



Updates

Sharing news of our ministry for praise and prayer

February - April 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

Damascus Trust's 'At Home' Bible Teaching - Spring 2026

Jewish Roots of the Christian Faith

deepening our love for Messiah Jesus
and our commitment to his
plans and purposes

***'Salvation is from the Jews.'* - Christ Jesus**

***'You do not support the root, but the root supports you.'*
- Apostle Paul**

Has the Church replaced Israel? Was the Apostle Paul a Christian or a Messianic Jew? What relevance has the Old Testament people of God for the New Testament Church of God? Are there two peoples of God? Whose Messiah is Jesus?

Many Christians in the West have ignored or even denied our Jewish roots. As a result our faith can be impoverished, our discipleship can be weakened and we can miss out on the richness of our identity and salvation in Christ.

Panoramic View - the bigger picture **Stones and Gates** - Jewish connections
Cultural Clash - the Gentile influence **Eternally Linked** - our shared destiny

When? Thursdays: April 23rd; 30th; May 7th; 14th 2026

Times: afternoon course: 14:30 - 16:00

evening course: 19:30 - 21:00

Where? on Zoom (easy to use - we can help set-up if required)

www.damascustrust.org

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Loan Fund for pastors and parishes: We have drawn up a proposed plan with our partners in Byumba diocese, for setting up a Loan Fund that will run in a similar way to one in the diocese of Gasabo. Some or all of DT's monthly SAP money will be put into this fund. Pastors and parishes can then borrow from this fund to help them set up income-generating projects or help with church building repairs or community work. Each loan is repaid within a year at a very low interest rate (1%) and this enables the fund to continue to serve the needs of individuals and congregations.

This scheme is working well in Gasabo and we hope it will run as well in Byumba. Rather than maintaining a dependency on outside help, this scheme becomes self-supporting over time and enables pastors to provide for themselves and their families, now and in retirement. Several parishes have already set up income-generating projects that help people come together to encourage one another and to share in Bible reading and prayer whilst also working together in the different projects.

The Loan Fund will have its own account, separate from the other diocesan accounts and be overseen by a group of senior diocesan staff. Pastors and parishes applying for a loan will have to present a basic business plan for what they will use the money for, how it will generate income and how they will pay the loan back. Initially loan amounts will be limited so as to help as many people as possible within the first year.

DT is planning to 'prime the pump' of this project with a one-off donation. Ω



Our next DTAH Bible course is happening soon! Check out the topic and register to join us for one of the courses. Details and booking are [on our website](#). 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

Joy Dean has stepped down as our treasurer after nearly eight years! She and her husband Rob are in the process of moving house, so now is a good time to make the change. We are very grateful to Joy for her help and Thursdays won't be quite the same. We pray that the Lord will bless her and Rob in their next phase of life. Ω

DTU 1.26

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 our future links with ACV. Whilst they are now independent of DT we want to stay in touch and work alongside them in whatever way is best. Any financial support that is given specifically for ACV will continue to be passed on to them.
- Recording Andy's Bible teaching is proving more challenging than expected! To make the recordings as 'um' and 'er' free, he's having to use his notes to write a script. This is not what he is used to, so please pray that he will make more progress over the coming weeks.
- The wife (Anne) of one of our Trustees (Floyd) suffered a ruptured brain aneurysm in early November and was rushed into hospital for emergency surgery. With a 50/50 survival rate things were tense for some days. But with God's grace and much prayer, Anne is recovering amazingly well. All praise and thanks to Jesus! Please continue to pray for Anne, Floyd and the family.
- Please pray for Andy's preparation for the next DTAH teaching course. You can find more details on our website. It should be an interesting and challenging subject, so do take a look.
- Once again we are grateful to all who have supported us financially over the last year. God's faithfulness, expressed through his people, is a highlight each year. He continually provides for our needs and we give him praise!
- Please pray for wisdom in deciding how best to use the money that we have. There are so many needs, especially in Rwanda, so we want to use the money we have to establish ongoing help wherever possible.
- Pray especially that the Loan Fund can be set up in Byumba diocese. Pray for the right oversight to be in place and for the administration of the fund to be disciplined.
- Please pray for each of the Trustees and their families (see back page). We are thankful for their ongoing advice and help with running DT.



- Children celebrate Christmas in their classroom.
- 'Let Jesus be born in our hearts'.
- Bp Laurent visiting school at Christmas.
- Young people in baptism, confirmation class.
- Community Bible Study course training.

The closure of church buildings remains a huge challenge for the Church of Jesus in Rwanda. The lack of church services, resulting in a lack of income, means that the poorer dioceses, such as Byumba, are really struggling financially. Whatever they try to do and whichever way they turn, they are hampered by a lack of money. This is putting a severe pressure on the diocesan staff and especially the senior leaders.

Yet despite this pressure, the Church continues to grow! People are coming to Christ and being baptised. Home groups are active and witnessing within their local communities. Income-generating projects are used to bring church members together for prayer and Bible reading - as well as working on the projects.

With closed buildings, the real Church is standing firm and developing stronger relationships with one another as well as with the Lord Jesus, through small group activity. Here are some recent comments from different pastors:

“God is at work, there is a spiritual growth among Christians and we praise God for that.”

“The church is not a building, rather it is people. And the work of the Lord never stops whatever situation, He makes new ways of keeping the church in service.”

“We have come to understand what the real church of God is. We organise home fellowship and do Bible study, pray for various requests, and help one another according to needs. We have also initiated saving and credit program brings people together in small groups, and it becomes much easier for pastor to minister to them.”

“God manifested himself in the closing of church building to remind us what the real church of God is. Our ministry is now people oriented in their community. We do outreach evangelism and people do respond. We have come to realise that home is the centre of church ministry, and we take it as God’s revelation.”

“Even though the church building is closed, we are seeing God working in different ways like the sick / ill people are getting healed, the poor ones are getting answers to their issues, God’s peoples are fulfilling their responsibilities in the church.”

We praise Almighty God that nothing can stop Christ from building his Church.

Where buildings are open, the Church is also growing. One parish has had to add two more Sunday services to cope with the numbers of people attending. Other parishes report increased attendance across all age groups. Ω

However, most church buildings in Byumba Diocese remain closed. Many have complied with the government requirements, but are waiting to be inspected and authorised to open once again. Whilst waiting, home groups continue to be the main opportunity for meeting and fellowship, but not all church members attend these meetings. One church building in Rukizi parish was allowed to re-open because it is near the Ugandan border and church members were crossing into Uganda to attend church services. So this parish was allowed to re-open its building to avoid this.

Since church buildings were closed and church services stopped, the income for all dioceses has dropped severely. This continues to impact diocesan staff as well as diocesan projects. The new cathedral building in Byumba was started before the closure of church buildings, but now it has stopped. This needs to restart soon before the Construction Permit expires otherwise they have to re-apply. Bp Emanuel and his senior clergy need wisdom to know what to do - so we need to pray for them. Ω

Christmas is a serious time of celebration and witness for the Church in Rwanda. Lights, decorations, carols and new clothes for church services are all part of their traditions. As in the UK, many people, who do not normally attend church services, do attend over Christmas. There is lots of joy, expressed through singing and dancing and there are many evangelistic opportunities. Ω

A number of ex-pastors in Byumba diocese, who did not qualify for further theological training, are needing vocational training instead. This will help them find employment, but funding for this is very low. DT is doing what we can to help with our limited resources, Please pray that other funding will be found. Ω

Evangelist Boniface Rukotana (Giti sub-parish ADoB) died suddenly on January 7th. He was running church services on the Sunday, felt unwell on the Monday and died early on Tuesday morning. The cause of death has not yet been determined so please pray for all concerned. Ω

DTU 1.26

PRAISE & PRAYER FOR DIOCESES OF BYUMBA & GASABO

I will strengthen them in the LORD and in his name they will walk," declares the LORD. Zech 10:12

- Pray for Boniface's wife Claudine and children Fiston, Alice, Samuel, Denyse, Aline. Pray that they will know God's peace and provision at this time of grief.
- Pray also for the Church in Giti in their loss of a pastor.
- Let's pray for God's protection, physical, mental and spiritual, on all pastors and their families at this time. They are having to deal with many challenges.
- Please pray that, despite the wait for buildings to be opened again, the Christians will stay strong and committed to Christ and to one another.
- Please pray that right decisions will be taken over the construction of the new cathedral in Byumba diocese. Whilst it is needed, it is a huge financial commitment when many pastors are living hand-to-mouth.
- In Bwambi parish (ADoB) they are grateful to God for the birth of a calf! Not only is there milk for the calf, but also for the parish to sell in the community. We thank the Lord for this practical blessing. Each parish has at least one cow provided by DT funds.
- Give thanks for the Vocational Training that is available in Giti parish (ADoB). This gives young people especially a good start for getting employment.
- In Kibare parish (ADoB) they are praying for local infrastructure to improve. This includes electricity, clean water, a good road and health support. Things we take for granted, they have to live without. Please pray for things to improve.
- Praise God for the goats that Kinihira parish (ADoB) has bought using DT SAP money. Animal husbandry is an income-generating project for many parishes.
- Please pray for young people in parishes where buildings are closed. They can still meet for weekly activities (choir practice, church building maintenance) which they use to read the Bible, encourage one another and pray together.
- Give thanks for the demonstration of God's power in people's lives even outside of church services! Many people are experiencing God's healing of physical and mental illness.
- Please continue to pray for Bishops Emmanuel and Laurent as well as the senior staff as they carry the burden of responsibility for the pastors and congregations. Pray that they will have Holy Spirit wisdom in decision-making.



PHOTO PAGE FOR ROMANIA



It has been a busy time for the ACV team over the last three months. In Oradea prison they have been running three programmes for inmates.

‘One Day with Father’ is about learning to be a good dad based on Biblical teaching. It included practical advice and finished with a session in a sports arena for the inmates, wives/partners and children, with games, activities and refreshments.

‘Prisoners’ Journey’ is a programme to help inmates prepare for work outside and helps them regain their self-worth and even aspire to achieve in a career. Again it has Christian principles. All who complete the course get a diploma certificate.

‘ACV Mentoring programme’ is for 12 weeks. It addresses aspects of life that prisoners struggle with (anger, guilt, forgiveness, money, relationships, work etc) using Biblical teaching and discussion groups. 18 inmates completed the course and received a diploma. Some of these have made a commitment to Christ and have been baptised, but will need help and support to make their commitment stick. Each month ACV is responsible for leading a Sunday service in Oradea Prison and, since changing to an afternoon time, more prisoners now attend. Ω

The weekly **guitar classes** continue in term time. Two groups (beginners and advanced) are run with both groups joining together for the Bible teaching and activities as part of each session. For a Christmas treat, all the children and teachers went down-town together for a ride on the Big Wheel and for some food. Ω

ACV work with Angel Network to put together and distribute Christmas Shoeboxes to families who have a parent in prison. This year they gave boxes to 103 children living throughout Bihor county. Ω

ACV continues to provide food parcels for some of the poorest families in Oradea and to visit the **Night Shelter** at least once a month. Students from Emanuel University are regularly involved in this ministry and hot food is provided by a local restaurant owner who is a Christian. Ω

DTU 1.26

PRAISE & PRAYER FOR ASOCIAȚIA CĂRAREA VIEȚII

“You, Lord, hear the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and the oppressed ...” Ps 10:17-18

- Give thanks to the Lord for the three programmes that have been run in Oradea Prison over the last three months. Praise God for the open door that we have into the prison!
- Please pray for those prisoners who have made a commitment to Christ. Pray that the ACV team will be able to nurture them, especially during the Sunday services.
- Pray too for the prison staff, especially for Laura who helps and supports ACV with their visits and for the Director, Cyprien.
- We give thanks for those who provide food, hot and cold, to be used in the ministry of ACV. Give thanks for Daniel, the owner and cook of the ‘House of Compassion’ restaurant who provides hot meals for the Night Shelter visits.
- Pray for all those families who were gifted Christmas Shoeboxes. Pray that these acts of kindness accompanied by songs and encouragements from the Bible will touch their hearts and bring them to Christ.
- Monthly prayer meetings have been established within the life of ACV, led by Nicu Maior. These have become a foundation on which ACV does its work. Thank the Lord for the impact prayer has on their ministry.
- We also give thanks for the partner churches that support ACV through prayer and financial giving. Many of ACV volunteers come from these partner churches. It was good for Andy and Howard to visit some of these churches in October.
- Pray for each ACV Manager and the area of responsibility they have. Emil (prison services) Nicu (prayer) Iosif (food distribution) Sorin (prison courses, guitar class) Florin (Night Shelter) Oliver (logistics) Noemi (students).
- Please pray for the guitar classes as they start up again after Christmas. Pray for the young people who come each week, that they will want to follow the Jesus they sing and learn about.
- Pray for protection, spiritual and physical, on all who work with ACV as volunteers. As they work with those on the margins of society, pray that the Holy Spirit will empower and enable them for the work amongst young and old alike.
- We thank the Lord for the financial support that is being given for the ministry, by individuals as well as by partner churches. Pray that the money will be used well.

WHO'S WHO & WHAT'S WHAT

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

SAP Coordinator: Hilary Swan; **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 - Vacant
Kibare - Rev. Evariste; wife Venerand
+ Kinihira - 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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