

October to December 2021
APF Prayer and Newsletter



Impetus.



Empowering Leaders for Community Transformation

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From the CEO

The word ZOOM will never be the same again.

Do you remember when the world was young and ZOOM was just an onomatopoeic word used in primary schools? Or when it became the title of a hit song by Fat Larry's Band in the 1980's? Now I suffer 'Zoom fatigue' and I have developed my own brand of 'Zoom wear': smart up top, casual down below!

I have spent a lot of time, too much time, on Zoom calls over the past 18 months. In the midst, some excellent contacts have been made and relationships developed.

I especially enjoyed meeting the Archbishop of Uganda, Most Revd Dr Stephen Kaziimba. We were introduced because in addition to the obvious synergy between his ministry and APF's, we share a common concern for children and families living with disability.

Archbishop Stephen shared his vision for the conversion of heads, hearts, hands, homes and hospitals and we prayed together for the outworking of this defining motive.

Another excellent contact is Pastor Edward Kiwanuka. Edward is founder and national overseer of Deliverance Church Uganda, a network of more than 500 churches, schools and clinics in Uganda, Burundi, DRC and Kenya. The movement began at Makerere University in the late 1960s. Pastor Edward has already received funding from APF for local language Bibles and we are working towards online eVitabu introduction workshops with church leaders.

There is no doubt the world has changed; the word ZOOM will never be the same again. Here at APF, we're adapting well to the new normal and planning for the future. I believe this edition of *Impetus* illustrates the agility of APF and ingenuity of our partners, finding ways to minister despite lockdowns and loss. But I also pray for more opportunities to meet friends like Archbishop Stephen and Pastor Edward and many others in-person during 2022.

Thank you for your continued support.

Revd Dave Stedman, CEO

Around Africa



APF is connected to several hundred African church, community and organisational leaders. Here are some updates from a cross-section of these friends, together with several individual requests for prayer.

Kenya



Rossalynne Wanjiru, our partner worker in Kenya, has been busy conducting numerous eVitabu induction workshops mainly in west Kenya. This has led to a significant increase in users from Kenya. Rossa is developing a fantastic partnership with **Revd Walter Rutto** of Transformational Compassion Network. TCN trains theology students from Kenya Highlands University and Kaboson Pastor Training College.

At the time of writing, Rossa is at St Paul's University in Kapsabet, helping with the installation of IT equipment, delivering vocational IT training to young people



and introducing eVitabu to students. In October she will be visiting Kirinyaga Diocese to follow up on eVitabu training she delivered in last year.

Revd Christopher and Juddie Khatela

from Ngong Restoration Church distributed Swahili language Bibles to rural churches in Narok County. Please pray for their impact on those who will receive and read them.



Using the annual grant he receives to serve groups of remote Christian leaders in the far south-west of Kenya, **Daniel Odour Gwara** continues to deliver



training days and workshops using eVitabu. He works with a wide range of leaders, from semi-literate marginalised rural church leaders to government officials.

Rwanda



Revd Japhet Matugoma and Pastor Victor Imanaturikumwe (pictured) from Église Évangélique de la Bonne Volonté au Rwanda used APF funding to purchase and distribute Kinyarwanda language Bibles through the Kidaho Church near the Rwandan border with Uganda. More than 200 people, largely women and children, will benefit from the Bibles which will be used to support literacy projects as well as spiritual education.

Support continues for the development of Wisdom Bible School founded by the Free Methodist Church in the mountainous regions to the north. Due to Rwanda's extended lockdowns, progress has been interrupted and teaching postponed. We pray for an opportunity to travel to Rwanda in early 2022 to visit the school and monitor developments. We pray for Revd Charles Munyamahoro and Bishop Samuel Kayinamura as they oversee this fledgling work.

Three years ago Revd Emmanuel Gatera (pictured below) from the Word of Life Church network based in Rusizi District, south-west Rwanda received a small grant from APF to start a beekeeping project. His most recent update shows how the project is enabling ministry to flourish as the hives thrive!

"I'm so glad to give you a brief report of the beekeeping project. One week ago, I harvested 11.5 kg [of honey] and sold it. They paid 42,000 Rwandan francs (£30). At the end of September we will harvest again. The income will help me in the following ways:

- Buying bundles of airtime [mobile phone credit] for facilitating me to preach the gospel online through WhatsApp groups because churches are closed in Rwanda due to the consequences of Covid-19.*
- Buying school materials of my daughter who is studying in secondary school. On behalf of my family and our ministry, I send thanksgiving to the staff of APF and the generous APF donors."*



Tanzania



APF was recently contacted by Bishop Sospeter (pictured) from the Diocese of Kibondo, a new Anglican diocese in north-western Tanzania. He introduced us to the work of the diocese and their new development officer, Revd Robert Tito Mloya. In August, we provided a grant for bicycles for rural pastors and lay leaders



from the diocese. We look forward to moving this new partnership forward once travel to Tanzania becomes easier again.

Pastor Heavenlight Luoga (pictured) together with his wife Kesiah continue to deliver inspirational teaching and in-service training to pastors from north-west Tanzania, Burundi and eastern DRC. Leaders gather from a broad cross section of church traditions for the APF funded training they offer. Heavenlight recently asked if we could help fund mattresses so those attending the training from far away can stay overnight in churches and save money on accommodation.



Malawi



Covid-19 is hitting Africa hard. While some people have been able to access the vaccine, others have been offered it but not taken it up. Doses are in very short supply as Western countries hoard vaccine supplies. This means countries like Malawi are enduring repeated lockdowns.

Lloyd Chizenga (pictured), who oversees APF partner New Life Christian Church, is one of many partners delivering the latest range of APF Covid-19 emergency relief grants in his local community.

Lloyd has also been training and supporting rural pastors in Central Malawi and delivering the Growing Greener project. "The agri project is moving in a right direction" he says. "Our target is that farmers should start applying the manure by 15th October as we wait for the first rains. This has helped us to finish training on time in all the centres."

Around Africa

(continued)

Uganda



After concluding his term as General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Uganda, **Revd Peter Mugabi** (pictured) has recently registered the

Cephas Leadership Foundation to provide mentorship, theology and vocational training and counselling to Christian leaders across Uganda. We look forward to continuing to work closely with Peter in this new role in the future.

Deliverance Church Uganda was introduced to APF by mutual contacts who thought it would be a useful partnership for both organisations. After a series of fact-finding and introductory meetings on Zoom with the National Director, **Pastor Edward Kiwanuka**, grants for both bicycles and local language Bibles were approved. This is another exciting new partnership for APF with an indigenous African church movement of more than 500 congregations.

Another new partnership is developing with the Anglican Diocese of South Rwenzori. **Bishop Nason Baluku** (pictured) is interested in using eVitabu to support diocesan theological education for clergy and lay leaders. A grant for local language Bibles has also been approved.



Atirir Bible School (pictured) in rural Soroti District has improved its facilities and infrastructure, including new toilets and beds. ABS Principal, **Revd Esomu Francis**, wants to thank APF donors for their support which also means a proportion of the students' fees are paid in advance.



APF helped SHYNEA (Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Network Uganda) to secure funding for employing a family support worker who will visit families living with disability

in rural communities. SHYNEA is run by **Ruth Nalugya** (pictured). She is a social scientist and Sunday school teacher and has a daughter with Spina Bifida.

Revd Tibeibuka Justus's (pictured) hospital chaplaincy ministry was featured in an earlier edition of *Impetus*. He has recently distributed bicycles to pastors from around Fort Portal using an APF grant.



For Prayer.



Sawado Nshimiyimana | Bethel Active Youth Ministry, Rwanda

"Pray for God's provision for BAYM in our upcoming leadership and discipleship training. Please pray for our youth sport ministries, baptism programme and building project at Nakivare Refugees Camp."

Tom Opiyo | People for Jesus, Kenya

"Give thanks for the opportunity I had to study theology at PAC University. Please pray I will find an additional £500 so I can complete my degree and for our work with people living with disabilities and seniors in Kisumu."



Charles Mwape | Zambia Youth Ministries Network

"Pray for us as our ministry needs Bibles in both Bemba and Kaonde languages as well as in English. Give thanks for the monthly APF pastoral online meetings. I have been nurtured and my ministry has benefited."

Daniel Gwara Odour | Renewal Ministries, Kenya

"The lives of pastors have been very difficult due to Covid but God protects us. Pray as I encourage pastors in their farming, pray for their protection, for their food security and for the training programme we offer them."



Archbishop Stephen Kaziimba | Church of Uganda

"We have started losing many people [with Covid]. We have some issues at the moment with oxygen, there is not enough. The issue now is vaccination, we still have a long way to go. We need men and women to pray with us."

Lawson Limao | Word of God Ministries, Zambia

"Zambia is currently facing a third wave of Covid-19. The situation is not good, hospitals are running out of bed spaces, oxygen cylinders are in short supply. I have lost a friend and pastor with this pandemic. Please pray for us."



Pastor David Musoke | Zion Christian Church, Mukono, Uganda

"After 43 days of lockdown in Uganda the population is increasingly hungry. Despite some recent relaxations the situation is not likely to improve. Please join us in prayer for Uganda."

Growing Greener in Zambia



It's the early hours of the morning. The rumble of distant thunder and close-by chirp of crickets is suddenly drowned out by the first drops of rain on the tin roofs. Soon the whole community in Zambia's Mumbwa district are awake to the comforting sound of rainfall. Planting will start at first light.

After a prolonged dry spell the heavy rain is very welcome. Not everyone is optimistic, however. "The rainfall pattern has not been consistent. We could be headed for a repeat of last season" complains one farmer.

Southern Africa has experienced normal rainfall in just one of the last five growing seasons. Persistent drought, cyclones and flooding have wreaked havoc on harvests in a region dependent on rain-fed, smallholder agriculture.

Zambia is experiencing both climate extremes at the same time. Farmers in the south-western parts of the country are anxious about erratic and unpredictable rainfall patterns. In the north-east, they are battling flash floods.

It is unanimously agreed that the changes in Zambia's weather patterns are caused by human-induced climate change, over-exploitation of natural resources and deforestation.

The group most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation are the poorest as they rely on natural resources for their livelihoods. The scale of the challenge facing poor rural communities feels overwhelming, but one pastor still has hope. Lawson Limao oversees a small network of Zambian churches called Word of God Ministries. "Where God is there is hope" he says.

One source of hope is the farming guides Lawson found APF's eVitabu app. He uses eVitabu on his old Android smart phone. Using the guides on eVitabu and some funding from APF, Lawson trained around a hundred farmers last year. Despite Covid and lockdowns, the training went well, and more funding is heading to the church network so he can continue his training and reach many more farmers this year.

"The training I do I found on eVitabu" he explained. "On the app there are resources from Foundations for Farming and other experts which can help rural pastors and leaders do farming in new ways that are less sensitive to drought and look after the soil.

"God's way is to preserve nature whilst making farming a profitable venture to undertake. This is what I love to talk about with pastors and their wives. The content of the training includes faithfulness and fruitfulness, farming for a profit, crop management techniques, composting, crop rotation and cover cropping.



Pastor Lawson Limao

"The programme I am doing with APF's support in Mumbwa District is among the Ila people. This people group are mainly subsistence farmers and they have for some time been practicing conventional farming methods like ploughing. That has led to the poor soil structure and outright poverty despite God blessing them with adequate rainfall and land.

"It is my view that the training will benefit the community through the church to adapt to the new farming techniques. This will help improve their yields thus providing sustainable food security for their families and for church purposes whatever the changing weather brings."

50 miles in three days for Covid.

In July, APF CEO, Dave Stedman, and Projects Coordinator, Geoff Holder, accompanied by Geoff's dog Dylan, tackled 50 miles of Offa's Dyke Path in the Welsh Marches in three days. They were fundraising to help APF partners tackle Covid-19 in Africa and generous sponsors donated over £3,000 for the walk. Geoff describes some of the ups and downs (literally) of their hike.



We set off bright and early from the Welsh market town of Monmouth. The first day took in green, rolling Monmouthshire farmland, the skyline increasingly dominated by Ysgryd Fawr, a mountain known locally as The Skirrid.

Neither Dave nor I had had a chance to do any real preparation before we started. By mid-afternoon we were both feeling it, but the long-term effects of Dave's encounter with Covid were beginning to concern both of us. Fortunately, a banana, my brief history lesson about why the Mercian king Offa probably didn't build his dyke along this part of the Welsh border, and a decent pause meant we were able to stumble on and finish the stage.



After the laboured climb onto Hatterrall Ridge, the second day took us up into the magnificent Black Mountains. With spectacular views in every direction we made good progress until I had to retrace my steps after losing Dylan's lead somewhere near the summit of Hay Bluff.

Coming down into Hay-on-Wye, we made a prickly detour through brambles to avoid a bull and somehow Dylan had enough left in his tank to play with some collies. Today's motivation involved my promise to treat Dave at Shepherd's Ice Cream Parlour in Hay, only to see they had already closed as we staggered up to the entrance. Another time!



The final stretch to Kington included the most varied terrain: lush river valley meadows and deep wooded dingles, craggy upland ridges and ancient green lanes. Our blisters and cramps were soothed by messages of encouragement from African friends affected by Covid-19.



2021 has been a good year for sponsored walks with APF staff and trustees raising nearly £10,000 from a wide range of different sorts of hikes, treks, strolls and rambles. In addition to part of Offa's Dyke Path, 70 x 70 minute dog walks and the entire length of the Chesterfield Canal have all been conquered.

Why not plan your own sponsored walk for APF next year? Get in touch if you'd like to have a go at a sponsored event or activity of your own. We can help you set up a sponsorship web page, share what your doing on social media and generate some support.



Empowering Leaders for Community Transformation

Walter Rutto is a pastor trainer from the highlands west of Kenya's Rift Valley. He's passionate about holistic pastoral training. In 2013 he founded Transformational Compassion Network (TCN), one of APF's newest partners. He shares some reflections on the church in Kenya and describes how TCN's partnership with APF has helped sustain them through the pandemic.

In the forth century AD, a small Christian population brought change to the entire Roman Empire. From tiny beginnings, its impact was vast. Since then, the Church has pioneered social services, schools and medical care; it has been an inspiration for art, culture, and philosophy; an influential player in politics, ethics, and law. Imagine the 631 million Christians currently in Africa, making up 45 percent of the population, taking the same route as their Roman predecessors!

2000 years later in Africa, however, while the number of churches is growing fast, numerous difficulties and brokenness remain. They cause doubt about the truth of God's presence in the lives of his people. We have many strict religious gatherings with different convictions, ways of thinking and tenets, all aimed at responding to local challenges. But it seems the more gatherings, holy places, and Christians, the higher the degree of brokenness, poverty, and hopelessness.

I believe the problem stems from the Church being disengaged from the deep cultural, social, and physical needs of Kenyan communities. Rather than serving communities at the level of their culture, a false separation exists that pits the sacred against the secular. It means the church offers extreme spiritual care (miracles and wonders), but it lacks social compassion and the physical touch.

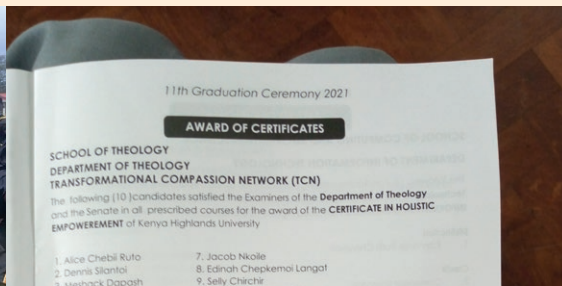
Regardless, the Church is still the solution. A local church in the community is the most important strategic institution for bringing holistic transformation. The key is empowering, equipping, and encouraging local African churches to fulfil their God-given role in advancing his Kingdom.

It is for this reason that Transformational Compassion Network (TCN) established the Theology and Development programme. The training challenges the separation of spiritual and secular realms, changes mindsets and demonstrates the ways faith and society interact as central to holistic community transformation.



Walter Rutto and his wife, Helen.

Since we began the programme in partnership with the Kenya Highlands University in 2016, 247 learners have achieved certificate-level training. There are two programme tracks for Christian leaders who already have higher education and one for those who have not been able to complete schooling. In August, we held our fifth graduation ceremony where thirteen students graduated from Kenya Highlands University. More will graduate in November at our new partner institution, Kaboson Pastors Training College.



Graduates on the Theology and Development programme and an award certificate.

When the Covid-19 outbreak hit Kenya and classes were suspended, the learners asked if they could continue studying online. At first, it was hard to plan and structure online learning. We did not know how to achieve it. Then we heard about an app called eVitabu developed by APF. The app could house all our training materials and help us bring the entire training programme online. APF support worker Rossa Wanjiru came and trained TCN staff on how to use eVitabu and it has been a big help.

We can do this in Kenya because digital connectivity is at now at over 85 percent. Many programme learners and programme alumni, who are hoping to enrol for diploma- and bachelor-level courses, are now using eVitabu regularly. Experience from our Sekenani class in Narok County shows that even those unfamiliar with smartphones can access the app after the training Rossa provides. We are now discussing translating the English programme material into several local languages.



Rossa Wanjiru (left) presents TCN staff with an internet router so students can access eVitabu

For TCN's Theology and Development programme to achieve its goals, partnership and collaboration from likeminded institutions and organisations is paramount. TCN is happy to share the programme through eVitabu to benefit pastors, church leaders and believers from across Africa. Appreciation to all our partners as we look forward to creating a framework of working together through eVitabu.

New Theology and Development programme classes began this September. TCN welcomes you to get involved by funding scholarships for learners from poorer backgrounds and supporting the programme in hard-to-reach areas. Please contact APF for information about how you can help.



Rossa Wanjiru registering eVitabu users.

Donate to APF for free



It feels very early to mention Christmas shopping, and we'd never want to be accused of encouraging unfettered consumerism, but if you happen to find yourself doing a spot of online shopping, why not raise money for APF while you're at it?

How it works

As a "thank you" for sending them sales and customers, stores pay retail donation services a commission. They use this commission to make a donation to your chosen charity. You don't pay anything extra for your shopping and the donation is made at no extra cost to you. It's also completely free for APF so 100% of your donation reaches us.

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Recycle4Charity

A free and easy printer ink recycling programme that helps raise funds for charity. Find it at recycle4charity.co.uk

The vision of APF is to enable African Christian leaders, of all denominations, to minister effectively in thriving local churches that serve flourishing communities.

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Giving to APF

If you would like to donate to APF, please visit www.africanpastors.org/donate where you can make a one-off gift or set up a regular donation. Alternatively, post a cheque to our address or use one of the services below:



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