



Updates —

Sharing news of our ministry for praise and prayer

Nov, Dec 2025
Jan 2026

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

Across Rwanda, the majority of church buildings remain closed as few have the resources to meet the requirements of the building regulations.

In **Gasabo** diocese 18 church buildings remain closed. 10 of these have done the necessary work and are waiting for inspection and approval. 6 church buildings are open. Several rural buildings will no longer be used as places of worship, but will become venues for the Early Childhood Development programme.

In **Byumba** diocese: 330 church buildings are still closed but at least 50 of these are waiting for inspection and authorisation to re-open. There are just 27 church buildings that are open across the diocese.

Income-generating projects: You will remember that we reported on the success of income-generating projects that we saw in many of the parishes that we visited in July. These projects have been set up with extra funds from DT as well as maintained by the monthly SAP money. It was very good to see the difference these projects are making for individuals as well as for parish communities.

In **Byumba** diocese DT's monthly support is given directly to each individual parish that is part of the SAP programme. The parish committee can then use that money to invest in an income-generating project and/or use it to help the pastor and other individuals who have specific needs. It is surprising what our small but regular offering can achieve there in Rwanda.

In **Gasabo** diocese, they have a Diocesan Help Fund which was set up with funds from DT and is now maintained by the monthly SAP money. Pastors and parishes can borrow from this fund at only 1% interest (compared to 15-20% commercial rate). They use the money to set up income-generating projects or do church building repairs - but the money has to be repaid within a year. This means that the Help Fund is kept active and grows, so that more pastors/parishes can benefit from it.

Many pastors face a big challenge in planning for retirement as they will have to provide a home for their families as well as for their daily needs. Any pension will be insufficient to cover these needs. So income-generating projects (plantations, animal husbandry etc) can make all the difference, both before and after retirement. We are grateful to the Lord that our monthly support is used in this way.

As you know, one of the government requirements is for all pastors to have a degree level qualification in theology. DT is planning to run a pilot programme to pay for 2-3 pastors to receive the necessary education. If all goes well, then we will open it up for other people/church fellowships to join in the funding of this scheme. Ω

DTU11.25

PRAISE & PRAYER FOR DIOCESES OF BYUMBA & GASABO

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze" Isa 43:1-2

- Continue to pray that Almighty God will intervene in the present situation and bring about a fair resolution with the government regarding the many building regulations.
- **ADoG:** Give thanks for the ten church buildings that await inspection and approval. Please pray that this will happen quickly so that congregations can once again meet for worship, teaching and fellowship.
- **ADoG:** Please pray for those rural congregations whose buildings will no longer be used as places of worship. Pray that they will be provided for, either by travelling to another parish or through home groups.
- **ADoG:** Give thanks for the 15 pastors who can continue to oversee parishes. Pray for them as they look to provide for all church members in their parish.
- **ADoG:** 3 pastors will continue their studies in order to attain the academic qualification required for them to remain as serving pastors. Please pray for their funding through this training.
- **ADoB:** At least 20 pastors face redundancy because they do not have the required academic qualification. Please pray that we can offer some financial help.
- **ADoB:** As a poorer diocese, most of the parishes do not have the resources to meet all the building requirements. So many congregations face an uncertain future.
- Continue to pray for **Bishop Emmanuel (ADoB) and Bishop Laurent (ADoG)** as they have to make some tough decisions over church buildings and pastors. Pray for Holy Spirit help along with grace and wisdom.
- **ADoB:** Some of the pastors who do not have the required theological qualifications will be able to remain as assistant pastors. However, this will mean a lower level of salary. Please pray for them and their families, that they will be able to adjust.
- Pray for those pastors in both dioceses that will have to take early retirement due to their age and lack of required qualification. Pray that any extra financial help DT can offer will be of some help.
- **ADoG:** Give thanks for the work of the Catechists (pictured) who graduated to serve as lay clergy. They will work alongside pastors providing teaching and pastoral care. Their role is all the more important given the permanent closure of some church buildings and reduced number of pastors.



In early October, **Howard Richards** went with Andy to Oradea, Romania. Howard is a Youth Worker in Coventry and is a member of Waterloo Road Chapel, which supports the work of DT.

Andy and Howard spent time at Emanuel University. Andy was teaching our **On The Edge** course, looking at Biblical principles for working with the marginalised. Howard was able to share some of his insights and experience of working with young people who have been excluded from mainstream education for various reasons. These can include knife crime, behavioural problems, drug use/dealing, mental health issues and more. Howard shared his approach to help these individuals and the ways he has seen the Holy Spirit change the lives of some young people.

Both Howard and Andy spoke at meetings in seven churches during the week and had time with members of ACV management. They also visited Oradea prison to discuss ideas for collaboration and were given a live performance by two inmates of songs they had written, reflecting on their lives. Some moving lyrics.

The work of ACV continues to develop, which is good to see. They have been partnered by a local chef, who runs his own restaurant, to provide hot food for each visit ACV makes to the Night Shelter. This is a huge blessing. ACV team has been going to the Night Shelter once a month but plans to increase this to twice each month from next year.

Other activities include leading Sunday services in the prison. The service times have been changed, so as not to clash with the Orthodox service, and as a result more inmates now attend, often as many as 40 people. Praise the Lord!

Another **ACV Mentoring Programme** is running from October through to December. This is a weekly course, helping prisoners to learn about a Biblical approach to life and looks at key areas, such as family, social responsibility, work, money, relationships, anger management etc. 18 prisoners are part of the present course.

Recently another group of 18 inmates were baptised - inside the prison, confessing salvation in Christ. Praise God for his transforming work in the lives of these men. Please pray for future help and support for these men in their commitment to Christ.

As of December, this year, ACV will be fully independent of DT. We are grateful to the Lord Jesus for establishing their ministry and thank God for the part we have been able to play. We will maintain our link with ACV and will report on their work in our DT Updates. Please pray for the Management Team (see back page). Ω

DTU 11.25

PRAISE & PRAYER FOR ASOCIAȚIA CĂRAREA VIEȚII

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Rom 12:12-13

- Give thanks for a worthwhile and productive visit in October by Andy and Howard.
- Pray for any future collaborations between DT and ACV, Emanuel University and Oradea Prison. Pray for wisdom and discernment as to what we should commit to.
- Give thanks for the development of ACV in Oradea. Thank the Lord for the Management team and for their enthusiasm for the ministry.
- Thank the Lord for the teaching Andy and Howard were able to give at Emanuel University. Pray that the notes we handed out will be of help now and in the future, whatever area of work the students might get involved with.
- Please pray for the ACV Mentoring Course now being run in prison. There are 18 prisoners attending each week. Pray that each inmate will be helped, practically, emotionally and spiritually.
- Each week on the ACV Mentoring Course, there is didactic Bible teaching followed by discussion groups. Please pray for the teachers and group leaders.
- Give thanks for 18 inmates who were recently baptised in the prison. Please pray that their commitment to live for Jesus Christ will be real and that they will be helped by Christians whilst in the prison and also when they are released.
- Praise God that 40 more prisoners are asking to be baptised! Please pray that they will be helped to know what it is they are doing and the lifelong commitment to follow Christ and live with him as their Lord and Saviour.
- Please pray for the work with residents at the Night Shelter. Each month ACV volunteers visit with hot food and lead a short service. Recently there has been some encouraging response from residents, so please pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to work in their lives.
- ACV wants to increase its visits to the Night Shelter to twice a month, so please pray that the volunteers will be available to do this. Emanuel University students are involved in this ministry. Pray that they will remain available and enthusiastic.
- Pray for the weekly Sunday services held in Oradea Prison. Recently the time for these services were changed and as a result more inmates are now attending. Up to 40 prisoners now attend each week.
- With Christmas approaching, ACV will be involved with putting together and distributing Christmas Shoeboxes. These are given to families of inmates. With each visit, songs are sung, prayer is offered and a short Bible message is shared.
- Two ACV Managers, Oliver and Naomi are establishing a feeding programme with a Christian restaurant owner. They have started providing hot food each day for the homeless. Their aim is to provide 150 meals each day. please pray for this venture, that the Lord will use it as a means of sharing the Gospel of Jesus.
- Give thanks for the work of Nicu Maior as Prayer Manager. Pray that he will be able to encourage churches to commit to pray regularly for the ministry of ACV.



Partners

NEWS FROM DAMASCUS TRUST (UK)

As some of you will be aware, we are not running an autumn **DTAH Bible teaching course**. We have run ten courses since we started in November 2020 and felt that a break would be helpful. We plan to run another DTAH course in March/April 2026. During the break, we will be recording some of the teaching series to make them available as downloads from our website.

Given the challenges facing the Church of Jesus in Rwanda, especially with a lack of money for pastors and their families, DT Trustees decided to increase our monthly support significantly. For Byumba diocese we will increase our support by 60% and in Gasabo diocese by 20%. We will do this as long as there is money available in the SAP Fund. If you would like to help cover this increase, then please use the Donate button on our website. You can either make a one-off donation or register to make a monthly donation.

We are pleased to welcome **Hilary Swan** as our **SAP Coordinator**. Hilary is the wife of Trustee Robin and she has been to India and Rwanda with DT. Hilary was instrumental in setting up and running our Support A Child programme that ran alongside our SAP programme in India from 2008 to 2015.

We are grateful to all who faithfully support DT financially. Some give regularly, other people give as and when they can. We recently had a one-off gift of £2000, which came at just the right time to help our day-to-day working account stay healthy! The Lord is good and provides for our needs as we continue to trust in him.

As well as regular input to two local congregations, Andy has also been to visit some of our UK partner churches. Recent visits included Pocklington Christian Fellowship Church (end of July); Crossways Christian Fellowship, Halstead (end of September) and Guithavon Valley Evangelical Church in Witham (October). We appreciate the prayer and financial support that is given by these and other church fellowships. Always good to visit fellowships and share news of what God is doing through DT.

If you would like Andy Paine to visit your church fellowship to give a presentation of the work of DT and share some Bible teaching, then please get in touch via the Contact Us page on our website. This could be for a Sunday service or a mid-week group.



Some audio Bible teaching, given by Andy Paine, is already available on our website. More will be posted in the coming months. Do take a look and listen! Ω

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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

Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. Col 4:12-13

- Give thanks for the recent visits to partner churches and for their ongoing financial and prayer support for DT's ministry.
- Give thanks that we have a new SAP Coordinator - Hilary Swan! Please pray for Hilary as she establishes links with our two SAP partners in Rwanda. Pray that good communication will continue with our SAP Coordinators - Revd Samuel Kayitare (Gasabo) and Revd Placide Nizeyimana (Byumba).
- We thank the Lord for his ongoing provision for DT's financial needs - both regular and one-off gifts. Please pray that we will be wise in our use of the money that is given and that we will use it to make disciples of Jesus Christ.
- Please pray for the next few months as Andy edits and records some more of his Bible teaching series for us to make available on the DT website, Pray for focus and patience!
- We would like make teaching notes available as a slide presentation to go with the Bible teaching on the website. Please pray for us to find the right way to do this - and even someone to help with putting it together!
- Engage with the Bible continues to be well used. Again please pray for the writing and editing of these reflections for each day. It's good to have feedback from people who've found these a help and blessing. Even better when they are shared / forwarded to other people!
- Whilst we didn't run a DTAH Bible teaching course this autumn, we plan to run one in March/April 2026. Please pray for the right topic to be chosen and for the necessary preparation time to be set aside.
- Please pray for Andy & Liz's input into two local church congregations each month. Whilst numbers are few, it provides an opportunity to give something a little different from what is available the rest of the time. Pray especially for the Bible teaching that Andy gives.
- Please pray for wisdom to know how we can best provide help and support for our partners in Rwanda during this challenging time. Financial help is needed for pastors, especially for medical treatment, and for church buildings that need updating, especially in Byumba diocese. Most of all, we can pray and intercede for them.
- Praise God that our Emergency Help Fund is being used, especially to help with medical treatment for pastors and their families. Pray for Pastors Geoffrey (cancer) and Jonas (diabetes) as they will now get the treatment they need as a result of our recent donation. If you want to give into this Fund, then please go to the [Latest News page](#) on our website.

WHO'S WHO & WHAT'S WHAT

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

SAP Coordinator: Hilary Swan; **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. Evariste; wife Venerand
+ Kinyihira - Evangelist Elish
Kinyana - Rev. Mutsinzi; wife Francis
Kitazugurwa - Rev. Jean Bosco; wife Henriette
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. Diogene; wife Francoise
Rwesero - Rev. Felicien; wife Placidie
Tsimba - 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. Samuel; wife Grace
* 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	

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