

Profile of Archbishop Emmanuel Kolini

“He was born in 1945 in Congo, ordained in 1969 and consecrated Assistant Bishop of Bukavu, Zaire in 1980. He served as Bishop of Katanga, Zaire from 1986 until 1997 at which time he was called into Rwanda as Bishop and Archbishop. His education was at Canon Warner Memorial College, Bishop Tucker College and Balya Bible College in Uganda. He and his wife Freda have eight children. Having become Primate of the Province following the years of genocide, Archbishop Kolini has been a major force for reconciliation in Rwanda. “ (source: Anglican Mission in the Americas)

Archbishop Emmanuel Kolini is the spiritual head of the Anglican Church in Rwanda, which boasts more than one million members in a country of just 8 million people.

Kolini, working to heal a country where more than one million people died in the '94 genocide, says churches in the west are facing a spiritual genocide.

Believing that Episcopalians in the U.S. were being led astray or persecuted by unorthodox leaders, Kolini (along with Archbishop of Singapore Moses Tay) ordained two Americans as missionary bishops, launching the Anglican Mission in America (AMiA). Tay retired shortly thereafter and Kolini bore the brunt of criticism from other Anglican bishops worldwide, including Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey.

Now with 140 congregations in the US and Canada and eight Bishops ordained by Kolini, the AMiA was formed by Episcopalians and Anglicans who see the Episcopal Church in the US as apostate. The AMiA grew out of a response to the crisis in faith in North America that occurred after the ordination of openly gay priest Gene Robinson as a Bishop. In many ways, Kolini was moved to respond to Americans because of the pain suffered in the genocide. Archbishop Kolini notes that he could not turn his back on a faithful people who cried out for his help: “When UN troops were asked to help Rwanda at the time of the genocide, instead of helping, the world abandoned us. I will never do what the world has done to my people.”

The first flames of the AMiA came in 1996 when eleven families composed of both Episcopalian and Presbyterian laypeople in Little Rock, AR became increasingly disillusioned with their respective churches and their perceived lack of Biblical adherence, especially to the Great Commission. Upon the local bishop's rejection of their plans to create a new church, the fifteen were granted the oversight of the Church of the Province of Rwanda.

St. Andrews became one of the first in the west to be under oversight of the Global South, beginning a chain of international cooperation among Anglicans which culminated in August 2000 in Amsterdam, when the AMiA was officially established.