the many choirs.*

The people of Boga Diocese and IPASC send their greetings to everyone in UK and ask for prayer for continued peace and reconciliation as they work to bring prosperity and health to the communities of the region.

Much as I love the town of Bunia and the people there it is good to be back in Aru where the dust is less intrusive and the peace and quiet of a more rural setting is to be enjoyed.

All best wishes to everyone,  
Gill