

July to September 2022
APF Prayer and Newsletter



African
Pastors
Fellowship

Impetus.



Village discipleship in Malawi

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across Africa

Celebrating 60 years
of St Paul's College

For prayer



From the CEO

What's in a name?

I have always prided myself on being able to recall names, faces and details of the people I meet. As a pastor, it's a very useful skill. In many African contexts where local dialects and languages make pronunciation and recall more difficult however, this can be more challenging. But I think the same is true in reverse. Only this morning, I received an email from someone I recently met digitally addressed: 'Dear Steve'!

Names are important.

This is especially true in Biblical thought: Adam means 'man', Eve means 'life-giver', Ruth means 'friend' and David (I have always liked this one) means 'beloved'.

Above all, Jesus means 'God who Saves'.

Ever since my early involvement in APF there have been conversations about the name 'African Pastors Fellowship'. How does it communicate to a largely white British supporter base? Does it adequately describe organisational priorities around training and equipping Christian leaders? To what extent does it suggest a forward thinking and pioneering 21st century mission?

The most common response I get when I tell people I work for African Pastors Fellowship is, "but you're not African!". We need to be serious about the possibility our name could actually be a barrier to some opportunities.

The conversation is on-going and I would warmly welcome comments from supporters and friends of APF, both positive and negative concerning our name.

In the meantime, I hope you will be encouraged by this edition of *Impetus* which contains a significant section of prayer requests submitted by African friends and partners and has been prepared in response to your requests for more of a focus on prayer.

Every Blessing,
Dave (not Steve!)

Revd Dave Stedman, CEO

In the UK

Handmade notebooks

Notebooks handmade by students at a vocational project in Uganda have proved popular sale items during recent APF church visits.

Dave will be bringing a consignment back from his visit in July so if you would like to place an order, please let us know. They are A5 in size and come in a variety of attractive batik covers. Email us at admin@africanpastors.org for more information or to place an order.



Church visits

Dave has been preaching and leading services most Sundays throughout this year. Since the last edition of *Impetus*, he has been to Beltinge Baptist Church, Canterbury Baptist Church, Glo Church in Ashford, Herne Bay Baptist Church, New Life Church in Woking, Swalecliffe Free Church, Parkwood Christian Fellowship and Wetherby Baptist Church. Geoff has also visited The Church in Binley Woods. If you would like to arrange a member of the APF team to visit your church please let us know.

www.africanpastors.org

Golf Day



After a two year hiatus due to the pandemic, the APF Golf Day returned in May. Nine teams competed at Reigate Hill Golf Club where the morning drizzle soon passed leaving a sunny afternoon of great golfing action. The winning team (pictured) was captained by Ken Mackinnon. An excellent evening meal was followed by prizes and an auction which raised more than £1,300 for APF.

EMDC Conference

APF team members Geoff and Jonathan attended the EMDC Conference in the Netherlands in May. EMDC is a multi-agency network and stands for Eurasia Media and Distribution Consultation. Their annual conference is a private event that includes plenary sessions, workshops and training for mission workers involved in media, digital, tech and translation work. Some great connections were made at the conference that will help grow and improve our eVitabu app.



Around Africa



As APF moves towards the formal appointment of a network of African Partner Workers, we have been providing key personnel in Africa with an annual training grant or substantial project fund rather than ask for a new application for each individual training course or workshop. This is working well with monitoring and reviewing activity and spending done through APF staff visits to Africa.

Rwanda



Revd Victor Imanaturikumwe successfully obtained a passport with the help of a small grant from APF and will be able visit Tanzania in July to participate in an important training course.

Somalia



A special fund has been established to support pioneering work in Somalia.

Kenya



Daniel Odour (pictured) has received an annual training grant and continues to gather leaders in western Kenya, primarily using eVitabu as his storehouse of resources. Meanwhile, Rossa IT Centre has been pioneering the upscaling of contributors to and users of eVitabu across multiple counties in Kenya.



Uganda



- Peter and Rose Mugabe from Cephas Leadership Foundation and Pastors' Discipleship Network host a monthly prayer breakfast for church leaders in the Mukono District of Uganda
- Students at the rural Atirir Bible School receive sponsorship under the direction of Principal Esomu Francis (pictured).
- Abesiga Hazel continues to prepare and deliver a monthly workshop for Sunday school teachers and children's workers through Love and Care for the Child Ministries at Entebbe.
- Dave is busy preparing to present a paper at the annual conference of senior leaders from Church of Uganda seminaries, universities and colleges in July.



Tanzania



Heavenlight and Kesiah Luoga have hosted a marriage renewal conference, which has involved many couples publicly renewing their vows. Heavenlight is extending his training outside of Tanzania to reach rural communities in DRC and Burundi this year. Meanwhile, a reprint of 1,000 sets of APF's Swahili three-volume New Testament Commentary has been licensed to SomaBiblia (pictured).



Malawi and Zambia



It is several years since it was possible to visit southern Africa but Geoff Holder will be making the journey in July. It will be good to be reacquainted with old friends such as Lloyd Chizenga and also meet others we have only ever engaged with online, such as Lawson Limau. Among other things, Geoff will be involved in the delivery of eVitabu induction training.

Other news...

There have also been numerous grants for local language Bibles, consignments of IT hardware and hard copy commentaries sent from UK to various parts of Africa, and various pastoral grants for needs ranging from urgent medical fees for children to mobile phones for pastors.



Fostering fellowship across Africa

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a very challenging time for many of our partners right across Africa. But tough situations inspire creativity and new ways of working.

For example, instead of travelling to meet with the pastors and church leaders we work alongside, we set up monthly gatherings on Zoom.

Now travel is possible again, our online meetings are continuing especially because they are creating a greater sense of

fellowship between our African partners, something that was lacking before.

It's great to listen to church leaders from Malawi, Kenya, Uganda, Liberia, Mali and DRC discussing and learning from each other's experience.

Recently, one of our partners from Rwanda spent several months in Zambia to study English. While he was there, he sought out a familiar face from the APF online meetings. Emmanuel explains...

My name is Revd Emmanuel Gatera from Kamembe in Rwanda, near the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo. I lead a network of churches called Word of Life Church.

I would like to share with you something about the connection I made while I was in Lusaka, Zambia.

Since March and up to June 2022, I was in Lusaka, the capital city of Zambia at English language school. During the time I spent there, I had the privilege of creating friendships with pastors and organisations.

Through the connection with the APF Zoom meetings, I had already met Pastor Charles Mwampe from Zambia Youth Ministries online so we met in-person while I was in Lusaka.

Pastor Charles then invited me to attend the Zambia Youth Ministries conference. It was wonderful to speak at this conference on the theme “Why is it wise to trust in God not in men?” using Psalm 146:1-10 and Psalm 125:1-2. Many of the youth responded to the message and decided to put their trust in God.



Emmanuel speaking at the conference



Charles and Emmanuel meeting in Lusaka

There are many benefits of networking with pastors and organisations pan-Africa. It is so important for African pastors to grow in friendship and work together in growing the Kingdom of God by sharing the opportunities they have.

During the three months I spent in Lusaka, I was hosted in the home of a ‘bishop’ of a young Pentecostal church group. He is the Chairman of 100 different churches in this network and these churches showed me love as I ministered with them.

It was good to learn about their unity as churches. They meet each Monday between 4pm and 6pm for praying, sharing God’s word and helping each other so that each one can have a business of doing.

My prayer is that this fellowship can grow up.

Thank you!
Emmanuel Gatera



Village discipleship in Malawi

The church in Africa is growing faster than anywhere else but training leaders for the new churches isn't keeping up. The vast majority of rural church leaders have never had even a single day of formal training. In Malawi, Patrick Steven Mateketa is finding eVitabu to be an invaluable tool to support his vital training work with village church leadership teams.

My name is Patrick Steven Mateketa. I am a Malawian from the Central Region, District of Kasungu but I was born and have lived most of my life in the southern region. For ten years now, I am living in Balaka District.

I joined African Pastors Fellowship in the year 2020 and was introduced to the eVitabu app. I am a pastor and teacher by calling. Teachers need to be very resourceful so that they can better communicate hidden meanings of the

Word of God, so I wanted to see how eVitabu could help me.

By the time I was joining APF, I was running village discipleship training workshops with rural pastors and leaders not far from where I live. I had prepared three lessons from the books given to me by an American pastor from California which I translated into Chichewa. That was the beginning of my village discipleship ministry programme.

In our villages, most of church pastors and leaders are handpicked. They don't have any training or even basic knowledge of the Holy Scriptures. You find a pastor leading a big congregation but lacking both theological understanding and the resources to guide them.

After six months of village discipleship training, the American funding ended. I was also concerned about a training focus that seemed to me to be about personal gain. Nevertheless, other pastors and leaders in villages also called me, asking for training. This made me realise exactly what office God set for me in my calling.

I now started searching for resources to use to train and coach village pastors in depth. Among them, I found the eVitabu app from APF which I use regularly. In eVitabu, there are resources touching almost every area of ministry. For example, when I am teaching on discipleship, I look for discipleship books. When I am teaching on pastoral formation, I look for resources focused on theology, the art of preaching, eschatology, and the like.

eVitabu is simple to use and very handy. Once, a pastor from the UK bought me a laptop but it was not safe to carry it on the bicycle I use to cycle very long distances. I ended up breaking it, soaked in the rain. With eVitabu, I have many powerful resources just there on my phone, but it is easy to carry and protect.



Village discipleship workshop participants

Sometimes, a learner asks me a question from a topic that I don't have much knowledge about. When this happens, I ask them to let me finish the current teaching point and say I will come back to that question later. I can then get my phone, open eVitabu, search for that topic and I have this great support. This is only a problem when I am in areas where the network is weak.

Many of the resources on eVitabu are in English but I teach in our own languages. One of the things I do is to choose a portion of a relevant resource and translate it either while I am preparing or even while I am teaching. I would love to see more resources on eVitabu in Chichewa, Tumbuka and other languages spoken in Malawi.

continued overleaf.

Another thing that would be a great help is for supporters of APF to support my training by donating data bundles for my phone. Data bundles are a problem to most of us here.

In our monthly APF discussions on Zoom, I heard APF staff Dave and Geoff talk about a future development of doing formal Bible school training by extension learning through the eVitabu app. This idea must be promoted, encouraged and marketed with a catchy advertisement.

I like the eVitabu app because it does not only teach about the spiritual things but also covers agriculture, economics, the environment, our society and other people. Christian leaders are agents for change and positive change should be seen across all aspects of our lives.

In the village where I borrow a piece of land to grow my crops, people do not

believe they can harvest good crops without first securing the farm with magic. But of all the village farms this year, my small field has better crops than any other fields. Villagers are now beginning to trust God in their farming.

God bless you!

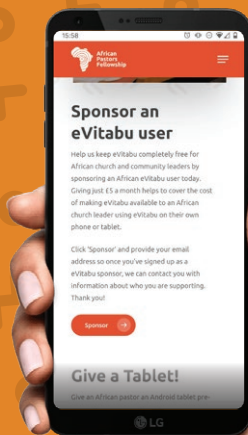
Patrick Steven Mateketa



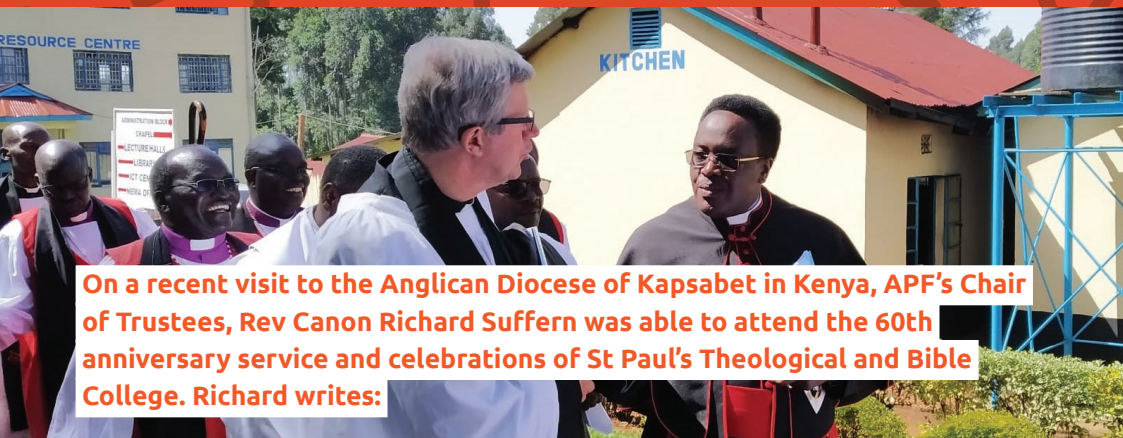
Patrick and his wife, Tiyanjane Saule.

Sponsor an eVitabu user like Patrick

- 1. On your phone, tablet or laptop, go online and visit: www.africanpastors.org/evitabu**
- 2. Click on the 'Sponsor' link button in the 'Sponsor an eVitabu user' section.**
- 3. Complete the secure online payment form to set up your sponsorship direct debit. Just £5 per month, less than the price of a paperback book, will give an African church leader access to an entire library of books and training resources.**
- 4. You will be allocated an African church leader already using eVitabu to sponsor.**
- 5. You'll receive an email telling you a little about who you are sponsoring including their name, where they live and their ministry background.**
- 6. Your monthly sponsorship will be used by APF to make eVitabu better for the person you are sponsoring and hundreds of other users all over the continent of Africa.**



Celebrating 60 years of St Paul's College



At a colourful and vibrant service members of staff and students, present and past, celebrated the diamond anniversary of the establishment of St Paul's College. Five hours of worship, testimony, prayer and presentations followed by an excellent lunch made for a day of praise and thanksgiving to God for all that He has done through the College. St Paul's serves four Dioceses in particular, but students come from all over Kenya. Over 600 students have trained here, the largest Anglican theological college in Western Kenya.

St Paul's has always aspired to be at the cutting edge of theological training, both academic and applied. This makes APF's involvement in the life and teaching of the College very relevant. St Paul's has devised a five-year development plan which includes APF's flagship eVitabu. As College Principal Rev Elizabeth Cheruiyot says: "Our priority areas include utilising modern technology by going digital and exploring the opportunities therein."

Many of the graduates have gone on to senior leadership positions in the Church, and the preacher for this occasion was the inspiring former student Rev Dr Sammy Wainaina, Provost of Nairobi Cathedral. The training is also very relevant to ministry in remote and less developed areas of Kenya which include West Pokot district where I worked for five years with Tearfund. I was also able to go to West Pokot to visit the newest Diocese of Kenya, Kapenguria, in May. This Diocese was a parish when I lived in Kenya! There are now hundreds of local churches with their leaders who need resourcing in the way that eVitabu makes possible.

I returned from Kenya even more convinced of the great value of eVitabu training and resourcing work of APF. I give thanks to God for calling APF into existence for such a time as this as well as for times and conditions of the past. Well done to all our team who work in such a dedicated and inspired way to see vision become reality!

For Prayer.



Bishop Nason Baluku | South Rwenzori Diocese, Uganda

"Pray that God will give us the resources so the community of Kibalya can have a maternity health facility, that we would be able to buy bibles for rural churches, and have the resources to train pastors for ministry."



Daniel Masiga | Christian Leaders Fellowship Mogadishu, Somalia

"With AMISOM peacekeeping force came Christians in uniform and other humanitarian peacekeepers including myself. Pray for all working for the salvation and restoration of this beautiful nation and its people."



Brenda Abeja | EagleLite Associates, Uganda

"Pray for the economic stability of Uganda as the inflation rate keeps rising. Lack of essential items always triggers a wave of crime so please pray for those who find themselves in desperate times and cannot afford basics."



Alex Sokiri | New Nation Church, South Sudan

"Our prayer for our ministry at Juba in South Sudan is for funds to buy additional land for new churches. Secondly, we need a financial break through to open a school to provide education for local children."

Chris Khatela and Judie Mmosi | Ngong Restoration Assembly, Kenya

"Please pray for me as I try and publish two books, for Judie's PhD studies, for our three sons at university and for my elderly parents. Pray for Kenya and the continued spread of God's transformative Word across the nation."



Clinton Gbawoh | Central Christian Assembly, Liberia

"We're constructing one of our local church's buildings, please pray so we can complete the building soon. Our church community school want to construct a school building so please keep us in your prayers.."

**Shadrack Maiyo Koma | North Rift Pastors' Fellowship, Kenya**

"Give thanks that our training in marginalised areas of East Pokot is going on well. Please pray for the Pokot Bible Project and for the Pastors Camel Project. Also please pray the nation of Kenya as we prepare for elections."

Abraham Koech | Africa Inland Church, Kapsabet, Kenya

"Thank you for your prayers for my sister-in-law, Sally. Her operation was successful but doctors found cancer. She begins chemotherapy soon and has lots of pain. Please keep her, her husband and children in your prayers."

**Francis Esomu | Atirir Bible School, Soroti, Uganda**

"Pray with me for donors to help fund ABS student tuition and administrative costs, and that ABS will be chartered to offer Certificate of Theology courses by National Council for Higher Education in Uganda."

Walter Rutto | Transformational Compassion Network, Kenya

"TCN members elected a new board last year. Lets pray that they will catch up and take TCN to greater heights. Pray with us to get enough funding for income generation projects and for leaders graduating from TCN courses."

**Bertin Mwanya | Congo Pastors' Fellowship, Lumbumbashi, DRC**

"Please pray with me for the funds to pay for my Master's Degree in Theology and for our plans to start a Bible School in Lumbumbashi. Pray also for clean water provision in the local communities as this will raise the standard of living."

**Lawson Limao | Word of God Ministries, Zambia**

"Pray for my ministry as I am planning to do church planting in another area within Lusaka. I believe it will be a great opportunity to share the gospel and train new leaders using the eVitabu resources in this new area."

**Victor Imanaturikumwe | Eglise Evangélique de la Bonne Volonté au Rwanda**

"According to Rwandan law governing churches, an uneducated pastor cannot lead a church. If APF did not support my theological studies our church would now be disqualified. Give thanks to God for this support."



Peter Mugabi | Cephas Leadership Foundation, Uganda

"I feel a heavy burden for the pastors in this generation who need help. Pray that I will remain focused and for our coaching, counselling and training activities and programmes in Mukono and ministry target areas."

Jean Jacques Masabo | Baptist Union of Burundi

"Pray for pastors who are suffering due to inflation to reach their churches in remote areas, and for 25 Baptist churches closed by the government as their buildings only have grass roofs or are too close to other churches."



Simon Laboso | Central Rift Baptist Regional Convention, Kenya

"Please pray for revival in our churches in the Central Rift Region, pray for peace for our country during this election period, and pray for God's provision as I attend a conference in the US in October and November."



Lloyd Chizenga | New Life Christian Church, Malawi

"Following tropical storms and Cyclone Gombe that devastated our crops and infrastructure, praise God that we have replanted the maize we lost with assistance from APF. Pray now for a good winter crop harvest."



Rose Mugabi | Pastors' Discipleship Network, Uganda

"Please pray for me as I pursue my Doctoral program in church ministry and leadership. Pray for the provision of ministry partners who will walk with the PDN women's ministry team to bring training to women leaders."

Charles Munyamahoro | Wisdom Bible School, Rwanda

"We pray for the ministry of evangelisation in Gakenke and Rulindo Districts in Rwanda and for students at Wisdom Bible School. Heavenly Father, let the Word of God become light in these days affected by war in Ukraine and DRC."



Heavenlight Luoga | Deeper Life Ministries, Tanzania

"Please pray for me, for more grace in my God given gift to help pastors and church leaders. Pray for Tanzania, we're facing inflation and life seems to be so tough as the Russia-Ukraine war shakes out our country's economy."

Donate to APF for free



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, many online 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.

How to start making free donations to APF while you shop

Here are some options that you can sign up to that will make a free donation to APF when you shop online at a major store, change electricity supplier or something else.



Give as You Live

Shop from over 4,500 stores and generate free donations from your online shopping. Sign up by visiting giveasyoulive.com



Amazon Smile

If you shop at Amazon, go to smile.amazon.co.uk and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the cost of every eligible purchase to your chosen charity.



easyfundraising

Raise free donations with over 5,000 retailers online. It's simple and only takes 2 minutes to set up at easyfundraising.org.uk



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:



Please consider donating £2 to cover print and postage costs. Thank you.

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