

October to December 2024  
APF Prayer and Newsletter



African  
Pastors  
Fellowship

# Impetus.

## Remembering Bishop Lloyd Chizenga

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

From the CEO in  
Uganda

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Rwanda

## From the CEO in Uganda

At the time of writing, I have just arrived in Uganda to prepare for a major conference being hosted by APF at the campus of Pastors' Discipleship Network in Kampala. The conference will gather around 35 representatives from our key African training partners from across eastern and southern Africa, together with APF personnel from the UK and Kenya.

By the time you are reading this, I will probably be back in the UK and Geoff will have travelled on to Tanzania. We anticipate the conference will have been an important inspirational and strategic opportunity to review APF operations in Africa, especially eVitabu uptake and impact, and explore some future possibilities: hearing the voices of our African brothers and sisters.



The conference is set against the backdrop of the lead articles in this edition: a new round of church closures in Rwanda, and the need to respond and help in appropriate ways; and the sudden loss of our dear friend and long-standing partner, Bishop Lloyd Chizenga in Malawi. No sooner will I return to the UK and, after 40 days of mourning has passed, there is the need to plan an urgent but unexpected visit to Malawi in the autumn. This will be to stand with Lloyd's family in their loss, and meet with those who will succeed Lloyd as overseers of the 200+ congregations comprising the New Life Christian Church network.

One of my favourite memories of Lloyd was on an early visit I made to Malawi. Driving on the road south from Blantyre to the Shire Valley with Malawi to my right and Mozambique to my left, we paused so I could sample mbewa (boiled salted mice or rats on a stick). I rarely refuse food but, on this occasion, I made my excuses, which Lloyd found hilarious. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.



It is always a great privilege to be able to offer personal, pastoral and political support to our African partners but it does mean substantial additional cost, much of which could not have been anticipated. If you are able to make a gift to help meet some of these needs, or were planning to make a gift later in the year but could do so now, that would be a huge help as we prayerfully seek to respond to these, and so many other, needs.



As always, with our thanks and gratitude,

**Dave**



# Around Africa

## Solar Power in Zambia

Eight pastors from semi-urban informal settlement in Litetaperi have received solar panels, batteries and lighting for their homes. This will help them study, work and support their communities more effectively. The ongoing drought in Zambia has meant dams are not producing much power to the national grid and electricity is being rationed. This makes having access to reliable solar lighting all the more important.



## Study Bibles to Kenya



650 copies of the ESV Study Bibles have been donated to APF by 10ofThose. The Bibles have arrived in Kenya and been received by the Baptist Convention of Kenya. Copies will be distributed to pastors across the country.

## New Resources on eVitabu

New resources created by African contributors have recently been added to eVitabu. Revd Dr Emmanuel Gatera (Word of Life Church, Rwanda), Revd Goodwell Loguya (Central Bible School, Malawi) and Revd Okidi Charles (Bishop Lee Rayfield Leadership College, Uganda) have all shared training material with pastors from across Africa. APF continue to work hard to add resources to eVitabu, especially contextualised resources written by Africans for African contexts.



Emmanuel Gatera



Goodwell Loguya



Okidi Charles

## Student Sponsorships



APF is sponsoring two students from the Diocese of Kigeme in Rwanda to attend East African Christian College and study theology degrees. Enabling pastors to study like this is essential for keeping churches open since the Rwandan government introduced strict rules and standards that require faith-leaders to have accredited qualifications (see pages 9-10).

## Bible Commentary Sets

Heavenlight Luoga in Tanzania has been giving copies of APF's 3 volume Swahili New Testament Bible commentary sets to untrained church leaders. He told us: "Today I am ending the three days seminar here in Muleba. I have succeeded to organise this seminar and distribute the APF books as you can see the pictures, but we now need more books."



## eVitabu in Malawi

Goodwell Lugoya from Central Bible School in Malawi has been speaking to students graduating from informal pastor training centres about eVitabu. "Books are expensive", he said. "The modern way of going digital makes everything available on eVitabu through their smartphones."



## Equipped for Digital Ministry

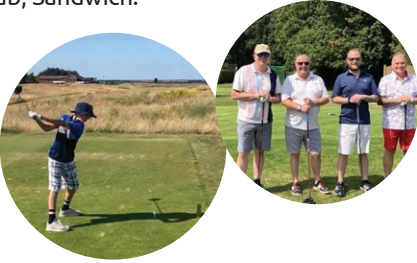


At present there are a dozen African pastors studying the online Equipped for Digital Ministry course being offered at subsidised fees by APF and Spurgeon's College. For some the enrolment process has been frustratingly slow but, to some extent, this indicates the need for the course.

## Golf

Over the summer, nine groups took to the fairways to enjoy a round of golf to support pastors in Africa. Players paid a small entrance fee and then donated the value of their score.

There were informal groups of friends and several church teams, all playing at various courses at different times during July and August. Players were aged from 11 to 84, and the individual winner was our youngest participant: Caleb Twyman, who scored 41 points playing at Princes Golf Club, Sandwich.



The overall team competition was won by Mr Zen and the Foxy Bunch, comprising James Keyte, James Putnam, Josh Stedman and Andrew Swindley (pictured above) playing at Tudor Park Golf Club, Maidstone. They collectively scored 133 points. As they played, they were stalked by this sly fellow (also pictured above) who soon became their team mascot.

Thank you so much to everyone who took part! So far, this year's golf competition has raised over £900 for APF.

## Digital Theology Taster

Dave has now passed his masters in Digital Theology. As we mentioned in the last edition of *Impetus*, to mark this achievement, Dave will be hosting an online Digital Theology Taster, similar to 'The Smart Pastor' seminars APF has delivered around Africa.

This will take place online on **Wednesday 23rd October at 7pm**. If you have not already done so, and would like to attend, please email: [dave@africanpastors.org](mailto:dave@africanpastors.org)

## Thank you!

As always, a big thank you and welcome to all new APF donors and supporters.

In this edition of *Impetus*, we'd like to make special mention to Cranbrook Church near Exeter who invited Geoff to talk about APF's work on a Sunday service in late July. Cranbrook Church had a special collection for APF and donated their regular weekly offering.

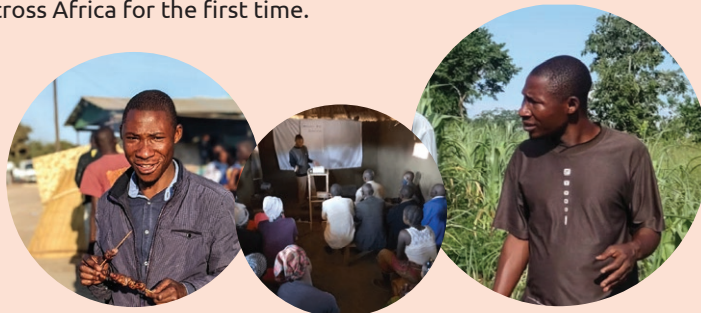


# For Prayer

**The prayer requests in this edition of *Impetus* were written by Lawson Limao from Lusaka in Zambia. Lawson is a young leader in Word of God Ministries. He is a passionate advocate of eVitabu and wants to see the **Zambian Church more involved in directly helping vulnerable farming communities grow better food whilst also protecting the environment. He says:****

African Pastors Fellowship has equipped many pastors and leaders in Zambia providing them with solar lights that have helped so much during this time of long power cuts, and training in the villages with eVitabu and making organic fertiliser. Let us pray together:

- Give thanks for the growing number of pastors who are using eVitabu in Zambia. Pray they will use the knowledge acquired in their ministries to support good teaching in their churches and help develop their communities.
- Pray for the leaders and the farmers who received the organic fertiliser training. Pray they continue to make compost and use it even during this difficult farming season. Pray also for the 600 or so farmers who asked for the training but have not yet received it.
- Pray that the Zambian government supports the efforts of organic farming and helps farmers become sustainable and resilient, so they produce good food for their families and care for the natural world.
- Pray that Zambia experiences good rains this season so the farmers here have a good harvest. Pray that they may have good health especially as there is a growing number of malaria infections in Zambia.
- Pray for the areas that are expected to experience floods in the coming season predicted by the meteorological department.
- Pray for the local partnership with APF in Zambia to grow and for myself as I travel to Uganda to meet other APF partners from across Africa for the first time.



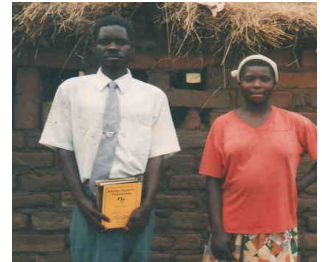




# Remembering Bishop Lloyd Chizenga

**Rev Lloyd Chizenga, a dedicated APF partner for 25 years, passed away peacefully in his sleep on the night of July 27th, following his daughter Bridget's wedding.**

**A beloved figure in the Blantyre community, Lloyd led New Life Christian Church and oversaw the Growing Green project, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at improving food security in rural southern Malawi. Despite the region's frequent droughts, floods, and cyclones, Lloyd's unwavering commitment and strategic leadership ensured that the project reached thousands of farmers, teaching them vital conservation agriculture and compost-making techniques. As a result, countless families have been able to escape poverty, afford their children's education, and break free from the cycle of debt.**



**Lloyd with a pastor's wife at an APF training event in the early 2000s.**

**Shiela Chizenga, Lloyd's youngest daughter, asked us to share the following tribute in memory of a faithful servant, compassionate leader and devoted family man.**

Bishop Lloyd Chizenga, born on 13th March 1960, led a remarkable life characterised by unwavering love for God and service to His people. His journey in Christianity deepened when he was born again in 1982 and joined Pentecostal Assemblies of God. His humility and servant character soon meant he was chosen to serve as an assistant pastor.

After training in theology as a pastor in Malawi and Zambia, Lloyd left Assemblies of God and founded New Life Christian Church in 1993 in Blantyre. The young church network grew and branches were soon planted across Malawi and Mozambique. Through New Life Christian Church, Bishop Lloyd trained many leaders and pastors of different churches.



Guided and inspired by the compassion of our Lord Jesus, Bishop Lloyd championed various humanitarian initiatives including building orphanages, supporting women with small-scale business loans, sinking boreholes in different villages and providing bibles to many local churches.

In recent years, his passion for helping the most vulnerable led him to train farmers from rural communities across Malawi in sustainable agriculture with support from APF and Operation Agri . The good reputation he had established through his leadership of New Life Christian Church in the villages meant that community headmen and women welcomed him, and the farmers listened, learnt and implemented the simple but effective farming techniques he taught. This project has now touched thousands of lives.



**Lloyd with beneficiaries of an APF bike grant in 2016.**

His care for vulnerable children, the elderly and those struggling through adversity made him a friend and a brother for all whom he reached out to. The boundless empathy, gentle spirit, and infectious humour he manifested made him a beloved figure in the community and a guiding light to his family.

Above all things, the bishop's greatest joy was his family. To Johanna, Bridget and myself he was an amazing dad and a constant source of love, wisdom and encouragement. He delighted in our accomplishments, comforted us in times of need and inspired us to pursue our passions always in doing good to humanity. His legacy as a father is characterised by his patience, kindness and devotion.

To our mother Jackie, he was a rock, partner and soulmate. Together, they shared a deep love built on mutual respect, trust, and laughter. He cherished her, supported her dreams, and celebrated her triumphs.

Lloyd's impact extends far beyond his ministry and family. His selfless example inspired countless individuals to embrace their faith, serve others and strive for compassion. The memory of his life will continue to uplift and motivate future generations to make a difference in the world as God's instrument of love and kindness. Through his remarkable life, Bishop Lloyd showed us that faith, family and service are intertwined. He is deeply missed but his love, legacy, and lessons will endure forever.



# Thousands of Church Closures in Rwanda

**The Rwandan Church is under pressure from the strict enforcement of new government building regulations.**

Since government regulations on faith communities were first introduced in 2018, APF have been reporting on the impact of the rules and standards intended to ensure congregations worship in safe buildings and are led by properly qualified and well-trained faith leaders. Across Rwanda, churches worked hard to comply with the regulations and stay open for worship.

Further regulations brought in this August, however, have meant nearly 10,000 mostly smaller churches and mosques across the country have been forced to close, leaving many congregations without a place of worship.

This is particularly devastating for rural communities who have already made significant investments to comply with previous regulations. Furthermore, restrictions on religious meetings in private homes further limits the ability of believers to gather and practice their faith.

The August crackdown has meant that APF partner Église Évangélique de la Bonne Volonté au Rwanda (EEBVR) has now shut all its church buildings. Building regulations requiring churches to install lightning conductors, soundproofing, air conditioning, water storage and disabled toilets and be sited on at least half an acre of land are beyond the means of a small independent network like EEBVR.

APF recently sponsored the EEBVR's legal representative Victor Imanaturikumwe's theology degree. This helped the network comply with the 2018 regulations. However, the latest enforcements mean EEBVR churches are closed again.

Rev Emmanuel Gatera from Word of Life Church in Rusizi District on the Rwanda-DRC border has also been affected. APF sent funding so Emmanuel could help church leaders from across the region download, install and register on eVitabu, APF's pastor training and resource hub app. The closure of the church building the training was scheduled to happen in, however, means the training is postponed.

Although the regulations have disproportionately impacted smaller, less well-resourced indigenous networks like EEBVR and Word of Life Church, large international denominations are also struggling to comply.

In Kigeme Diocese, for example, just twenty-three out of 239 Anglican churches remain open. Bishop Assiel Musabyimana held a retreat day for diocesan clergy to encourage them to continue in prayer and with regular pastoral visits while their church buildings remain shut. He worries for congregations unable to gather and is concerned that the end of the traditional Sunday offering makes raising funds to comply with the regulations even harder.

Anglican Archbishop Laurent Mbanda nevertheless takes some positives from the situation. He told Religion News Service, “I think what was introduced — not today but five years ago — is good for the Church. The government gave us five years to comply and kept giving us reminders. That ended last year in September. I think this was enough time to comply. We need to look at this from a positive side.”

One positive story from Rwanda is that the Rwandan Governance Board (RGB), the government department responsible for introducing the faith community rules and standards, recently announced a collaboration with Re-Forma. Re-Forma is a South African based organisation specialising in training African church leaders.

The agreement means that Re-Forma training certification now counts as evidence that a pastor had suitable theology training. APF are in discussions with Re-Forma about using eVitabu as a platform for sharing their training material with African pastors.

Speaking after winning his fourth term, Rwandan President Paul Kagame insists that the law must prevent “mushrooming churches” that “squeeze even the last penny from poor Rwandans.” He also hinted about taxing churches on their income to combat fraud and corruption.

Rwanda’s constitution protects religious freedom, including the right to choose or change one’s religion. Discrimination based on religion is punishable by law.



Emmanuel Gatera

Victor Imanaturikumwe

Bishop Assiel



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

## **Giving to APF**

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If you would like to donate to APF, please visit [www.africanpastors.org/donate](http://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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