

July to September 2026
APF Prayer and Newsletter



African
Pastors
Fellowship

Impetus.

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Strengthening Ministry in Challenging Times



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From the CEO

At the recent Trustee's Meeting in late April, we bid farewell to John Chambers who has retired as a trustee after serving for 22 years and 5 months, many of which as treasurer. John brought a wealth of experience, financial wisdom and the ability to ask critical questions with grace and humour. We will miss him. Thank you, John, for your service to APF.



John Chambers

We have also seen Revd Richard Tucker and Revd Andrew North retire as trustees in the past year, so we are actively seeking to appoint new UK based trustees.

Having carried out a simple skills audit, we have identified particular need in the following areas:

- Business and Finance
- Legal and Governance
- Fundraising and Marketing
- Information Technology

Perhaps you, or someone known to you, have skills or experience in one of more of these areas? Would you, or they, be willing to explore what it means to be a trustee of APF?

As a regular reader of *Impetus*, I hope you are already enthusiastic about our mission to enable effective ministry in Africa and have seen the pioneering development of the charity in recent years. Being a charity trustee is a big responsibility but also an exciting opportunity to serve global mission in a strategic way.

I would be delighted to hear from you!

Revd Dave Stedman
CEO

Highlights and updates

Digital Theology in Uganda

At Bishop Stuart University in Mbarara, western Uganda, Revd Charles Okidi has recently been appointed Head of Theology and Religious Studies, overseeing around 150 students. He told us how APF has inspired him to incorporate digital theology into the curriculum, helping future church leaders reflect theologically on the opportunities and challenges technology presents, both in their own lives and in the communities they will go on to serve.



A Bumper Harvest

In Zambia, Lawson Limao has been training rural communities to produce organic fertiliser and compost. With the cost of synthetic fertiliser rising sharply in recent years, it has become unaffordable for many small-scale farmers. Using resources available on eVitabu, Lawson has been teaching communities how to make effective organic



From Trainee to Trainer

Earlier this month, Pastor Oliver Ogusegere brought together church leaders for two eVitabu workshops in the Mumias and Teso regions of western Kenya. Oliver first connected with APF a few years ago when he attended a similar training event in Mombasa. Now, he is passing on what he learned to others. Around 100 church leaders took part in the workshops and, despite some initial challenges with technology and internet connectivity, many successfully installed the eVitabu app, giving them ongoing access to a growing library of theological resources to support their ministry.



alternatives from locally available materials at little or no cost. Participants have reported bumper harvests as a result.

Hands at Home, Hearts Worldwide

During the Spring, Dave travelled up and down England, from Torquay to Stockton-on-Tees speaking about APF and eVitabu. He also spent a weekend as keynote speaker at the Mission Assist annual conference in Swanwick where the theme was 'Hands at Home, Hearts Worldwide'.



Mission Assist comprises a network of dedicated volunteers throughout the United Kingdom and elsewhere, helping mission workers advance the gospel and make scripture accessible wherever they are in the world. Working in their own homes, Mission Assist volunteers use their skills and experience to provide many services and resources.

The network provide services for Christians who have been sent out from their own churches and are working overseas in various aspects of Christian mission. These services range from the practical to administrative and academic.

APF has worked closely with Mission Assist in recent years and Mission Assist has contributed hundreds of Shell Books for publication within eVitabu. Shell Books cover topics from health and hygiene to crafts, as well as farming and practical issues like simple construction techniques. There are also Bible studies and booklets about animals and food in the Bible, which are often used to support adult literacy programmes.

At the Mission Assist conference, Dave delivered four sessions, taking delegates on a journey through Acts 1:8, beginning with the reminder that mission starts close to home. He then explored God's heart for the nations, celebrated the many and varied ways that disciples and communities can participate in mission, and concluded with a reflection on Romans 10:13–15, highlighting that the rhythm of 21st-century mission is no longer "from the West to the rest", but "everyone to everywhere".

In addition to the teaching, Dave made some excellent connections with inspiring and dedicated people, and we look forward to seeing how APF's partnership with Mission Assist grows as we seek to enable effective ministry in Africa.

If you would like to book Dave or Geoff to speak at your church or event, we have some dates available later in 2026 and are accepting invitations into 2027. If so, get in touch by emailing dave@africanpastors.org or calling **01227 681186**, we'd love to hear from you.

Equipping the Deaf Church in Zambia



Access to Christian teaching can be especially challenging for deaf believers in Africa. Lawson Limao explains how eVitabu is making biblical resources accessible to deaf Christians in Zambia.

In June, it was a joy to gather with 76 delegates from deaf churches across Zambia for an eVitabu training event in Kitwe. Church leaders and representatives travelled from different regions, united by a desire to discover new ways of helping deaf Christians grow in their faith.

Many deaf believers across Africa have limited access to Christian teaching and Bible study resources that are accessible to them. eVitabu is helping to change that. The app provides a wealth of biblical resources that can be used on a smartphone, making it easier for deaf Christians to study God's Word, prepare for worship and deepen their understanding of the Christian faith.

During our time together, we explored the app's features, shared practical ways it can be used in local churches, and discussed how leaders can introduce it to their congregations. It was encouraging to see the enthusiasm of those attending as they realised the opportunities eVitabu offers for discipleship and teaching within the deaf community.

We are thankful to APF for making this training possible. Please pray that everyone who attended will return to their churches equipped and confident to use eVitabu, and that this resource will help many more deaf Christians across Zambia and beyond to know Christ more deeply through His Word.

Strengthening Ministry in Challenging Times



Churches across Africa continue to face many challenges, from periods of disruption to limited access to training resources. In May, pastors and church leaders from across Rwanda gathered to explore how resilient ministry, intentional discipleship and the eVitabu app can help churches remain strong in every season. Victor Imanaturikumwe told us all about the gathering:

It was a privilege to welcome around 50 pastors and church leaders to Rubavu in north-western Rwanda for two days of training focused on strengthening ministry in challenging times.

Our theme, The Resilient Shepherd, encouraged participants to think about how churches can continue to disciple believers, nurture home-based fellowship and care for their congregations, even when circumstances make traditional church gatherings difficult.

One of the highlights of the training was introducing participants to eVitabu, APF's offline digital theological library.

Together we installed the app on participants' devices and explored how it can support sermon preparation, discipleship and home-based ministry. By the end of the training, every participant had installed eVitabu and was confident in using it as part of their ministry.

The event was also memorable because of the diversity of those attending. We were joined by a pastor from eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, who shared the realities of serving the church in a region affected by ongoing conflict. His testimony reminded us of the importance of equipping pastors with resources that remain available even in difficult circumstances.

We were also delighted to welcome representatives from Rwanda's deaf Christian community for the first time, supported by sign language interpreters. Their participation was an important step towards ensuring that APF training is accessible to all and highlighted the importance of building churches where every believer can grow and serve.

We thank God for these encouraging days together and are grateful to APF for making the training possible.

Please pray that the pastors who attended will continue to use eVitabu and the other ministry tools they received, strengthening discipleship and helping their churches remain resilient for years to come.

Supporting Youth Mental Health in Malawi

In June, APF was delighted to support a mental health outreach led by Malawi partner Faith Walk, attended by around 100 students from Ngabu, Chikwawa District. Faith Walk's Johanna Chizenga explained what happened:

Recognising the growing challenges facing young people in Malawi, the Ngabu workshops combined practical mental health education with Christian teaching and pastoral encouragement.

A professional mental health nurse led sessions on common mental health issues affecting students and shared practical advice on maintaining emotional and mental wellbeing. Alongside these sessions, students explored questions of faith, identity and purpose, and heard the good news of Jesus Christ.

Students also received learning materials to support their education. These simple

gifts were received with great joy and will help encourage them in their studies.

The outreach highlighted the significant need for this kind of ministry among young people in Malawi, bringing together practical support, hope and the transforming message of the gospel.

We are grateful to everyone whose generosity made this event possible and pray that it will be the first of many similar events in the months ahead.



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

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