

Paper Title: Christian response to social turmoil in Garanganze (DRC): An assessment

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### Abstract

From pre-colonial to post-colonial and modern times, the people of the Katanga area of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have experienced trauma. Many have been victims of abuse through slave raids, colonial oppression, inter-ethnic conflict and exploitation by multinational corporations. In addition, the riverine nature of some of the areas resulted in a population vulnerable to water-borne and related illnesses. It was into this very wounded context that missionaries who formed the Garanganze Evangelical Mission (GEM) arrived to work in 1886. In subsequent years, people from the area then known as the Garanganze began to respond to Christian mission. In this paper, I seek to examine from selected letters, reports and documents obtained primarily from GEM sources, first, the nature of the powers, inequalities and vulnerabilities that the Garanganze faced, and, second, the conversions and growth of the Church in this fractured context. The paper will also seek to assess, on the one hand, the missional response to the issues and vulnerabilities evident in the area and the interaction between Christian mission, education and health, on the other.