



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 the **Anglican Dioceses of Byumba and Gasabo** which are in Rwanda.

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 these are a real opportunity for spiritual and physical refreshment and fellowship.



For the wider parish, our support enables the Church to provide practical help for the community (such as food parcels and self-help groups). We also fund **Water Harvesting Projects** which provide income for the parish to help with its witness within the local community. More information about the WHPs is on our website.

With your support this work can grow. The **SAP programme**, gives individuals, home groups and church fellowships a link with one of these pastors / parishes.

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 cost of living. Where this 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. One-off gifts can be given for this Help Fund. All transactions are recorded and monitored by DT to ensure good stewardship.

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

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
THE DIOCESE OF BYUMBA
RWANDA

PARISH/PASTOR PROFILE



PARISH OF NYABHU
In the Diocese of Byumba.

Current Pastor:
KEREKEZI LADISLAS
and his wife Philomena



ABOUT THE AMERICAN DIOCESE OF BYUMBA:
Established in 1981 - Governed by Bishop Emeritus Ngonzwe and his wife Victoria - 65km north of the capital, Kigali - 6 parishes, 43 parishes, 207 congregations, 75,000 members

Byumba town is fairly well open in the countryside has many smallholdings and excellent farmers. Cell roads still are make travelling around very difficult, not especially in the rainy season.

Many parishes are very poor and cannot support a pastor for themselves - Month contributions support whole parishes can enable them to have their own pastor - parishes houses have toilets and basic six Church buildings are big but wooden, few Congregations are large with many old Services last several hours have levels along drums, lots of dancing and challenging sermons

Pastors have few resources to deal with issues within their parishes - poverty seen by drought and flood, malaria, cholera and a families caused by HIV/AIDS and the genocide, forgiveness and reconciliation in neighbours and church members.

ABOUT THE PASTOR:
Nyabhu is a new parish in a very rural area. There are 1105 members who are divided into different congregations. Church members mainly meet on

PRAYERS & PRAYERS:

- Give thanks for Ladislas & Philomena's our
- Pray for strength and wisdom for Ladislas in
- Give thanks for the local believers/congregations
- Pray for the healing and empowerment of the congregations
- Pray for the area to have an adequate and

NEWS UPDATE:

The structure of the church services 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.

Bunama 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 Rubete and since Ladislas has seven other churches to lead, Bunama Peter is responsible for church services which 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.

PRAYERS & PRAYERS:

- Please continue to pray for safety on the roads for Ladislas.
- Pray for Bunama Peter and his family, that God 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.

SUPPORT A PARISH
A MINISTRY OF
DAMASCUS TRUST
REG: CHTY/101326

info@damascustrust.org
www.damascustrust.org



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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
THE DIOCESE OF BYUMBA
RWANDA

PARISH UPDATE



PARISH OF NYABHU
In the Diocese of Byumba.

Pastor: KEREKEZI LADISLAS
Wife: Philomena
Children: Eight



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SUPPORT A PASTOR/PARISH – RESPONSE FORM

Please complete all relevant sections.

SECTION 1:

Please indicate where you would like your support to go.

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

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

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

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

SECTION 2:

To Gift Aid your donation, please complete and sign the declaration below.

- I want to Gift Aid my donation of £ and any donations I make in the future and have made in the past 4 years to: The

DAMASCUS TRUST

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signed: _____

Date: / / 20

SECTION 3:

Title: _____ First name _____ Surname: _____
(please use BLOCK CAPITALS)

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Email: _____

Group or Church: _____

How many copies of SAP Updates would you like? _____

Please return completed forms & donations to our office address 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.

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DIRECTOR
Andy Paine

The Damascus Trust
is a registered charity
Number 1013236

