



UPDATES FOR PRAYER AND PRAISE

February & March 2024



Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ.

Colossians
4:2-3

THE DAMASCUS TRUST



'The Parish (ADoG) has a centre for early childhood development. It also implements a programme called Church Transformation Network in the community. Mothers' Union meets once a month and discusses all matters that arise in families and set ways of reaching out for counselling. They also have a scheme of saving and credit.'

This is how Rev Alfred sums up the work of the parish in its support for the local community. He and his wife, Claudette work with the parish council who have overall responsibility for the parish. This frees him for what he sees as his calling, *'to have time to preach the word of God and take care of His sheep.'* Choirs and home groups go on during the week, but Saturday is reserved for an 'intercessors' service.' Perhaps this is the key to the fact that Alfred can report that *'The ministry of the church is growing. Many are coming to Christ.'* Praise and give thanks to God for this testimony.

The parish is about 10 km outside Kigali city centre, on the top of the hill. They have a new modern church building and a nursery school with two blocks called Nyabikenke Hope Academy. There, children are given eggs, milk and porridge as part of the government project to eradicate child malnutrition. Being part of the city does present challenges including unemployment and a high cost of living and so we pray for the practical provision for the pastors, their families and the people of the parish, especially education fees.

EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING

1-10 FEB

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

Eph 1:3

- 1st **Gasabo parishes: Rev Didace**, the pastor at Rubungo, has just retired. Pray for him and his wife **Liberata** in their retirement. Please pray that all their needs will be provided for, especially in terms of a house. The diocese offers some financial help for pastors in their retirement, which is a blessing.
- 2nd **Rev Emmanuel** is now the pastor at Rubungo with his wife **Francine**. He has been working alongside Didace for the last 6 months to help with the transition. He asks prayer that they will stay strong in their faith. Pray this for him and for all the pastors.
- 3rd Andy is leading the **Café Church at St Editha's** tomorrow. Please pray for this service, which aims to offer Bible teaching and more contemporary songs. Whilst it is very different in style from what is the norm at St Editha's, please pray that those who come will continue to be blessed and that others will join us.

PLEASING TO HIM

4-10 MAR

- 4th **Now may the God of peace ... work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Heb. 13:20-21**
- 5th Many of the SAP parishes are in a part of Kigali that is growing and changing rapidly. **Rubungo** is one of these. Pray for the people who once lived in poor housing, but who now cannot afford to stay due to the rising costs.
- 6th Pray for the fast developing parish of **Kinyinya**. It was unrecognisable from when we last visited in 2019. A new church building, a new primary school and a growing congregation present challenges and opportunities.
- 7th Pray for **Rev Benoit**, his wife, **Pierrette** and their two young children, **Tresor** and **Benicia**. Pray that the family will flourish and be blessed by God in their ministry in **Kinyinya**.
- 8th Unemployment in Gasabo diocese is a major challenge - large population, but few jobs. Pray for the many people facing the problem of providing for the needs of their families.
- 9th Pray for **Rev Fidele** and his wife **Eugenie** who have retired from their ministry in **Kinyinya** and as a **Diocesan Archdeacon**. Give thanks for their faithful work in this parish.
- 10th Pray too for the appointment of a new Archdeacon to replace Fidele. There are two in the diocese and they have responsibility, under the Bishop, for pastors, their wives and for the well-being of congregations.

REMEMBER THE POOR

11-17 FEB

- 11th **All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along. Gal.2:10**
- 12th Praise God for the visits made around Oradea just before Christmas to 95 children and their families - families who have an adult member in prison. The gifts and food parcels will have made a big difference.
- 13th **Shrove Tuesday** There are two vacancies on the **ACV Management Team**. One is for **Prayer** and the other is for **Publicity**. Please pray that the right people will be found so that the work can be even more effective.
- 14th **Ash Wednesday** ACV is also looking for help to translate some **Engage with the Bible** writings each month and post them on the ACV Facebook page. Please pray for the right person to offer to help us with this.
- 15th We thank the Lord for **Voichita** and her village church who provided hot food for the **Night Shelter** for 6 weeks before Christmas. Pray that this will be able to continue in the coming cold months.
- 16th Please pray for the new outreach, led by **Emil Bodog**, to the children's home in **Telechiu**, just outside Oradea. Pray that the 26 children and the houseparents will continue to respond well to these visits.
- 17th **Tamworth Men's Breakfast Extra**. Early (for a Saturday) morning Bible time followed by a bacon butty or two. It's always good to meet together, read the Bible and then recognise its relevance for us today.
Tomorrow, Andy and Liz are leading the service at St Francis, one of the congregations in the parish of Tamworth.



A regular aspect of ACV's ministry is to visit one of the Night Shelters in Oradea. This was set up by the local council to provide overnight accommodation for up to 60 homeless people. The Night Shelter is open for residents from 7pm each evening, though earlier when it is very cold, and people have to be out of the

centre by 8am each morning. Many of these people live with health problems, physical and mental, and will spend their days out on the streets or in shopping centres. A few have some paid work.

Whilst a bed and basic facilities are offered by the centre, they rely on local NGOs and others for food. The ACV team, organised by Florin Maghiar, aims to visit once a month not only to provide hot food, but also to interact with the residents through conversation, songs, testimony and a short Bible-based talk. It's good to see the residents enjoying a time of singing as well as conversation with ACV volunteers. We are blessed to have students from Emanuel University (see front cover), many of whom have been on the DT On The Edge course that Andy and Sorin run each autumn at the University. Please pray for this ongoing ministry. Despite their circumstances, there is a positive response from many residents to our visits and at least one has responded to the gospel, been baptised and nurtured in a local church and now has paid work.

BY ALL MEANS SAVE SOME

18-24 FEB

- 18th **To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. 1 Cor 9:22**
- 19th As we continue to reassess the future ministry of DT in terms of what we do and how we do it, please **pray for wisdom** in decision making. Pray that we will be open to the Holy Spirit's leading and be ready to adjust accordingly.
- 20th As we work towards enabling the work in Romania and Rwanda to become more autonomous, please pray for the practicalities involved and for those who are taking on more responsibility.
- 21st Some changes have been made to our website in recent months, so do go and have a look - especially at the **Work Maps - www.damascustrust.org**.
- 22nd Please pray too for our Bible teaching / preaching ministry, through EWTB writings, DTAH online courses and for visits to churches.
- 23rd DT Office has now taken back the responsibility for running the **SAP Programme** from the UK side. Please pray that we will be able to make the necessary adjustments to continue to run this well for partners both in Rwanda and in the UK.
- 24th As Easter is early this year, and as many people join in local Lent courses, we have decided to run the next **DTAH teaching course** for five weeks in **May**. We'll offer three weekly courses as in the past. Details and a booking form will be posted on the website soon.

PARENTS AND CHILDREN

25 FEB - 2 MAR

- 25th **‘See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.’ Matt 18:10**
- 26th *Byumba diocese* is quite rural. Pray for **Rev Thomas** in his leadership and teaching in **Bwambi** parish. Pray for the work he does, on behalf of the parish, in legal and government matters, that he may find favour with local officials.
- 27th The Christians in the parish of **Mimuli** pray with parents for their children. Pray with them, that malnutrition in children will be eradicated and that all children will have opportunity for basic education.
- 28th The parish of **Mimuli** is led by **Rev Alexis Moses** and his wife, **Erisa**. They have four children. One they describe as ‘sick’ and they ask for prayer that they will be able to pay health care and for their children’s education.
- 29th The seven local congregations in **Mimuli** parish worship together every month in the main parish church. Pray that they will be encouraged and strengthened in their witness for Christ in each of the villages.
- 1st Please continue to pray for both **Abp Laurent Mbanda** (ADoG) and **Bp Emmanuel Ngendahayo** (ADoB) as they oversee, guide and support our partner dioceses. Pray too for their families and for their health and spiritual wellbeing.
- 2nd Andy is leading another **Café Church at St Editha’s** tomorrow.

FELLOW WORKERS

3-9 MAR

- 3rd **For we are fellow workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building. 1 Cor 3:9**
- 4th Three other dioceses in Rwanda want to adopt the **DT WHP Scheme**. **Gasabo** and **Nyaruguru** dioceses already have many water tanks, but **Karongi** has very few. Please pray for wisdom in setting things up to benefit and encourage each participating parish.
- 5th Pray for each new diocesan **WHP Manager** as they oversee the setting up of the scheme. **Augustin Hinbaza** in Karongi; **Nicholas Kanamugire** in Gasabo and **Etienne Habimana** in Nyaruguru. Pray for good communication between them and DT office!
- 6th Please pray for each of the **ACV Management Team** (see back page) as they oversee different areas of ACV’s ministry. Pray for **Sorin Maier** as he supports each one as well as leading ACV’s ministry in Oradea Prison.
- 7th Thank the Lord for the local volunteers, supporters and partner churches who enable **ACV** to bring Christ’s love to neglected people.
- 8th Please pray for **David and Mary Jarratt** with their responsibilities for leading their local Christian fellowship in **Colwall**, as well as family commitments and compiling the DT P&P Update. Please pray for energy, vision and blessing.
- 9th We thank God for the Paine family, for the **Trustees** and their families - **Robin Swan, Peter Harrington, Floyd Davis** - and all who support the work of the Trust in various ways from here in the UK.



Two years ago we gave an update on the DT WHP scheme in Byumba diocese. At that time there were 27 parishes who had signed up to the scheme. Now we have 33 parishes participating. We've also made some adjustments to the way the income is divided up by each parish. 40% is for evangelism and training, 20% is for community projects. The other 40% is paid into the diocesan account, divided equally between maintenance / management and new WHPs.

Since the scheme started in 2019, over 5.5 million litres of water have been harvested, providing an income of more than 7.5m FRW. Of this income, 3.5m FRW has been used by parishes for evangelism, training and community projects. Just under 1m FRW is now available for a new WHP. This is all very encouraging.

As you may already know, given the success of the DT WHP scheme in Byumba, three more dioceses are wanting to adopt the scheme. Each diocese has appointed a WHP Manager to oversee the running of the scheme in each participating parish. We are currently setting up spreadsheets for these dioceses to use in keeping records and also basic record sheets for each parish to use. The challenge is to enable everyone involved to understand how the scheme works and the importance of keeping records and accounts up to date. Once this is done, then each project should be able to run effectively. Please pray for the Lord Jesus to bless these projects and enable them to be an effective tool for witness by the local Churches.

HIS EVERLASTING LOVE

10-16 MAR

- 10th **But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children. Ps 103:17**
- 11th Please pray for the continued training for the **'My Profession'** programme in **Oradea prison**. **'My Profession'** helps prisoners prepare for work after their release. It helps them identify their strengths and have a right attitude towards themselves and for life outside of prison.
- 12th Pray too for links to be made with **potential employers** who will be open to help ex-offenders and give them the opportunity to turn their lives around.
- 13th Pray for the **ACV volunteers** who provide help and support for ex-offenders and their families living in or close to Oradea. Provision of practical help is especially helpful, such as firewood, clothes, food parcels etc.
- 14th Give thanks for the success of the latest **ACV Mentoring programme** run in Oradea Prison. **14 Apprentices** completed the course and received diplomas, Bibles and books. Please pray that the seeds sown in their lives will be nourished by the Holy Spirit and true disciples of Christ will result.
- 15th We are so grateful to the Lord for the many students from **Emanuel University** who now help ACV's ministry. Please pray that they will be blessed in their giving of time to serve others.
- 16th **TMB**. Time to meet and discuss relevant issues for us as men before we tuck into a full English breakfast!

I WILL BLESS YOUR LAND

17-23 MAR

- 17th **Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you. For to you and your descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham.** *Gen 26:3*
- 18th In the sub-parish of **Nyande (ADoB)**, **Rev Sylvere** says that a lot of his congregation are young adults, born and brought up after the genocide in 1994. Pray that this church will grow strong and vibrant, with enthusiasm to share the gospel of peace and reconciliation with God, in their community.
- 19th Praise God for the testimony that **Rev Sylvere** gives of his church in Nyande: *'Being a Christian in my church is to be keen and fearing doing evil and all idolatry.'*
- 20th Pray that in Nyande **Rev Sylvere** and the four catechists will be able to establish the structures of the church, with **Mothers' Union** and **Fathers' Union** in place so that they can have projects that support the poor among the Christians as well as those in the community.
- 21st This request from **Rev Sylvere**: *'Children are abandoning schools and society is facing problems so we are requesting prayers.'* Pray with him for the needs of the community in Nyande.
- 22nd In the parish of **Kigarama (ADoB)** there are seven local churches. Pray for the seven catechists that lead them under the leadership of **Pastor Eliab**.
- 23rd **Kigarama** is a farming community. Pray for the **Mothers' Union**, **Fathers' Union** and **Youth Union** as they cultivate church land. Pray that God will bless them with fruitful harvests for themselves and the local community.

HE BORE OUR SUFFERING

24-31 MAR

- 24th (Palm Sunday) **Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'** *Mk 11:9*
- 25th Thank you for praying for Damascus Trust through another two months' reminders of the people it serves and the work it does.
- 26th Praise God for the many partners who give regularly to support a particular parish in Rwanda, or to enable water harvesting to proceed in more communities.
- 27th Thank God for all that Andy is able to do, and pray for continued health and strength for him and Liz, in their life in Tamworth and beyond.
- 28th (Maundy Thursday) **'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.'** *1 Cor.11:25*
- 29th (Good Friday) **Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering,** *Isa 53:4a* Pray for rescue and redemption for all who suffer, especially those in war-torn parts of the world. Pray that all who call out to Jesus for help will be saved.
- 30th Let's reflect today on what it means to us that Jesus died and rose again "in accordance with the riches of God's grace" *Eph. 1:7*
- 31st (Resurrection Sunday) **'Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.'** *Matt 28:5b,6a.* Praise be to Jesus for the impact of his resurrection on all who put their trust in him, both now and for eternity.

WHO'S WHO & WHAT'S WHAT

Trustees - Robin Swan (& Hilary); Peter Harrington (& Susanna); Floyd Davis (& Anne)

Prayer Diary - David & Mary Jarratt; **Hon. IT Consultant:** Gavin Rowden

Ubushuti - Pete and Heather Ellis; Liz Paine; **Others** - Andy & Liz Paine

Local Coordinators: Sorin Maier (Romania); Placide Nizeyimana (Byumba); Samuel Kayitare (Gasabo)

Christian Partner Organisations:

Asociația Cărarea Vieții / Path of Life Association, Romania, overseen by Sorin Maier

Diocese of Byumba, Rwanda cared for by Bishop Emmanuel Ngendahayo

Diocese of Gasabo, Rwanda cared for by Archbishop Laurent Mbanda

Rwanda SAP Programme:

Parishes/Pastors with ADoB, Rwanda:

Bugarura - Rev. Elaste; wife Peace
 Bwambi - Rev. Thomas and Deacon Angelique
 Gaseke - Rev. Damascene; wife Claudine
 Giheta - Rev. Felicien; wife Placidie
 Gitovu - Rev. Emmanuel; wife Blandine
 Kibare - Rev. Eric; wife Hyacinthe
 Kigarama - Rev. Eliab and Deacon JMV Mutsinzi
 Kinyana - Deacon Emmmanuel; wife Felicite
 Kitazugurwa - Rev. Evariste;
 Manyagiro - Rev. Bugingo;
 Mimuli - Rev. Alexis Moses;
 Ngarama - Rev. Jean de D.T.; wife Marie Grace
 Nyabihu - Rev. Innocent; wife Belancille
 Nyande - Rev. Sylvere; wife Seraphine
 Rebero - Rev. Bosco; wife Henriette
 Ruyange - Rev. Kezia
 Rwamiko - Rev. Donath; wife Beatrice
 Rwesero - Rev. Deacon Elisa; wife Sophia
 Tsimba - Rev. Jean de Dieu; wife Rev. Patricie
 Tumba - Rev Philbert

Parishes/Pastors with ADoG, Rwanda:

Gacuriro - Deacon Cyprian
 * Karama - Rev Clement; wife Marie
 * Kayanga - Mrs Providence; husband Nyirindekwe
 Kinyinya - Revd Benoit; wife Pierrette
 * Nduba - Revd Benjamin; wife Egidie
 Nkuzuzu - Rev. Jonathan; wife Ruth
 Nyabikenke - Rev. Alfred; wife Claudette
 Rubungo - Rev. Emmanuel; wife Francine
 * new parish plants

ACV Romania:

Board / Management Team

Adina Lovasz	Sorin Maier
Emil Bodog	Iosif Rezmives
Florin Maghiar	Lavinia Condrea

Helpful abbreviations: **DT** = Damascus Trust; **SAP** = Support A Parish; **ADoB** = Anglican Diocese of Byumba; **ADoG** = Anglican Diocese of Gasabo; **WHP** = Water Harvesting Project; **PoL / ACV** = Path of Life / Asociația Cărarea Vieții; **TMB** = Tamworth Men's Breakfast; **EWTB** = *ENGAGE with the Bible*; **DTAH** = Damascus Trust At Home

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