



*Updates* —

# Sharing news of our ministry for praise and prayer

May, June, July 2025

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**



Partners

## NEWS FROM DAMASCUS TRUST (UK)

We are running our **10th DTAH Bible teaching course in May**. This is a revised version of the first DTAH course we ran back in 2020.

**Want to join us? You'll have to be quick!**  
Click here or visit [www.damascustrust.org](http://www.damascustrust.org). Ω

A small team of three will be visiting **Rwanda** in June. Robin and Hilary Swan will travel with Andy to have time with our partner dioceses of Byumba and Gasabo. They will visit some of the parishes who are part of our SAP Programme and also see some of the Water Harvesting Projects that DT has helped set up. This is a challenging time for the Church of Jesus in Rwanda, so pray that our visit will encourage them to keep going. Ω

The **Damascus Trust Facebook group** is up and running. It is a private group where we can share weekly updates, an EWTB from the archives and news / prayer requests for our overseas partners as they come to our attention. If you would like to join the group, then here's the link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/620538267056781/?ref=share> Ω



**Audio files of some Bible teaching given by Andy Paine** are now available on the DT website. [Click here to select and listen](#). More will be uploaded in the coming months. Ω

As we have just passed the **end of another financial year**, we thank the Lord for all who support the work of Damascus Trust financially, either regularly or with one-off donations. If you are one of these people, then THANK YOU! Our resources may be limited, but the Lord Jesus continues to enable us to serve him in the UK and overseas. Ω



Today's **Engage with the Bible** is available [here](#) or on our website at [www.damascustrust.org](http://www.damascustrust.org). Why not sign up and have it delivered each day by email?



**Helpful abbreviations:** **DT** = Damascus Trust; **TMB** - Tamworth Men's Breakfast; **EWTB** = *ENGAGE with the Bible*; **DTAH** = Damascus Trust At Home



Partners

## PRAISE & PRAYER FOR DAMASCUS TRUST

***Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Gal 6:10***

- Please pray for the DTAH teaching course, the Kingdom of God. Pray that we will be enthused and encouraged by what we read and study together and that we will be empowered by the Holy Spirit to live as citizens of heaven here on earth.
- Give thanks for the developments in our use of the DT website. We're getting more people visiting and interacting with the website from different parts of the world. Pray that this will grow and develop under God's blessing.
- The challenge to prepare audio files of our Bible teaching courses remains, so please pray for the time needed to edit and record.
- Please pray for the visit to Rwanda in June. Pray for Robin, Hilary and Andy as they travel, that all will go well and that their visit will serve God's purposes.
- We are so grateful for all who support our work and ministry, for individuals and church fellowships. Please join us in giving thanks to Jesus and pray that we will use the resources we have been given, wisely and for God's glory.
- Please pray for Floyd Davis as he oversees our use of Facebook. Pray for ideas and integrity as we seek to make good use of this means of communication.
- We continue to have feedback from people reading EWTB, which is encouraging. More than 300 people read it each month on our website and many others receive it by email each day. We do our best to respond appropriately, so please continue to pray for this ministry.
- We've made a start with uploading some audio teaching onto our website but there is a lot more to do. So please pray for time and ability to record some of the main teaching series.
- Please pray that our communication with our overseas partners remains strong and healthy. We are grateful to our local coordinators Sorin Maier (Romania); Placide Nizeyimana (Byumba); Samuel Kayitare (Gasabo) who keep us in touch with what is happening. Their work for us is on top of their other regular responsibilities. Please pray for them and their families.
- Give thanks for the help and support of the Trustees (see back page). Pray that they will guide and direct the work alongside Andy, in accordance with God's plans and purposes for us all.
- Please pray for Andy's preaching and teaching ministry both in local churches as well as in other parts of the UK. It's always good to share God's Word in a live situation!

**ACV MANAGEMENT TEAM** has a new **Prayer Coordinator**. **Nicu Maior** will lead the monthly prayer meetings and also share news and updates with ACV partner churches. This is an answer to prayer, so please pray that Nicu will make a difference.

**GUITAR CLASS:** These have been running each week for the last three months with a new teacher, **Adrian Todoran**, who studied music at Cluj and Geneva universities. Sometimes there are up to 18 children, which makes teaching difficult, but mostly the classes are around 10 in number. Some of these students visit local churches with ACV to lead songs. Some will also accompany the ACV team in visits to poor families. As well as playing guitars, each lesson includes Bible time, so please pray that these young people will grow to know Jesus as well as how to play guitar.



**NIGHT SHELTER:** ACV team continues to visit the Night Shelter with the help of Emanuel University students. Songs are led by the students, one or two give their testimony and a short talk is given based on a Bible passage. Then hot food is served and one-to-one conversations are had with the residents.

After a recent visit, Sorin Maier wrote: *"This evening all things work together by Our Heavenly Father. Nicu Maior talk about prodigal son. Songs and message and students input was very challenged on people lives. We stay more than 2 hours, students was very involved on talking, individual evangelism, they pray with individuals and lead them in repentance. It was very great time. I thing I never see this on Night Shelter. A lot of people cry, some of theme answer to God, a few accept to come next Sunday on Church. Great job! "*



During this meeting, one man repented and asked for baptism. Another man promised to attend a service with the students at Emanuel Baptist Church. A young lady wanted to join the ACV guitar class. Praise God for the move of his Holy Spirit in the lives of these homeless people. Pray for many to respond to Jesus in the coming months and for their nurture in local churches.

**PRISON MINISTRY:** ACV continue to run their Mentoring Programme in the prison and lead monthly services. They have also started a Prison Fellowship course called The Prisoner's Journey and hosted a visit by Vasile Tofan, an ex-offender and professional boxer, who turned to Christ whilst in prison.

## PRAISE & PRAYER FOR ASOCIAȚIA CĂRAREA VIEȚII

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us. Eph 3:21*

- Praise God for the new ACV Managers - **Oliver** and **Noemi Lazer** and **Nicu Maior**. Pray that their gifts and leadership will impact the work of ACV for good and result in effective ministry in all areas.
- Pray that the **Prayer Ministry of ACV** will grow and deepen under Nicu's leadership. Pray that local churches will be more involved in prayer for ACV each month.
- Give thanks for the new guitar teacher, **Adrian Todoran**. Pray that he will be able to inspire the students not just with playing guitar but also in their love for Jesus.
- Pray for the work of ACV in the **Night Shelter**. Praise the Lord for the recent response from residents. Pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to use ACV to bring people to himself.
- Pray for the man who made a commitment to Christ and now wants to be baptised, Pray that the change in his life will be very real and that he will find a church fellowship where he can belong and grow in his new life in Christ.
- Praise God for the work of the **students from Emanuel University** with ACV. They bring energy, enthusiasm and youth to the ministry.
- It's good that the guitar students can be included in church services and have opportunity to play and sing. Pray that these times will make their relationship with Jesus even more real and personal.
- The long-standing ACV guitar teacher **Nicolae Moranciu** is recovering from major surgery. He is an older man and lives alone, so please pray that he will have the necessary care and support of local Christians.
- **A local restaurant**, owned by a Christian, provides hot food, without charge, for ACV to take to the Night Shelter. Praise the Lord for this very practical help in the ministry. Pray God's blessing on this owner, his family and their business.
- ACV have an idea of having the use of a kitchen from where they can provide hot food everyday for those people living on the streets. Pray for the Holy Spirit to lead and guide as they discuss and plan for this venture.
- Give thanks for the financial support that ACV now receives from individuals and some partner churches. Pray that this will grow to help cover the costs of developing the work.
- Pray for more local churches to commit to partner ACV on a regular basis. It's been good for ACV to visit two new churches recently as well as visits to existing partner churches.
- Pray for **Sorin Maier** as he leads the work of ACV and for the **Management Team** that help him with each area of ministry (see back page).



**CHALLENGING TIMES CONTINUE:** The Church in Rwanda continues to face challenges regarding building regulations. There are big differences between dioceses. In **Gasabo** (on the edge of Kigali), 18 church buildings remain closed and it is likely that only 8 of these will be able to comply with the regulations. In **Byumba** diocese (rural location) the situation is worse and the amount of money required for each parish to fulfil the building regulations is way beyond their means. This has left the diocese more or less bankrupt. There needs to be some compromise as to what is required of rural parishes. Please pray.

**PASTOR'S TRAINING:** Another government requirement is for all church pastors to have degree level qualification in theology or similar. This has put pressure on each diocese to provide the means for this to be done. **Byumba** diocese does not have the resources to do this and so many of their pastors face having their employment terminated. Relatively few are educated to degree level.

**A RECENT RETREAT** for all Anglican clergy did provide opportunity for dialogue and focus on the issues facing individual parishes. Let's pray that this will result in cooperation and support between dioceses.

In **Gasabo**, they have more resources available to provide the necessary training. However, most of their clergy do have degree-level qualification. They are currently using two programmes to strengthen their evangelism; Community Bible Study and Church Transformation Network.



**INCOME GENERATING PROJECTS STRUGGLE:** In **Byumba** diocese, a commercial property was purchased some years back with the plan to rent out office and shop space. However with the impact of Covid and a change in the local demographics, many rooms remain empty. This has put further pressure on diocesan finances.

**PARISH OUTREACH:** Despite the dire situation for church buildings, small groups continue to function in most parishes and public witness is resulting in new believers. House to house visits are done regularly by many home groups and this has increased since buildings have been closed.

**DT TEAM VISIT:** Three of us from DT will be visiting Rwanda in June this year. We will spend a week with each partner diocese visiting SAP-linked parishes and some WHPs. We will also review our partnerships with them.



**Helpful abbreviations:** **DT** = Damascus Trust; **SAP** = Support A Parish; **ADoB** = Anglican Diocese of Byumba; **ADoG** = Anglican Diocese of Gasabo;; **WHP** = Water Harvesting Project;



## PRAISE & PRAYER FOR DIOCESES OF BYUMBA & GASABO

*We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair. 2 Cor 4:8-9*

- Please pray that a solution can be found for the financial challenges facing **Byumba** diocese. Pray that the individual church members will continue to give financially despite buildings being closed.
- Give thanks that, despite the struggles, the witness of home groups continues and new believers are being added to Christ's Church.
- Parishes are using the **Community Bible Study programme** to help in their evangelism and teaching new Christians (see photo).
- Praise the Lord for new church buildings that do meet government regulations. In **Karama, Butare and Kayanga** parishes (ADoG) new buildings are open.
- Pray that things will change regarding the letting of the commercial buildings in **Byumba** and that some more income will be generated.
- Praise God that DT has continued to send extra financial support for pastors and their families. Over **9,000,000 RWF** has been given so far. Thank you for your support. The DT Help Fund remains open - see our website for details for giving.
- In some parishes, there is some confusion about what amounts / fees need to be paid in order for church buildings to reopen. Please pray that this will be sorted and not be unfair.
- Please pray for **Robin & Hilary Swan** and **Andy Paine** as they prepare to visit Rwanda in June. Pray that they can encourage the congregations that they visit and consider ways in which DT can be of more help and support during this difficult time.
- Please pray for the pastors who do not have degree-level qualifications. Pray that a way will be found to either provide the necessary training or for them to find work that allows them to serve as non-stipendiary pastors.
- Give thanks that **Jesus is building his Church and nothing can stop it**. Pray that individual believers will strengthen each other and that their witness will be effective.
- Please pray for both **Archbishop Laurent (ADoG) and Bishop Emmanuel (ADoB)** as they seek to serve and support the parishes under their care. Pray for divine wisdom and insight as well as for Holy Spirit inspiration and energy.
- Give thanks for the ongoing work of Compassion International in Gasabo diocese. In the parishes of **Gasura, Bumbogo, Nkuzuzu and Kayanga** more than 1,000 children are being sponsored. This can be life-transforming for these families.



# WHO'S WHO & WHAT'S WHAT

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

**Hon. IT Consultant:** Gavin Rowden; **Ubushuti:** Pete & Heather Ellis; Liz Paine;

**Hon. Treasurer:** Joy Dean; **General:** 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:

Bwambi - Rev. Onesime; wife Marie

Gaseke - Rev. Seth; wife Jeanette

Giheta - Rev. Lucien; wife Dative

+ Giti - Dcn Boniface

Kibare - Rev. Eric; wife Hyacinthe

+ Kihira - Dcn Aimee

Kinyana - Rev Emmanuel; wife Felicite

Kitazugurwa - Rev. Evariste; wife Berancille

Mimuli - Rev. Alexis Moses; wife Clementine

Mugina - Rev Celestin

Ngarama - Rev. Placide; wife Susanna

Nyabihu - Rev. Innocent; wife Marie

Nyande - Rev. Sylvere; wife Seraphine

Rebero - Rev. Augustine; wife Florence

Ruhondo - Rev Clementine

Ruyange - Rev. Kezia (widow)

Rwasa - Rev Geoffrey

Rwesero - Rev. Felicien; wife Placidie

Tsima - Rev. Jean de Dieu; wife Rev. Patricie

Tumba - Rev Philbert; wife Ernestine

+ sub-parish

### 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

Sorin Maier                      Emil Bodog

Iosif Rezmives                Florin Maghiar

Oliver Lazar                    Noemi Lazar

Nicu Maior

**THE DAMASCUS TRUST**  
Tamworth, Staffordshire  
B79 7EU - UK

**T/F:** +44 (0)7906 585602  
**E:** [info@damascustrust.org](mailto:info@damascustrust.org)  
**W:** [www.damascustrust.org](http://www.damascustrust.org)

**Director**  
Andy Paine

Charity Number 1013236

