

ANGLICAN CHURCH
DIOCESE OF ANGOLA
ECCLESIASTICAL DISTRICT OF UÍGE
MARTYRS PARISH

SHORT HISTORY

“We speak what we know and testify what we have seen” (John 3: 11)

To talk about the Martyrs Parish we first of all need to speak about the United Evangelical Church of the Anglican Communion in Angola.

The United Evangelical Church of the Anglican Communion in Angola (IEU-CAA) was founded on 9th June 1925 in Kikaya village, which is 9 km from the city of Uíge, by British missionary Archibald Patterson, a member of St Clement's in Liverpool, England.

The Church's name was “Mission to the North of Angola” and afterwards in the fifties it became the “Evangelical Church of Angola”. Patterson started teaching young people and formed the first catechists to preach the gospel inside the villages.

The first Protestant Church in Uíge City was in the district of Candombe-Velho. João Gonçalves was the first pastor of this parish. It was a nice church built with modern architecture. He evangelised many people and taught many young people.

In 1961, the revolution started the war of liberation and the missionary and pastors were persecuted by the Portuguese Government. On 23rd March 1961, Patterson was deported from Angola by the Portuguese Government.

After Patterson departed they captured many pastors and put them in prison, and then they were murdered. It was at this time that the parish lost its pastor and many leaders of the Kingdom of God. The church building was also destroyed.

Between 1961 and 1974 during the war of liberation, the Evangelical Church was accused by the Portuguese Government of preparing people for war. That was the reason they killed many pastors.

In 1973, Patterson visited Kinshasa from the UK to meet with the people of God taking refuge in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In Kinshasa he ordained as priest, Alexandre Luis Domingos, who became leader of the “Evangelical Church of the North of Angola” in the DRC and in Angola.

After the war with the Portuguese Government, the Church had lost everything it had before and was frustrated. In 1975, people came from Congo to reactivate the Church and the Revd. Alexandre Luis Domingos became priest in the Martyrs Parish and leader of his Church. They rebuilt the church which had been destroyed and called it the Martyrs Parish. We remember the church members and pastors killed by the Portuguese Government in this parish. This is the reason we are called the Martyrs Parish. The second church was built with wood and grass.

In the eighties, the Revd. Alexandre Luis Domingos left the parish and the new priest was Revd. André Soares, now Bishop of the Diocese of Angola. In 1985, Revd. André Soares was replaced by Revd. Pedro Justino.

The Revd. Augusto Domingos was ordained priest in 2007, and replaced the Revd. Pedro Justino as the new priest of the Martyrs Parish.

The Martyrs Parish has 860 adult members and 248 Sunday School members. We are organised in groups:

- Fathers organisation called "St Bernard Mizeki"
- Mothers Union
- Youth in three choir groups
- Catechism school and
- Sunday School for children

The church building is not in a good condition, bits have started to fall off. So we started last September to rebuild the church. With difficulty, the church members have each contributed something we are using, because most people don't work and are not in a position to help financially.

Uíge, 14th February 2009

The local pastor.

Revd Augusto Domingos
Priest