



Impetus.

Discovering Wisdom for Rural Ministry in Rwanda

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

From the CEO

Highlights and
updates

Investing in the
Future of the
Church in Kenya





From the CEO

A little more each month can help us plan boldly for 2026 and beyond.

There are many things I truly love about my job. I get to work with an incredible team here in the UK and with inspirational leaders across Africa. I'm privileged to see innovative projects take shape, to help build training partnerships, and to travel to remarkable places where I learn so much from the richness of cross-cultural ministry.

But if I'm honest, the part of my role I enjoy the least is the constant pressure to fundraise so that APF can keep its promises to our African Training Partners so they can continue their vital ministries across Africa.

Right now, our regular monthly giving simply doesn't cover our fixed monthly costs. That means we're continually relying on unexpected one-off donations, grants, legacies, or fundraising events to make ends meet. It makes planning for the future difficult.

More importantly, it means we can't confidently give our African Training Partners the mid-term or long-term assurances they need to plan their work effectively. That uncertainty inevitably limits the impact of their ministries.

It also means that a significant amount of my own time is taken up with preparing funding bids, organising fundraising initiatives, and following up potential donors – time I would far rather invest directly in the people and projects we serve.

I've done the maths: if everyone reading this edition of *Impetus* increased their current monthly donation by just £2 – or set up a monthly gift of £2 if you don't already give regularly – we could close this gap. It really is that simple. And it would make a meaningful difference to the dedicated, yet often marginalised, pastors we support across Africa.

Thank you, as always, for your generosity and for standing with us. As we step into 2026, I warmly invite you to consider this small but significant commitment.

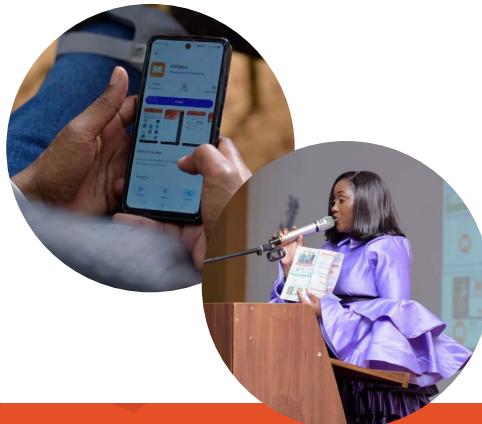
In Christ,

Revd Dave Stedman

Highlights and updates

Malawi Youth Conference

In Blantyre, Johanna Chizenga from New Life Christian Church hosted a youth conference where part of the day focused on encouraging young Christians to download and install eVitabu, giving them access to thousands of excellent resources to support their churches, communities and home-life.



eVitabu in South Sudan

Remoteness isn't a problem for APF partner Daniel Deng Bol in northern South Sudan. Young leaders turned up from many miles around to attend an eVitabu workshop Daniel ran in November.



UK Team Get-Together



The APF UK team of (pictured left to right) Jonathan, Dave, Geoff (who came straight from the airport from his latest visit to Africa), Martin and Hannah met near Heathrow to catch up and reflect on the last year as well as share ideas for the year ahead. Jonathan also showed the team around some exciting new updates he has planned for eVitabu.

Just Trees Appeal

Our Christmas Just Trees campaign has made a strong start, raising around £500 so far to help Walubo Jude plant trees in Uganda. We're still taking donations so go to www.africanpastors.org/just-trees to make a Christmas gift that will last for generations.





Discovering Wisdom for Rural Ministry in Rwanda

In November, Geoff Holder from the UK team travelled to Rwanda to evaluate the impact of Wisdom Bible School – an innovative approach to training rural pastors supported by APF. Rev. Oswald (right) and Rev. Silvestre (left), clergy from the Free Methodist Church, shared a powerful overview of why rural training is so vital, especially at a time when many rural churches in Rwanda remain shut due to government regulation. Here, Rev. Oswald tells the story:

I am grateful to share what God has been doing through Wisdom Bible School over the last few years, made possible through the faithful support of our partners at APF. Looking back fills me with joy, gratitude and renewed hope for the future.

We began the programme in 2019 with fifty students. One sadly passed away, but forty-nine recently completed the course with strong results and their dedication is already bearing fruit.

Eight now serve as full-time pastors, twenty-five as catechists and sixteen as evangelists. Our catechists alone lead 196 prayer groups, care for twelve local churches and have helped establish new parishes in Gakenke, Nyacyina and Kabare.

Students came from a wide mix of Christian traditions – Methodist, Anglican, Baptist and Pentecostal. Sixteen women and thirty-four men studied side by side, turning our classroom into a living example of Christian unity.

From the start, we reassured local churches that we were not “taking” their leaders but equipping them to return home better prepared for ministry. Week by week, denominational barriers softened as students learned to value one another’s perspectives.

Teaching took place one full day each week. Many travelled long distances from rural villages, and the bicycles provided by APF made their attendance possible. The curriculum included Bible history, New Testament studies, preaching, pastoral care, English language and more.

The greatest impact, however, has been seen in local communities. Bible studies have multiplied, baptisms increased and many new believers have joined church ministries. The local-language Bibles supplied by APF have been essential for preaching, discipleship and church planting.

To support whole-life ministry, we added practical livelihood skills to the curriculum. Savings groups were formed. Families began raising hens, pigs, sheep, goats and rabbits, and planted fruit and vegetable gardens.



Village community gathering.

Most students come from very humble backgrounds, often struggling with school fees or health insurance. These initiatives have reduced malnutrition and strengthened household income, giving visible expression to God’s love.

Two pastoral issues emerged strongly. First, many preached Old Testament texts without connecting them to the gospel or daily life. Second, prosperity teaching had encouraged some to expect gifts in exchange for blessings or prophecies. Through study and discussion, students rediscovered the call to integrity and servant leadership.

While many churches in Rwanda remain closed under government regulations, our trained leaders have continued ministry by visiting homes, sharing communion and reading Scripture with families, keeping the flame of faith alive.

As we look ahead, our prayer is to reopen Wisdom Bible School with a new cohort soon. The need is great and the calling clear. With God’s help, we are ready for the next step. May He provide the strength and resources to continue this essential ministry.



A rural road in northern Rwanda.



Investing in the Future of the Church in Kenya

Dr Rose Mugabi (right) is an APF trustee from Uganda. She recently returned from Kapsabet in western Kenya, where she visited St Paul's Theological College and met the principal Ven. Elizabeth Cheruiyot (left) to monitor how the college is using the support it receives from APF. Rose writes:

African Pastors Fellowship has been strengthening digital learning and access to learning resources at St Paul's Theological College for six years. When I visited in November, the impact of this long-term investment was evident across the campus.

This comes at a crucial time. Across much of Africa, the church continues to grow rapidly, often outpacing the availability of trained leaders. Theological colleges like St Paul's play a vital role in equipping pastors, evangelists, and teachers who can serve their congregations with wisdom, integrity, and strong biblical grounding.

As churches expand into new communities – and as younger generations seek deeper discipleship – the demand for well-prepared Christian leaders has never been greater. Strengthening theological education is therefore essential for sustaining healthy, vibrant churches across the continent.

One of the most striking improvements at St Paul's has been in ICT support and digital literacy. It was encouraging to see students confidently using computers for research, classwork, and sermon preparation, with many now able to record and send videos of their sermons back to their home churches.

Library upgrades funded by APF have also transformed daily operations. A bar-code reader has streamlined borrowing, improved network infrastructure allows for shared printing, and a new router has expanded wireless internet access for staff and students. The enhanced library management system has opened up wider access to high-quality online theological resources.

Investment in furnishings and learning spaces has further enriched the college environment. New chairs and two pulpits now serve the Bishop Ashcroft Resource Centre. Although some of the original furniture budget was redirected to buy new library books – responding to student priorities – funds remain to complete the centre's furnishings soon. The library itself continues to grow, with additional titles recently ordered.



Rose and Elizabeth at St Paul's.

My visit also highlighted several ongoing challenges. High staff turnover in the accounts department slows financial reporting, and the college's complicated procurement process – though designed for accountability – causes delays and incurs reimbursement costs that reduce available funds. Smaller projects struggle to attract viable tenders, and some ageing laptops in the ICT room require constant attention.

Despite these hurdles, it was encouraging to see strong financial stewardship at the college and students actively benefiting from the upgraded facilities, new laptops in the ICT lab, and high-speed fibre internet in the library.

Monitoring visits like this are vital. They help APF supporters know their donations are being used wisely and making a real, lasting difference. I'm already looking forward to returning to Kapsabet next year to see the next stage of progress.

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.

African Pastors Fellowship

Station House, Station Approach, Adisham, Canterbury CT3 3JE

www.africanpastors.org

Tel 01227 681186

Email admin@africanpastors.org

UK Registered Charity Number 282756



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