

Dear All

The time to write this seems to come around very quickly! We have now cut our language study down to three days a week, with two days a week working. Our first task is to organise a workshop to take place in September for the Diocese to develop a vision for its social action programme. At the moment each department runs its own programme fairly much independently of the other departments. Bishop Isingoma is keen for there to be an overall vision for the departments and for there to be greater co-ordination between them.

7/7. This letter is making slow progress - haven't managed to continue it for two weeks. We only get electricity from 11.00 pm to 6.00am now as they have just opened a new line to one of the mines and are giving them all the power. People are furious - especially with the World Cup on - they attacked one of the electricity board offices yesterday, burning tyres and throwing rocks. The riot police had to come to the rescue. So it is now 1.30 a.m. the only time we can use the computer and send Emails.

The election campaign is in full swing now. The churches in Lubumbashi have all got together to hold the candidates to account. Bp Isingoma has been elected president of the group. They held an open air service last week and called all the candidates to attend and signed a pledge to campaign peacefully and not incite people and to respect the results. They did all attend. We hope and pray they live up to their pledges. The election is on 30th July. If nobody gets more than 50% there will be a second round in September or October.

Please pray for the elections:

that they will be peaceful and fair and that the losers will accept defeat graciously and urge their supporters to also. It is western style winner takes all, not the most culturally appropriate form.

That the church group will be an effective influence on the candidates

That the elections will help to bring peace and stability to Congo.

People are not expecting there to be any trouble or instability here, but are less hopeful about some other parts of the country.