



Updates —

Sharing news of our ministry for praise and prayer

Aug - Oct 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

PHOTO PAGE FOR RWANDA



Sustainable projects in Gasabo diocese:

1. Cows being donated by Mothers Union to vulnerable families in Nyabikenke Parish.



2. Bee-keeping projects in Kayanga Parish.



3. Tailoring project in Nkuzuzu Parish.



Partners

NEWS FROM DIOCESES OF BYUMBA & GASABO (RWANDA)

Whilst most church buildings remain closed, the Church of Jesus is still active in different ways. Here are extracts from recent updates we have received.

Gaseke parish (ADoB) - 40 new believers have been baptised so far this year as the church continues evangelism through door-to-door work and outreach activities, even though their church buildings are closed. Their verse for the year is: *2 Chronicles 32:7, Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him, for there is a greater power with us than with him.*"

Since the beginning of this year, **Giheta parish (ADoB)** has continued to experience God's grace through worship, evangelism, discipleship, and community development. *"We remain committed to fulfilling our mission of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ, nurturing believers, and serving the wider community. The parish has actively engaged in evangelism through outreach programmes, home visits, and community witness. Church leaders and members have visited families to encourage them in their faith, pray with them, and invite new believers to become part of the church fellowship. These outreach activities have resulted in spiritual growth and increased participation in church activities."*

The impact of the Bible teaching has been encouraging. Church members are demonstrating greater commitment to prayer, regular Bible reading, faithful participation in worship, and service within the church. Many have grown in spiritual maturity and confidence in sharing their faith with others. Families are experiencing improved relationships as biblical principles of love, forgiveness, and mutual respect are put into practice. They have also seen new believers being established in their faith and existing members taking on leadership responsibilities within the church.

Mugina parish (ADoB) - *'Teaching the Bible happens every Tuesday and Thursday. Sometimes we invite people from other churches to be part of Bible discussions which is now very fruitful and impacting us in the journey of maturing Christians. Nowadays, we are tackling the book of Revelation, focussing on the visions of John for the seven churches.'*

In **Rwesero parish (ADoB)**, 13 people have recently been baptised as new Christians and they have also been able to carry out repairs to the church building. Hopefully this will allow them to use the building again once it has been inspected and authorised. In many parishes, the young people are energised to be active in practical jobs within the parish which helps maintain morale. They help with looking after the church grounds and buildings as well as helping the poor people with their subsistence farming. Working together helps them strengthen each other in their Christian faith.

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Helpful abbreviations: **DT** = Damascus Trust; **SAP** = Support A Parish; **ADoB** = Anglican Diocese of Byumba; **ADoG** = Anglican Diocese of Gasabo;; **ECDC** = Early Childhood Development Centre

NEWS FROM DIOCESES OF BYUMBA & GASABO (RWANDA)

In **Mimuli** parish, where church services can take place, young people are involved in evangelism, visiting and supporting those who are sick, helping to buy goats for each local congregation as well as leading church worship.

Nyabikenke parish (ADoG) - *‘Two cows were donated to two vulnerable women in the church by generous donors (see photos), this was an expression of faith in action that we preached on in the first quarter of 2026. We also organised a big concert with purpose of raising funds for medical insurance for those who are not able to get, and 12 families in the community were beneficiaries.*

The Parish initiated some self-support projects such as rabbit and pig farming. We organised seminars for fifty couples whereby we gave them the basic knowledge on gender violence, parenting and nutrition. Our main objectives are that families should continue to uphold Christ’s teaching and promote understanding of marriage, encourage parents to raise children within Christian faith, community to maintain a global fellowship united in prayer, worship and service, and in practice to help those facing challenges in their family life.’

Rumbogo parish (ADoG) - During the first six months of 2026, the parish engaged in a programme of evangelism. As a result 13 new believers were baptised and 18 people recommitted their lives to Jesus. The parish also ran a camp for couples focussing on expressing their love for one another out of their love for Christ. The parish continues to support those who are struggling during this difficult time, especially those who have been bereaved.

However, there are the ongoing challenges that come with closed buildings. In **Nduba parish (ADoG)** the young people have become discouraged because of not being able to meet together in the church building. They also lack motivation as many are unemployed. The local church leaders have assigned a youth leader to focus on providing the necessary help and training for young people, both for their spiritual health and their employment prospects.

With so many church buildings closed, people have to walk several miles to get to another church building that is open. This is difficult for the elderly and infirm, but local home groups do provide some fellowship. Church leaders are using two programmes to help homes groups - the *Community Bible Study* and *Church Transformation Network*. Many pastors are reporting significant spiritual growth through these home group studies. Sadly some people have given up on meeting together and the challenge for church leaders is to find ways to draw them back into fellowship. Ω

DTU 3.26

PHOTO PAGE FOR RWANDA



Graduation of
Primary 6 in
Kinyinya
Parish.

Mothers Union
training day in
Kinyinya
Parish



New roof for
church building in
Giheta Parish.
Praise the Lord!
One step closer
to the building
being opened
again.



Partners

PRAISE & PRAYER FOR DIOCESES OF BYUMBA & GASABO

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Eph 4:32

Give thanks for the various outreach events that have been done in many parishes and for those who have responded.

Pray for all who have recently been baptised that they will continue to grow in their commitment to Jesus and to his Church.

Give thanks for those church buildings that have been upgraded to meet building regulations and are now waiting for inspection. Pray that this will happen quickly so that church services and meetings can happen once again.

Please pray for the pastors and church leaders who are struggling at this time of closed buildings. Pray for their health and strength, spiritually as well as physically as they spend time visiting homes and leading small groups.

Give thanks for the income-generating projects that are happening to help parishes and individuals. Pray that these will be sustainable in the long-term.

Pray for those who are discouraged and for those whose love for Jesus has grown cold due to building closure. Pray that the Holy Spirit would graciously warm their hearts once again.

Give thanks for the effective Bible courses that are being run in Gasabo diocese - the Community Bible Study course and the Church Transformation Network.

Pray that the church members will be able to put into practise what they are learning within their neighbourhoods.

Praise God for the love and unity being expressed between Christians in Karama parish (ADoG) as they live and learn together. Pray that this will impact the local community as it did in Acts 2.

Please pray for the Diocesan Development Funds in both dioceses (see UK News). Pray that this money will help both parishes and individual pastors in various ways and enable sustainable income-generating projects to be set up.

Please pray for the appointment of a new Archbishop who will also be Bishop of Gasabo, due to be elected later this year. Please pray for all involved that the Holy Spirit will guide their discussions and decisions.

We thank the Lord for the work of the outgoing Archbishop, Laurent Mbanda, who has made a significant difference to how things are run within the Anglican Church in Rwanda. Pray for him and his wife as they move into the next phase of their lives.

Please pray for our two SAP Coordinators - Archd Samuel Kayitare and Archd Placide Nizeyimana. We're grateful for the work they do to help us keep in touch with things that are happening in the parishes.

Helpful abbreviations: **DT** = Damascus Trust; **SAP** = Support A Parish; **ADoB** = Anglican Diocese of Byumba; **ADoG** = Anglican Diocese of Gasabo;; **BDDF/GDDF** - **Diocesan Development Fund in Byumba and Gasabo**;

ACV understands the importance of prayer for the ministry, so every first Saturday morning in the month they meet together to pray for the work. Do join them if you can, as remote prayer still counts!

ACV recently organised a fellowship day for all their prison volunteers. This was at a Christian Centre in a nearby village. Sorin Maier wrote: *“We cook together, we play together, we pray together and we encourage one another to be sensitive and take care about other people problem. It was a very good time to talk, to share problems, to know better one another. Because some of us was there with all family, it was great to know (each other’s) families more close.”*



Every Sunday a group of Christians go into **Oradea Prison** to run a church service for the inmates. ACV are responsible for organising one of these meetings each month, led by Emil Bodog (ACV Board member and Manager). A team of volunteers join Emil to lead singing, prayer and Bible teaching and fellowship.

ACV also runs two mid-week groups in Oradea Prison lasting 3 months. **‘One Day with Father,’** which looks at being a good earthly father, with teaching about God as our Heavenly Father. **‘Prisoners’ Journey’** helps prisoners understand their potential within society, especially in the workplace. Again, it uses Biblical teaching to do this.



We were thrilled to hear that **23 inmates were baptised** into Christ on 24th May in Oradea Prison! Baptismal services have become a regular occurrence in the prison and are a

powerful witness to inmates and staff alike. Praise God for the work of his Holy Spirit in the lives of these prisoners.

We were also delighted to hear of another baptism, this time of a young ACV volunteer, teenager **Armin Rezmives**, who is the son of ACV Manager Iosif Rezmives (pictured together). Armin has been a committed member of the team for some time, playing guitar and leading singing at different activities. Some of the ACV guitar class played and sang at Armin’s baptism. All the ACV team were able to share in this significant event for Armin. Ω



We've been praying about the need for a new lead teacher for the **ACV guitar classes** and we're pleased to say that **Marius Pop** has volunteered for the role. Marius has been involved before, but in a supporting role. Now he has taken on the overall responsibility for the two levels of teaching being given. We praise God for Marius! Our guitar students joined an end-of-term event in the local sports arena with 120 children enjoying games, songs, Bible time and party food (photos on p11)!

ACV has recently renewed their protocol with Oradea Prison for another 3 years. This is a signed agreement to allow ACV to run its various programmes in the prison. This is good news and a show of confidence in ACV's work.

Monthly visits to the **Night Shelter** in Oradea continue and are blessed by the Lord. Many of the 'guests' have been using the Shelter for several years, so are well known to the ACV team. A number of Emanuel University students join the ACV team for each visit, which is a great help. This area of ministry is now overseen by a new ACV Manager - **Oliver Lazar**. It is through Oliver that ACV has the help of a Christian restaurant owner who provides hot food for ACV to give to the Night Shelter 'guests' as part of their monthly visits. Welcome Oliver (pictured with his wife Noemi far right)!



ACV's support for some of the poorest families continues but is often restricted by their limited resources, both in terms of manpower and supplies. The local Food Bank provides some food for distribution but often ACV has to buy the food and essentials to give to the most needy families. Many of these families have a parent who is in prison or have long-term health problems. During each visit, ACV volunteers will sing Christian songs, give a testimony and share a message of hope from the Bible. Ω

PRAISE & PRAYER FOR ASOCIAȚIA CĂRAREA VIEȚII

Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. 18 Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. Jas 5:17-18

Please pray for the work of ACV in general. Pray for their Management Team of Sorin, Emil, Iosif, Oliver, Noemi and Nic, with each one taking responsibility for a particular aspect of the work.

Pray for the weekly Sunday services held in Oradea Prison. Pray for good relationships between the Orthodox and Free Church groups as well as with the prison authorities.

Give thanks for those prison staff who facilitate the work of ACV and others in Oradea prison. A number of key staff are supportive of our work in prison.

Praise God for all who have been baptised in the prison recently. Pray for their ongoing discipleship and nurturing and for their families. Let's pray that the impact of changed lives will be significant, inside and outside the prison.

Give thanks for Armin Rezmives' baptism, his love for the Lord Jesus and his enthusiasm for the work of God's kingdom. Pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to fill him and gift him for service now and in the future.

Give thanks for Marius Pop and his willingness to serve as lead teacher for the guitar classes. Pray for him and other volunteers who lead the Bible times and for the students, that they will develop their playing skills and also their love for Jesus.

Praise God for the renewed protocol between ACV and Oradea Prison. Please pray that the work of ACV will continue to enable inmates and staff to know the life-changing work of the Holy Spirit.

Please pray for Oliver Lazar as he oversees the work of ACV in the Night Shelter. We praise God for his involvement and for his contacts, especially with a Christian restaurant owner who provides hot food for ACV to give to the 'guests'.

Please pray for the work amongst the poorest families. Many are gypsies and struggle with poor health and unemployment. Providing help is very draining on the ACV team, so please pray for wisdom and discernment as to who to help and what to provide.

Please pray for ACV's collaboration with Emanuel University. It's always good to have students join an ACV team and we need to make the best use of their enthusiasm and skills.

Pray for the spiritual and physical health of the ACV team. Some are church leaders, others have regular day jobs, but all need the protection and enabling of the Holy Spirit as they engage in Kingdom ministry.

Give thanks for the local churches in Oradea who support the work of ACV through prayer and financial help.

Diocesan Development Fund

As you know, we have been priming the **Diocesan Development Fund** in the diocese of **Byumba**. We're pleased to say that the first statement from them shows that over 10m RWF has now been deposited in this fund. So far, loans have been made for the following: i) starting up a poultry business by a pastor who had to retire early due to government rules; ii) to help a pastor and his family with their subsistence farming; iii) for completing a house build for a serving pastor. Further loans will be made in the coming months.

In **Gasabo Diocese** where a Development Fund has been in place for more than a year, the difference it has made to pastors and parishes has been significant. We reported on this following our visit in the August-October 2025 edition of DT Updates. In particular, a number of coffee and banana plantations have been established and some animal husbandry has been set up (pigs, goats, cows, hens, rabbits). The income generated so far has repaid the loans and provided the pastor or parish with some extra regular income. Whilst these are relatively small steps, each step helps relieve financial pressures on the pastor and/or parish.

DT will continue to contribute to these Development Funds through its SAP Programme. If you would like to contribute to these funds, then you can do so either with a one-off gift or through a standing order via our website [donation page here](#). Please mark your gift either BDDF (Byumba) or GDDF (Gasabo) or just DDF if you have no preference. Ω



It seems that the **ENGAGE with the Bible** audio track still does not fully play on an IOS device (eg iPhone or iPad). Whilst we continue to try and resolve this problem, we have inserted a link in the top left hand corner of the EWTB email - **'use website version'**. This will take you straight to the EWTB page on our website where you should be able to access the full audio version as well as the text version for the current day. Ω

The next DT At Home Bible teaching course is planned for October / November '26. Please pray for Andy as he decides on the topic and prepares the teaching material. Details and booking will be available on our website in September. In the meantime, we continue to make progress (if slow) on putting some audio recordings of Andy's teaching onto our website. Ω



DTU 3.26

PRAISE & PRAYER FOR DAMASCUS TRUST

Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. 2 Cor 1:21-22

Please pray for ongoing ministry through *ENGAGE with the Bible*. Given the time it takes each month to edit and upload these short readings, we trust that they make a difference in people's lives.

We do have people from different parts of the world using *EWTB* on the website as well as receiving it by email. Please pray for those who are unknown to us but known to the Lord.

We're grateful to hear from people who do use *EWTB* and thank the Lord for testimonies of how specific *EWTBs* have spoken into their situation.

Pray too for the effectiveness of our audio teaching that is available on our website. Again, we're pleased to know that people are downloading and opening up the available files.

Please pray for the preparation that is needed for the next DTAH Bible teaching course planned for October / November. Pray that Andy will know which topic to cover and be guided by the Holy Spirit in his study and research.

Join us as we thank the Lord for all who support the work financially. Some regular, some as and when, but all count and enable us to keep working for God's kingdom in a variety of ways, both here in the UK and overseas.

Praise the Lord for the Development Funds and for the way in which they have begun to make a significant difference for individuals and parishes in Rwanda. Thank you to all our UK SAP Partners. Your contributions are changing lives - physically and spiritually.

Please continue to pray for Anne Davis, the wife of one of our trustees. Anne is now back at home to continue her recovery from an aneurism. She has made huge progress over recent weeks, but more needs to happen, so please pray for patience for everyone as well as commitment to the recovery process. We praise the Lord for all he has done and trust him to continue his healing work.



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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