



African Pastors' Fellowship News and Prayer November - December 2011

Balancing the Books



Emmaus Bandekile of Scripture Union Tanzania
with some of the APF literature.

Piles of books in spare rooms, overcrowded containers and dusty storerooms were some of the sights that greeted our Director, Ian Enticott, on recent trips to East Africa.

Many people expressed an interest in buying APF commentaries and picture sets, but did not know where to get hold of them. The question of how and where to store stocks of our books and how to get them distributed is one which has still not been finally solved.

Buyers and Sellers



Scripture Union Bookshop
Kisumu, Kenya

So how do we solve the problem of literature distribution? Scripture Union has a good network of bookshops throughout East Africa - but they tend to be in the major cities and not everyone goes to the big cities. Kanisa la Biblia Bookshop (Church of the Bible) in Dodoma and Soma Biblia (Read the Bible) in Dar es Salaam both stock and sell APF literature. Soma Biblia are distributing throughout Tanzania and selling from mobile vans that travel further afield.

In Tanzania we are looking at the possibility of a container on the Scripture Union site dedicated to APF literature. There is a slight possibility of being able to have part of the time of a Scripture Union worker to oversee the distribution in Tanzania. We are also hoping to be able to make arrangements for payments for book sales to be received locally.

Some of the older stock is still in UK and if we can get a viable distribution centre then we should be able to get the rest of this shipped out.

Uganda, Kenya and Malawi have fairly good distribution networks - but again the problem is making sure bookshops know about our publications.. These days people are more used to seeing glossy covered books in the shops (just see the picture above) and our material needs to have that same look if it is to get anywhere near the shelves. The new 3 Volume New Testament Commentary fills that gap - but we probably also need to start using ISBNs for our publications as more of the countries we work in are starting to use computerised systems.

By far the most requests I get now are for Safari picture sets. It would be good to get these out in some quantity so that there are reasonable stocks in each of the countries. There is a need for simple Christian teaching material for Sunday School and classroom use. See [page 12](#) for projected costs.

Paying your way



Possibly one of the most useful of the technological advances in East Africa is the use of the mobile phone. When we lived in Tanzania it used to be difficult to make phone calls even to the next town, and when we first arrived we had to send a telegram home to say we had arrived safely. The landline network has never been brilliant,

but now mobile phone masts have sprung up everywhere and even in many rural areas it is possible to get a good signal. I am still amused to see a Masai warrior in traditional dress in the scrubland, pull out a mobile phone from the intricate and specially-made beaded pouch on his belt. Price wars among the major companies mean that tariffs are very low, and some of the companies are saying that it is so difficult to make a profit now that they will soon be out of business.

However other businesses based on the mobile proliferate. Any rural location will offer phone charging facilities from special booths and street sellers offer sim cards and airtime vouchers. Perhaps the most innovative use comes from being able to pay money to other people through your mobile. You can effectively 'text' money to another person so that they can withdraw it in cash at a booth. This makes paying fees for a course much easier even at a distance and for many people who simply do not have enough money to open a bank account it has revolutionised the way they can settle debts or send money home.



Country Profile

Democratic Republic of Congo



APF has held two courses for pastors in Congo this year, and some of the big questions those pastors had were about the 'war' and about their country's relationship with China and mining rights.

The country covers an area of about 900,000 square miles - ten times that of UK. It has a turbulent history with the early slave trade followed by colonisation by Belgium and then the bloodshed of independence. The economy suffers from a lack of infrastructure and while being one of the poorest countries in the world it has the possibility of being so much more. The Congo River is said to have the hydro-electric potential to power the entire continent of Africa.

92% of the population now claim to be Christian and churches are at the forefront of moves towards reconciliation and peacemaking. However, much of the adherence to Christianity is nominal, and there is a notable lack of knowledge about the Bible and its message.

50% of the population are under 16 years old, and AIDS and enforced service in militia groups still cause problems, giving rise to a quarter of a million street children.



There are millions of displaced people, and the second largest body of peacekeeping forces from the United Nations in the world (only slightly behind Darfur in numbers and budget).

There will be presidential and parliamentary elections in November, but it will be difficult to administer and monitor how well they are conducted.

So the pastors face real problems. In the area served by Bukavu many of the militant groups still operate. DR Congo has the highest rate of sexual violence against women in the world. Rape is commonplace and often used by the terrorist militia groups to subdue the local population.



Mining area in Lubumbashi

The pastors report that they cannot even farm their plots of land as they face being killed by the militia groups or their crops being stolen. There was also concern about what was happening with mineral rights in the country as much of the natural wealth is in the hands of militia groups, and some rights are now being sold outside the country - particularly to the Chinese.

There is a concern that many of the minerals used in production of laptops and mobile phones comes from DR Congo with its appalling human rights record. Some are calling for a boycott of companies that will not guarantee that their phones are free of 'conflict minerals'. This is very difficult to determine though as the minerals are shipped via the Far East and combined with minerals from other parts of the world.

Links:

[Conflict Minerals](#)

[Raise Hope for Congo](#)

[Operation World - prayer](#)

[World Prayer Map - prayer](#)

Prayer Fellowship

November - December 2011

Each week there is a focus for our prayers and 7 items for prayer.

If you pray daily then please use one item each day.

If you pray weekly or in a group then select appropriate topics.

November 1st - 5th

APF literature and distribution

APF has a series of pictures for 30 Bible stories that could be produced as classroom teaching sets. The 3 volume commentary needs to be transported to secure storage before distribution. Shops and distributors need to know what is available and where it is obtainable. See page 3.

Pray for:

- 1 Ian at the Partners in World Mission conference Oct 31 - Nov 2
- 1 plans to make the Safari picture sets more widely available
- 2 Soma Biblia and Kanisa la Biblia selling Christian literature
- 3 Scripture Union as it helps APF with literature production
- 4 CLC and SIM in Kenya also helping with APF materials
- 5 partners working on translating APF books in to new languages

November 6th - 12th

UK Support

All the money for the ministry of APF in East Africa comes from individuals and churches in UK. We do need to increase our support base if the work is going to expand to meet all the needs that fall within our remit. We keep overheads to a minimum by working from an office in the Director's home.

Please pray...

- 6 for Ian preaching today at All Hallows South Cerney
- 7 for the increased use of Easy Fundraising ([see p.14](#))
- 8 for APF trustees meeting today
- 9 that those with a heart for the churches in East Africa would hear about the work of APF and become supporters
- 10 for Ian to get a good number of invitations to speak at churches next year
- 11 for a prayer rally in Kenya - to prevent post-election violence next year
- 12 for all those attending the Rooted in Jesus conference today (a discipleship training course being used in Africa and now expanding to other areas)

November 13th - 19th

Bible teaching in East Africa

One of the most important things we can do for the church in Africa is to teach them to read and interpret the Bible. Any teaching needs to be relevant to the culture rather than something 'off the shelf' from Europe or North America.

Pray for:

- 13 God to raise up discerning teachers of his word in East Africa
- 14 Ian as he attends a Bible Society course for trainers today and tomorrow on "H+ Making Good Sense of the Bible"
- 15 Julius Twongeirywe training pastors through Proclamation Task in Uganda
- 16 training programmes in the churches to be given sufficient effort and funding
- 17 a renewed dedication in pastors to study and apply God's word
- 18 effective use of commentaries and reference books in East Africa
- 19 The work of Scripture Union in all the countries APF serves

November 20th- 26th

Democratic Republic of the Congo

DR Congo has many needs (see [pages 5 and 6](#)), it especially needs good government and peace to return. The rebel groups still hold sway over a large area in the north of the country. Minerals are exploited, as are the workers who mine them.

Please pray...

- 20 for Ian speaking at St Andrew's Chelmsford and the East Region supporters meeting today
- 21 that Christians in DRC may hold fast to the truth of the Gospel
- 22 for all the work of reconciliation and peace-making
- 23 for all victims of sexual assault and those working with them
- 24 that there would be an end to the exploitation of children in DRC
- 25 for effective government and free and fair elections next week
- 26 for pastors ministering in this difficult environment

November 27th - December 3rd World links

As churches in Africa grow confident in what they have to offer to the rest of the world it is important that they be given opportunity to minister to others. Look at the opportunities that have arisen recently on [page 13](#). We have much to learn from Christians in these countries about the vibrancy of their faith and the ease with which they share about what God is doing in their lives.

November 27th- December 3rd World links/cont...

Please pray for:

- 27 Church leaders in East Africa who have influence on the world scene
- 28 Presidential and parliamentary elections in D.R. Congo
- 29 Ian at the Global Connections conference 28th-30th
- 30 effective partnership links between East Africa and UK churches
- 1 Most Revd Henry Orombi (an APF patron) in his international role
- 2 Ian at the Mid-Africa Ministries Conference
- 3 cooperation between neighbouring countries concerning refugees

December 4th - 10th

APF work in 2012

Along with many charities and mission agencies APF is operating with quite severe financial constraints. There are still many needs and many requests for APF to run training courses, but we need the income to be able to offer these.

Please pray:

- 4 for the trustees, Director, Ian Enticott, and Administrator, Dave Gorman, as they seek to budget effectively for the coming year
- 5 that sufficient funds would be available to run all the requested training courses
- 6 that progress would be made in literature distribution networks
- 7 for Ian in planning new training courses and follow-up materials
- 8 for all the planning of Day Conferences and supporter meetings
- 9 for discernment in distributing limited funds for bicycles and loans
- 10 that it would be possible to print more picture sets next year

December 11th - 17th

Country specifics

While there are many things that effect all of the countries in East Africa, each of them face particular problems and challenges too.

Please pray for:

- 11 Pastors in East Africa preaching today to be relevant to their people's needs
- 12 Kenya is facing problems with drought and the crisis in Somalia
- 13 Tanzania and its relationship with Burundian refugees ([p. 13](#))
- 14 Malawi and the problems it is facing with inflation and lack of fuel
- 15 Rwanda and Burundi in the work of tribal reconciliation
- 16 D.R. Congo with the challenges of infrastructure in such a vast country
- 17 the country and leadership of Uganda - it is where APF started, many of our Baptist links are here

December 18th - 24th People and places

APF partners with many different people and organisations. We work with Baptist, Anglican and Independent churches predominantly, with a particular emphasis on the rural pastors who often receive very little in the way of training or support.

Please pray for:

- 18 Bishop Daniel Ogutu in his work with Mathare Outreach Community Church in Nairobi, Kenya
- 19 Ruth Omungo and her work with women in Kibera slum, Nairobi
- 20 Most Revd Bernard Ntahoturi in the Anglican Church in Burundi
- 21 Geoffrey Mayimba as General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Uganda
- 22 Lloyd Chizenga who is running training programmes in Malawi
- 23 Stephane Makata is running Bible training in Katanga province, DRC
- 24 André Mfitumukiza of the Association of Baptist Churches in Rwanda is involved with discipleship training programmes

December 25th - 31st Thanksgiving

As this year draws to a close we look back with gratitude that all God has done through APF and trust him for all that the future holds.

Please pray...

- 25 that the mystery of 'the Word made flesh' would be revealed through services today across East Africa
- 26 giving thanks for all the pastors and wives who have received training on APF courses this year
- 27 thanking God for the 3 volume Commentary and its impact on pastors readiness to understand the Bible
- 28 with gratitude to God for his provision for APF over this year
- 29 thanking God for Ian Enticott and his safety in travel and useful contacts made over the course of this year
- 30 with thankfulness for all those that God has inspired to have a concern for the churches in East Africa through APF
- 31 We bless God together for all he has done and all he is doing to bring us to fulness in Christ

Looking ahead

APF is still in great demand in East Africa. We currently have requests for pastors and wives courses in thirteen places next year, in all of the countries we work in: Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Malawi, Tanzania and D.R. Congo. This is very encouraging, but very difficult to fulfil. I would also like to take some clergy or ordinands/trainee pastors with me on future visits. There are also other ways of delivering training through existing organisations such as the Rural Training Project in Katanga, D.R. Congo. We often get requests for funding which we are unable to fulfil. It might be possible to work out a programme of teaching that APF will endorse - but the trainers would still need paying, and some of the course costs. At the moment we are extremely limited in the number of courses we can offer each year due to the limited finances at our disposal.

Money for bicycles continues to come in - and the requests for assistance with bicycles still outweighs the funds we have available for this. Rural pastors benefit greatly from having suitable transport across the vast areas they have to cover. Some of the churches also request motorbikes. In Kenya the cost has come down so much that a motorbike can be purchased for around £600. One group is wanting to show that they can raise enough income from a motorbike to re-pay the loan and make enough profit to pay for the church work and repairs and maintenance.

We are also continuing to offer small loans for family income-generating projects. We make sure that there is someone responsible to administer the loans and oversee the projects, and these can work very well. Getting reports back is not always so easy, but we visit where possible to see if things are running smoothly.

Literature is still needed - and there are many calls for good Bible-based books and teaching in local languages. Many books are available in English, but these are often written from a cultural perspective very different East Africa and are consequently of limited value. APF commentaries are written for rural African church leaders and are valued for their appropriateness to the daily life of the readers.

Projects for 2012 and beyond

We often get requests for special projects that can be supported by a church or individual, so to give some guidelines on costs the following may prove useful. Please remember though that prices, particularly for courses, do vary widely from country to country, and even region to region, and may depend on how good the crop is that year.

Project	Approximate Cost
Printing a Safari picture book	50p per book
Printing a Safari Picture Set	£3.50 per set
Subsidised bicycle for a rural pastor	£60 to £70
Sponsor a pastor and wife on a training course	£70 to £90 for a couple on a 5 day training course
Motorbike	£600
Storage Container in Dar es Salaam	£2,500

We are particularly needing money for training courses and for a storage facility in Dar es Salaam. We would like to print more Safari picture sets.

Legacies

If you are making or renewing a will please do remember APF. A legacy can make a huge difference to pastors in East Africa. Please use the charity number - 282756, as well as the charity name, as this identifies us even if we move location or change name in the future.

News from East Africa

Malawi

There is a continuing financial crisis in Malawi. Activists have been arrested after demonstrating outside the parliament and petrol pumps ran dry across much of the country. Minibus drivers have hiked the fares considerably, but only on the few operators with fuel to get around.

Burundi

A group of Primates (*ed. - that means Archbishops*) from the Global South that included the Most Rev. Bernard Ntahoturi accepted an invitation from the Minister for the State Administration for Religious Affairs of the People's Republic of China to visit the country. It was an opportunity for the strengthening of relationships between the Primates and an occasion to gain awareness of some of the encouragements, issues and challenges facing the Chinese Church. In a statement the Primates said that they were "encouraged to see a Church that is actively leading people to faith in Christ, training lay leaders for ministry, advancing the theological education of catechists and clergy, and being a blessing to society, especially in providing social services to the needy". They also rejoiced at the printing of over 90 million copies of the Bible by Amity Foundation Press.

Kenya

Gordon Amisi, a trainee pastor from a Muslim background, is nearing the end of his course. He has received his college fees from one of APF's supporters. He will graduate in March 2012.

Tanzania

François Nitunga has written about the problems facing Burundian refugees in Tanzania where the government is planning to close one of the camps at the end of December and withdraw refugee status from the residents and possibly force repatriation upon them. Many of the refugees fear that they will not be able to live in safety in Burundi.



Around the UK

Harvest Festival has prompted some churches to raise money for APF. Among them is **St Andrew's Bedford** who raised £1000 towards buying bicycles for pastors. Ian was at **St Cuthbert's, Fulwood** in Preston for their harvest festival and money raised from that is coming to APF. Many of the children and young people were collecting pennies in Smartie tubes for the harvest appeal.

Earlier in the year 1/3 of the missionary offering at **Keswick in Wales** came to APF. We are very grateful to those who support us in this way.

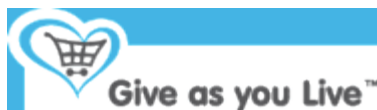
Coffee mornings can be a good way of raising money too. Ian will have been at one in St Kentigern's Keswick by the time you get this - and Wealdstone Methodist Church will be holding one in November. This is the church that Ian attended until he was 19.

After visiting **Cranmer Hall** in Durham, Ian has arranged to spend 24 hours there on a study day, and have opportunity to meet with students over meals. He is hoping that this might lead to offering a 'placement' opportunity going to East Africa on one of the APF trips.

Easy Fundraising has raised £84.58 this year so far from 19 supporters. If you know friends or family who shop online please encourage them to use EasyFundraising or Give As You Live. This is a valuable source of income for charities and costs the buyer nothing. Even searching the web can raise money - just use apf.easysearch.org.uk as your start page for every search.

2011 totals to date

easyfundraising
.org.uk



£84.58

£14.12

UK Day Conferences

East Region

You are invited to a bring and share lunch and open meeting on

Sunday 20th November

at

**St Andrew's Chelmsford
CM1 2JB**

Following morning worship.

Lunch 12.30 p.m.

Meeting 1.30 - 4.00 p.m.

*For further details or to register interest please contact APF
on 01926 402926 or admin@africanpastors.org*

Invitations for 2012

Please contact the office if you would like Ian to come and speak at your church on a Sunday or for a mid-week group. We are taking bookings for the first half of the year.



New Collecting Boxes now available

Please contact the office
to order some for your
church

What you can do to make a difference for pastors in Africa



Pray

- use the APF Prayer fellowship every day
- make sure prayer items are featured regularly in the intercessions at church
- meet with others to pray



Support

- give regularly or occasionally to help pastors (Standing Order forms, Gift Aid forms, and collecting boxes available)
- encourage your church to support African pastors through APF
- put on special events for specific projects



Promote

- invite a speaker to your church, group, school
- make a display in your church or school
- give out extra copies of APF News & Prayer

**contact
us**

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