

Anglican Church in Angola  
Malange Missionary Area

## **Story of the Anglican Church in Malange**

The Holy Spirit had touched two members of the Anglican Church who were in Malange for their work, and they had been worshipping God at various Churches on Sundays.

On 12<sup>th</sup> August 2007, Hélder Simão Coxé Jezo and Jorge Manuel Panzo went to a service at the Reformed Church of Angola (IERA). After the service they talked about what they were doing, and asked themselves whether they should continue going to other churches or if they should open an Anglican Church in Malange?

They invited other members they knew in Malange: there were three men, António Manuel Panzo, Anacleto Bento Diacage, Benilde Edgar and one woman, Delfina David.

All of them had the same spirit and agreed with the two men's ideas.

They said, we don't have a place to meet so we will delegate Jorge Manuel Panzo to go to Luanda and tell them about our situation, and to find someone who is originally from Malange, and is working in the Church. In Luanda we found the leader of Galileia Congregation in the Parish of St Augustine's, Viana. His name was Albano; he had a place in Malange, and gave us permission to start meeting in his back yard.

Finally, on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2007 at 10am under a mango tree in the Ritondo district of Malange, we had the first Anglican service. There were 19 people present. Pastor Pasciencia Thsia was invited to preach, and the members were: Hélder Simão Coxé Jezo, Jorge Manuel Panzo, Anacleto Bento, António Panzo, Albano Francisco, Maria Emília, José Fernando Mandavela, Claudeth Laurinda Gabriel, António Adão, Adelina Domingos, Moras de Castro Gonçalves Ngola, Diogo Francisco, Carolina Inês, Domingos Manuel and three children: Maria João, Silva Diogo and Pedro Luciano. This number of people motivated us to continue working.

After this we went out to evangelise and the first person converted was Manuel Pedro Mufucuta with others following.

Unfortunately we were accused by politicians of being political because it was voter registration time, so we stopped going out and asked the diocese to send us the Church's status and authorisation from the Angolan Government. We were answered quickly by the diocese with all the documentation needed.

On 19<sup>th</sup> November 2007, the Culture Department for Religions agreed that the Anglican Church could preach the gospel anywhere in Malange Province, and we were notified of this by the Provincial Pastor, Revd Gouveia Luis Maundo.

The church has had difficult times but we started seeing the fruit in December when we had the first baptism for four people, which was led by Pastor Gouveia Maundo.

From 28<sup>th</sup> Feb to 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009 we received the first diocesan visit by the Diocesan Secretary, Revd Nunes Pedro, who was accompanied by Gomes Laurindo, Manuel Simões and Jocina Manuel. Now Malange is a Missionary Area for the Anglican Church in Angola.

The second visit was on 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> March by the Diocesan Secretary, who baptised one person on the 28<sup>th</sup> March and then on 29<sup>th</sup> he chose the two church leaders in Malange, they were: Hélder Simão Coxe Jezo (Catechist) and Jorge Manuel Panzo (Churchwarden and Church Representative to the Angolan Council of Churches (CICA)).

We needed our own place and the diocese bought a piece of land for us. So on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2009, we started building a church. After five weeks, we decided to start using the church building for services even though it didn't have a roof or ceiling.

The Church now consists of:

8 members taking communion  
15 members waiting to be confirmed  
56 children  
79 members in total

We have various difficulties. Some members stay at home when the sun gets too hot, and when it rains it is a problem because the church building doesn't yet have a roof because of our financial difficulties.

We give thanks to God and pray that He will love for evermore. Amen.

Malange Congregation

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Malange Missionary Area Secretary

Mobile: +244 - 912968499; +244 - 929355368

Email: [anglicana-malanje@hotmail.com](mailto:anglicana-malanje@hotmail.com) or [ieucaa-malanje@sapo.ao](mailto:ieucaa-malanje@sapo.ao)

Rua direita do Ritondo, Bairro Quizanga, Malanje, Angola.