



UPDATES FOR PRAYER AND PRAISE

June &
July 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



In April, David Mercer (R) and Howard Richards (L) joined Andy for a visit to see the work of ACV in Romania.

David and Howard are part of Waterloo Road Chapel, a long-standing DT partner church. This was their first visit to Romania and with Andy, they met ACV volunteers as well as different groups of people that we work with.

David: It was a wonderful experience to meet the beautiful people of Romania. Visiting the night shelter had a strong impact on me - to see how people so less fortunate than most, were so welcoming. The trip impacted me in many ways and will live in my memory for the foreseeable future.

Howard: Romania has been an absolute eye opener of feeling the Holy Spirit's presence, showing the love of Jesus through his work. Since having time away in Romania doing God's work, I feel it has given me a true sense of spending quality time with God and let God show me his love (for us and for others). When it's time to receive his love, we often feel unworthy of it. I need to put doing God's work at the centre of my life, rather than corporate stuff. It's about what really matters, who should we be showing up for day in, day out - and that is Jesus.

ALL ONE BODY

1-8 JUNE

- 1st Over the next two months, we're asking you to pray for each of the pastors and their families who are in parishes that are part of the SAP programme.
- 2nd **We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. (Rom 12:5b).** Andy is leading the Café Church at St Editha's in Tamworth - Exploring Ephesians.
- 3rd Bugarura parish (ADoB) - Rev. Elaste; his wife Peace. The SAP programme provides extra prayer and financial support to help poorer parishes have the resources to grow numerically and spiritually. Please pray that this will happen.
- 4th Bwambi parish (ADoB) - Rev. Onesime; his wife Marie. We praise God that over the years, a number of parishes have grown and have graduated from the SAP programme. Please pray that these parishes will continue to grow.
- 5th Gaseke parish (ADoB) - Rev. Seth; his wife Jeanette. The hope is that parishes will graduate within five years of being on the SAP programme. Some parishes have been on the programme for more than ten years! Please pray that there will be enough growth for these parishes to graduate by next year.
- 6th Giheta parish (ADoB) - Rev. Lucien; his wife Dative and their children, Magnifique (at university), Pacifique (senior school), Bella (primary school).
- 7th Kibare parish (ADoB) - Rev. Evariste; his wife Venerande and their children, Ebenezar (mechanic), Enok (technician), Dinah (teacher) Joshua (at home)
- 8th We give thanks for another good DTAH Course - *Foundations of the Christian Faith*, in May. Despite lower numbers, it has been useful to remind ourselves of some of the basic beliefs we hold to - and why!

- 9th **So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up. (Rom 14:19)**
Andy & Liz are leading the service at St Francis in Tamworth. This is a regular commitment for the next few months. Please pray for this small but committed congregation.
- 10th Over the next 18 months, we are looking to make some significant adjustments to the work of DT, especially with regard to the overseas projects. This will allow us to focus more on the Bible teaching / preaching ministry, which is what we feel Jesus is calling us to do.
- 11th Trustees' Meeting in Frinton. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to guide discussions and decisions as we continue to plan for changes with the ministry of DT.
- 12th Gitovu parish (ADoB) - Rev. Emmanuel; his wife Blandine. Recent floods have caused buildings to collapse and the WHP tank has been destroyed. Please pray for Jesus to give encouragement and strength to his people at this time.
- 13th Kinyana parish (ADoB) - Rev Emmanuel; his wife Felicité and children, Felicia (nursery school) and Felicis (baby boy)
- 14th Kitazugurwa parish (ADoB) - Rev. Evariste; his wife Berancille and children, Eden, Hosianne, Habimana (S6), Happiness, Amina (S5), Prince (S2) - seeking work or still in education.
- 15th Manyagirow parish (ADoB) - Rev. Erneste; his wife Casarie and children, Syliver, Miracle, Assa Brayan.

- 16th **I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit (Rom 15:13)**
- 17th Kigarama parish (ADoB) - Rev. Eliab; his wife Vestine and children, Light (S1), Sage (P4), Chris (P4), Gladness (baby).
- 18th Mimuli parish (ADoB) - Rev. Alexis Moses; his wife Clementine and children, Erisa, Devota, Sandrine, Rebecca. All are still in school.
- 19th Ngarama parish (ADoB) - Rev. Placide; his wife Susanna and children, Benjamin, Gad, Sapphire - all are in primary education.
- 20th Nyabihu parish (ADoB) - Rev. Innocent; his wife Marie and children, Promesse (S3) Christienne (S2), Theopiste (P4), Divine (P1).
- 21st Nyande parish (ADoB) - Rev. Sylvere; his wife Seraphine and children, Joel (P6), Pamella (P2), Joshua (N1).
- 22nd Rebero parish (ADoB) - Rev. Augustine; his wife Florence and their children Eric (S4), Aron (A2), Rosine (S4), Claudine (P6), Phiona (P1), Jackin (P1), Thelema (baby class).

Some of the children of the larger families have been adopted for different reasons. Most families struggle to pay for their children's education. Grown up children then face the challenge of finding work, which is hard especially in rural areas. Please pray for help with these very real daily challenges. The financial support we offer is of some help, so thank you.



The sub-parish of Karama is in the diocese of Gasabo and is located around 6km from Kigali. It is on top of a hill (as are most places in Rwanda!) and has a population of around 15,000. Employment is primarily micro businesses with some local art/craft businesses as well. There are local schools and a health centre. It is in the process of becoming an independent parish.

There is a church building which the congregation plan to renovate soon. The congregation numbers 209 (82 adults, 69 young people and 58 children) and there are activities for all ages. They have a focus on outreach, marriage counselling and helping young people to create income-generating projects. There are 5 choirs and 7 home groups, all of which help with strengthening discipleship.

The parish is overseen by Pastor Clement and his wife Marie Immacuee. They have two young children. Clement made a commitment to Jesus when he was 21 years old. As well as being a pastor, Clement is also head teacher in the local church school. He was ordained in 2023.

Please pray for the evangelism of the parish as they engage with people in different programmes. Pray too for the practical needs, such as a church house for the pastor and space for a growing congregation.

THE ONLY WISE GOD 23-29 JUNE

- 23rd **All glory to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, forever. Amen (Rom 16:27)**
- 24th Sorin Maier, who leads the team, has had both pneumonia and kidney problems. Please pray for appropriate treatment, and that the Lord would bring healing, with or without the help of medicine.
- 25th Pray for the ACV Management team as they share the load of responsibility for the work - Emil, Florin, Iosif and Lavinia. Please pray for extra help in managing other aspects of the work especially the prayer and promotion.
- 26th We recently visited the children's home in Telechiu, near Oradea. Pray that the 26 children and the houseparents will respond well to visits by ACV volunteers, overseen by Emil Bodog.
- 27th Thank the Lord for those who provide hot food for the night shelter visits. Pray that warm food will engender a warm heart to receive salvation in Christ alone.
- 28th Please pray for the Guitar Class students as they visit different churches to play and sing; that it will both bless the congregations and encourage the young people to become confident in their witness for Jesus.
- 29th We thank the Lord Jesus for other local NGOs that ACV is able to work with. Pray for these partnerships, that each one will strengthen the Christian witness amongst different groups of people.

- 30th **For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. (Rom 1:16)**
- 31st Please give thanks, and pray for, each of the Trustees and their families - Robin Swan; Peter Harrington; Floyd Davis. We're grateful for the time they give to meet with and advise Andy regarding the work.

JULY 2024

- 1st Please pray too for our Bible teaching / preaching ministry, through EWTB writings, DTAH online courses and for visits to churches.
- 2nd Please continue to pray for David and Mary Jarratt helping to lead the Community Church in Colwall. Please pray for energy, vision and blessing in all they do.
- 3rd There are two vacancies on the ACV Management Team, for Prayer and Publicity. In the coming year ACV also need three new Board Members (ie Trustees). Please pray for these appointments.
- 4th 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.
- 5th Pray for Iosif Rezmives who leads the team that takes food and household basics to the poorest families in Oradea. There are not always enough supplies from the local Food Bank, which has impacted ACV's work. Please pray for a change in this situation.
- 6th Pray for Florin Maghiar as he organises ACV's visits to the Night Shelter. Please pray that the songs, testimonies and a Bible reading / talk will be understood by the residents and that they will respond to the Gospel message.

SOURCE OF COMFORT**7-13 JULY**

- 7th **God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. (2 Cor 1:3b-4a)**
Café Church at St Editha's. Please pray for those who will lead this time together and pray that those who come will engage with each other and with God's word.
- 8th Ruyange parish (ADoB) - Rev. Kezia - a widow, daughter Saphine (32).
- 9th Rwamiko parish (ADoB) - Rev. Donath; wife Beatrice and children Christian, Jehovanis, Yakin - all still in education.
- 10th Rwesero parish (ADoB) - Rev. Felicien; wife Placidie and children, Olive (seeking work), Lambert (teacher) Chantel (senior school).
- 11th Tsimba parish (ADoB) - Rev. Jean de Dieu; wife Rev. Patricie and children, Prince, Bless, Angela, Joshua - all still at school.
- 12th Tumba parish (ADoB) - Rev Philbert; wife Ernestine and children, Bonnette, Samuel, Hope, Patience (baby) - first three are all at school.
- 13th Tomorrow Andy & Liz are leading the morning service at St Francis in Tamworth. Please pray that we will engage with the Lord Jesus through his Word and in our offering of praise and worship to him.


 The logo for 'ENGAGE with the Bible' features the word 'ENGAGE' in a large, white, sans-serif font. A stylized white graphic of three parallel lines of increasing length extends from the end of the 'E' and 'A' in 'ENGAGE'. Below 'ENGAGE', the words 'with the Bible' are written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

ENGAGE with the Bible has been available since May 2017. It grew out of some writings that Andy had been doing for another publication and soon developed a certain style that aims to be short, incisive and challenging.

Originally available only in text format, audio versions were added in 2020.

Whilst daily users are not high compared to other available options, we have built up a dedicated audience in both the UK and overseas including India, USA, Canada, Australia and others in between. As well as those subscribers to the daily email service, we have an average of 196 people reading / listening via the DT website each month from across the world.

It's always good to get response and we are encouraged to know that this ministry is appreciated - and shared! It's so good to know that what is written/edited a month or more before going live can be used by the Holy Spirit to speak into people's situations as if written specifically for them at that time.

We know it won't suit everyone, or it may be helpful for a season, but if you haven't already done so, why not try EWTB out. You can see today's EWTB on our website here and then subscribe from that page. It's free and you can unsubscribe at any time.

FIRM IN THE FAITH

14-20 JULY

- 14th **Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong. (1 Cor 16:13)**
- 15th Gacuriro parish (ADoG) - Deacon Cyprian (lay pastor). Cyprien's father died recently and now he looks after his siblings. Please pray for this family.
- 16th Karama parish (ADoG) - Rev Clement and his wife Marie Immaculee (see Focus On).
- 17th Kayanga parish (ADoG) - Revd Benjamin; his wife Egidie and their three children, Ben Alpha (9), Pierre Benita (6) and Brave (4 mths). They have just moved to this parish, so please pray for them to settle in well and that their ministry will be blessed by the Holy Spirit.
- 18th Kinyinya parish (ADoG) - Rev. Jonathan and his wife Ruth. They have a baby boy, so please pray for the adjustments needed for family life. Also give thanks for Jonathan who has just graduated with BTh.
- 19th Nduba parish (ADoG) - Lay pastor Appolinaire and his wife Francoise. They have five 'children' - Josiane (27), Joyeuse (25), Josue (23), Ruth (20), and Gad (11). Josiane got married recently, so please pray for her and her husband and for this new phase in the life of the family.
- 20th Pray for good health, wisdom and enthusiasm for Andy, as he deals with the different aspects of the Trust's work. Give thanks for Liz's help and support.

- 21st **May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. (Eph 1:2)**
- 22nd Nkuzuzu parish (ADoG) - Rev. Alfred; his wife Claudette and their children, Belise (24), Bonheur (23), Bonnette (20), Benjamin (18), Prince (15), Joshua (10). A main challenge is paying for the children's education.
- 23rd Nyabikenke parish (ADoG) - Rev Eugene and his wife Marie Claire who have six children! We don't have their names at present, but please pray for strength and wisdom in looking after two families - home and church. All the children are doing well in school.
- 24th Rubungo parish (ADoG) - Rev. Emmanuel; his wife Francine and their three children - Fremma (15), Emmancine (11) Efra (3 ½). They are all in good health and doing well at school.
- 25th There have been a number of pastors who have changed parishes in Gasabo diocese recently. Please pray for ease of settling in and for effective ministry.
- 26th In many of the parishes we support, subsistence farming provides the main source of income. With climate change, this becomes more challenging. Please pray that the local church will provide help and support as needed.
- 27th Pray too for those parishes which need to either update their buildings to meet government legislation or construct new buildings.

- 28th **I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away your crown. (Rev 3:11)**
- 29th Not all SAP-linked pastors have easy access to a computer, but do have mobile phones, so the use of WhatsApp and Facebook - as well as email - provides easier communication. Pray for good communication all round - especially between us and our SAP Coordinators - which is now working well.
- 30th Pray for both our SAP Coordinators in Rwanda. Revd Samuel Kayitare in Gasabo and Revd Placide Nizeyimana in Byumba. Their hard work is vital in running the SAP Programme effectively.
- 31st Please continue to pray for both Abp Laurent Mbanda (Gasabo) and Bp Emmanuel Ngendahayo (Byumba) as they oversee our partner dioceses. Pray for God's strength as they face personal challenges as well as providing help and support for their many parishes.

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; **General** - Andy & Liz Paine

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

Christian Partner Organisations:

Asociația Căreaa 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. Onesime; wife Marie
Gaseke - Rev. Seth; wife Jeanette
Giheta - Rev. Lucien; wife Dative
Gitovu - Rev. Emmanuel; wife Blandine
Kibare - Rev. Evariste; wife Venerande
Kigarama - Rev. Eliab; wife Vestine
Kinyana - Rev. Emmmanuel; wife Felicite
Kitazugurwa - Rev. Evariste; wife Berancille
Manyagiro - Rev. Erneste; wife Casarie
Mimuli - Rev. Alexis Moses; wife Clementine
Ngarama - Rev. Placide; wife Susanna
Nyabihu - Rev. Innocent; wife Marie
Nyande - Rev. Sylvere; wife Seraphine
Rebero - Rev. Augustine; wife Florence
Ruyange - Rev. Kezia (widow)
Rwamiko - Rev. Donat; wife Beatrice
Rwesero - Rev. Felicien; wife Placidie
Tsimba - Rev. Jean de Dieu; wife Rev. Patricie
Tumba - Rev. Philbert; wife Ernestine

Parishes/Pastors with ADoG, Rwanda:

Gacuriro - Dcn Cyprian
* Karama - Rev Clement; wife Marie Immaculee
* Kayanga - Revd Benjamin; wife Egidie
Kinyinya - Rev. Jonathan; wife Ruth
* Nduba - Dcn Appolinaire; wife Francoise
Nkuzuzu - Rev. Alfred; wife Claudette
Nyabikenke - Rev Eugene; wife Marie Claire
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 Căreaa Vieții; **TMB** = Tamworth Men's Breakfast; **EWTB** = *ENGAGE with the Bible*; **DTAH** = Damascus Trust At Home

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