



working with the church abroad

SUPPORT A PASTOR / PARISH



THE DAMASCUS TRUST

SUPPORT A PASTOR / PARISH (SAP)

is about enabling those the Lord has called to take the gospel of Jesus into the remote towns and villages of developing countries.

Since 2001 Damascus Trust has been involved in providing training and support for pastors abroad. We ensure that basic but sufficient Bible-based training is given to all pastors and that ongoing oversight and assessment is provided.

Our Christian Partner Organisations (CPO) are: **Christian Renewal Church** and **Plenty To Share Ministry**, in India, and the **Anglican Dioceses of Byumba and Gasabo** which are in Rwanda.

In India 80% of the population live in rural towns and villages. Yet 90% of Christian work is based in the cities with many small towns and villages untouched by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Pastors working with both **CRC** and **PTSM** are serving the Lord in some of the poorest villages. New Churches are established and many are baptised into Christ as the gospel is preached and the power of God is experienced.



In Rwanda, many parishes struggle to support themselves, let alone a pastor. Our support enables these parishes to have a pastor to help the church to grow.

As part of our ongoing support for the pastors and as funds allow we provide them with **bikes** and **study books**. We also run annual **teaching conferences** for pastors and their wives. Each one runs for 2-3 days and several hundred pastors attend each year.

With your support this work can grow. Through the **SAP programme**, individuals, home groups and church fellowships can have a direct link with one of these pastors / parishes through regular financial and prayer support.

All your donation goes to helping the pastors / parishes abroad. Any tax recovered through Gift Aid will go into our general fund to help cover our administrative costs.

What does it cost?

£40 per month will provide full or part support for a pastor and his family, depending on the country and cost of living. Where the cost of living is higher (such as Gasabo) then more than one partner will be allocated to provide support. When UK partners give us



more than the designated amount, then this can also help make up any shortfall with individual pastors / parishes.

How is the money distributed?

Regular support (usually monthly standing order) is given to Damascus Trust. We pass it on to our CPOs who then distribute it to all the pastors / parishes that we support. A contribution (10%) is put into a Pastor's Help Fund that covers medical treatment and other unforeseen needs. All transactions are recorded and monitored.

What information is provided?

Regular supporters are sent a profile sheet of the pastor / parish they support. This includes information about the people, the church and the area. A photo-card of the pastor and family is included.

What news do partners receive?

A quarterly update report is sent out by email to all partners providing news and prayer requests. If you don't have email then we can post updates to you.

Can partners write to pastors / parishes?

Yes - of course. In fact we would encourage this. We will provide guidelines as well as a sample letter. All correspondence needs to go through

Damascus Trust who will send it out to our CPO for translation and distribution.

How long is support given?

Damascus Trust commits to give support year on year as funds allow. We review the needs of pastors / parishes with our CPOs every 3-4 years.

If you would like to be part of this work then please complete the form overleaf. We will then be in touch with further details.

SUPPORT A PARISH RWANDA

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DIOCESE OF BYUMBA, RWANDA

PARISH/PASTOR PROFILE

PARISH OF NYABIHU
in the Diocese of Byumba.

Current Pastor:
KEREKEZI LADISLAS
and his wife Philomene

ABOUT THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF BYUMBA:
Established in 1991 - Overseen by Bishop Emmanuel Ndayindwe and his wife Victoria - 18km north of the capital, Kigali - 6 dioceses, 43 parishes, 267 congregations, 75,037 members.

ABOUT THE PARISH:
Nyabihu is a new parish in a very rural area. There are 1100 members who are divided into different congregations. Church members mainly meet on Sundays.

Byumba town is large with open air markets. The countryside has many smallholdings on subsistence farmers. Cuts roads and the make travelling around very difficult, an especially in the rainy season.

Many parishes are very poor and cannot support a pastor by themselves. Month contributions equivalent when parishes are asked, many do have their own pastor. Pastors' houses have limited and basic. Church buildings are big but not many. Congregations are large, with many off services last several hours have lived and drums, lots of dancing and challenging sermons.

Pastors have few resources to deal with issues within their parishes - mostly cash for church and food, many children and a families caused by HIV/AIDS and the genocide. Tolerance and reconciliation in neighbours and church members.

PRAYER & PRAYERS:

- Give thanks for Ladislas & Philomene's son
- Pray for strength and wisdom as Ladislas & Philomene
- Give thanks for the local believers Ladislas & Philomene
- Pray for the healing and commitment of the congregations
- Pray for the area to have an adequate and

SUPPORT A PARISH
A MINISTRY OF
DAMASCUS TRUST
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SUPPORT A PARISH RWANDA

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DIOCESE OF BYUMBA, RWANDA

PARISH UPDATE

PARISH OF NYABIHU
in the Diocese of Byumba.

Pastor: KEREKEZI LADISLAS
Wife: Philomene
Children: Eight

NEWS UPDATE:

The structure of the church service in Africa is, in some ways, similar to our services. They use the Anglican Lectionary, but sometimes Ladislas gives a series from a particular part of the Bible or on a theme. Pray that Christians may deepen their faith through a sound basis of Biblical teaching.

Buruma Peter is one of Ladislas' catechists. Like many of the people in the church, he is poor and he has children for whom he needs school fees. His role as a catechist is to help prepare people for baptism and confirmation. He lives in the village of Rukuba and since Ladislas has seven other churches to visit, Buruma Peter is responsible for church services when Ladislas cannot be there. Please pray for him specifically and for other catechists in the parish and for the training for lay leaders that the diocese gives.

Ladislas has to walk from church to church. Sometimes he can hire a motor bike when he visits the more distant parts of the parish. Some means of travelling more easily would help him in his work.

PRAYER & PRAYERS:

- Please continue to pray for safety on the roads for Ladislas.
- Pray for Buruma Peter and his family. The Lord will provide for their needs and that he will grow in his knowledge of the Lord and honour God in the ministry of catechist.
- Pray that Christians may become established in their knowledge and understanding of the Bible and grow strong in their faith.

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DAMASCUS OVERLEAF
GIVING WITH OUR PRAYERS



SUPPORT A PASTOR/PARISH – RESPONSE FORM

Please indicate where you would like your support to go.

- ☐ To support a pastor in India
- ☐ To support a parish/pastor in Rwanda
- ☐ Wherever the support is most needed

I / we would like to give: (minimum share is £20pm)

- ☐ Regularly: £ _____ (minimum period of 1 year)
 - ☐ by standing order
 - ☐ by cheque every month / quarter / six months / year

- ☐ One-off gift enclosed: £ _____

[£60 buys a bike / £30 provides a set of study books for a pastor]

- ☐ I would like my donation to benefit from Gift Aid

For Standing Orders or for Gift Aid: We'll send you the simple, but necessary forms to complete and return to us or you can download them from our web-site: Partners page - Four Ways to Give form.

For cheques: Please make payable to 'Damascus Trust' and write on the back of the cheque '(SAP)'.

Surname: _____ First name: _____

(Revd/Mr/Mrs/Miss)

Group or Church: _____

How many copies of SAP updates would you like? _____

Contact Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please return completed forms & donations to our office below.

Damascus Trust was established in 1990 to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with all people everywhere. It aims to enthuse local Christians in their love for Jesus, enable the local Church to reach out into the community and seeks to establish evangelism as an ongoing aspect of Church life.

As a charity Damascus Trust relies on gifts and donations. All gifts from those paying tax can benefit the Trust by using Gift Aid for both one-off or regular donations. For more information, please request the leaflet 'Four Ways to Give' or download from our web-site: Partners - Four Ways to Give.

Bank details:
Lloyds Bank
(Leamington Spa) Sort
Code: 30-94-93
Acc. number:
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The Damascus Trust
is a registered charity
Number 1013236

