



African Pastors Fellowship News and Prayer

January - February 2012

Inside this issue

- [Look both ways - the changing face of mission](#)
- ['Vessel of God': Brenda](#)
- [Why wives?](#)
- [Country Profile: Kenya](#)
- [News from around East Africa](#)
- [Conference Reports](#)
- [Make a Difference](#)
- [Noticeboard](#)
- [Prayer Fellowship on separate insert](#)



African Pastors Fellowship works alongside local churches in East Africa in training and equipping church leaders for the task of building the churches in their knowledge and understanding of being a biblical Christian. We work with all main denominations, including Anglican, Baptist, Pentecostal and many independent churches.

Training takes place through one-week refresher courses for pastors and wives on different aspects of being a pastor. All sessions involve Bible teaching.



Equipping of church leaders is accomplished through Bible Commentaries and Bible-story picture books and classroom picture sets. We also train people in writing Bible study materials for small groups and those writing Bible commentaries. All of the materials are available primarily in Swahili with some books being available in other local languages.

Pastoral support is also offered through a scheme to help pastors buy subsidised bicycles and with training and provision of small loans for home-based income-generating projects.

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Look both ways

- the changing face of mission

What should mission look like in the twenty-first century? There needs to be both continuity with the past, but also a radical re-imagining of how to fulfil God's mission in the world of today.



At a recent Global Connections conference we were asked to 'look both ways' - back into the past and forward into the future, just like the Roman god Janus, whose name is used in the month 'January'. We were reminded of the example of Peter when confronted with his vision from God of a sailcloth full of clean and unclean animals. By listening to God Peter was led in to new ways of mission - entering the home of a gentile led to a gentile 'Pentecost' experience and a new direction for the church.

Looking back, one thing from the past that is particularly valued from APF is the inclusion of spouses at the training conferences. For many this is the first time they have ever been included with their partners in spiritual formation for church ministry.

Looking forward could mean delivery of training in new ways in the future, while still being faithful to all that has gone before. Enabling pastors to train other pastors, helping national church organisations to make plans for continuing ministerial education, and online resources for pastors are just some of the ways we could develop. The issue of dependency is still there - but with so little in the way of financial resources the churches in East Africa will need the support of wealthier Christians for some time to come.

By listening to God and seeing and following what he is doing we can shape APF's ministry for the changing face of Africa.

'Vessel of God' Brenda

It often annoys me when people call me 'the man of God' as I don't consider myself any more a man of God than anyone else I meet involved in Christian ministry. However I like the title Brenda used for herself, 'vessel of God'. That seems to be much more biblical in its understanding of the nature of Christian ministry - that God has chosen to work through us, imperfect as we may be.

Brenda lives in Kenya, near Kisumu and came on one of the courses I ran there last year. She worked in the church alongside her husband, and was involved in ministry through prophecy and worship. However when her husband left her she felt God wanted her to still be involved in ministry but found that where before she had been accepted now people were more hostile to anything she had to offer.

Brenda persevered in Christian ministry and continues to serve in the church but is often looked down on because she is a woman. After Ian had been teaching about the role of women in Christian ministry from the Bible she realised that what she does has value with God, and she now says that she feels affirmed in her ministry and better equipped to answer her critics.



After Ian and Brenda had prayed together she felt the burden lifted from her and that she had received healing for past hurts and a new confidence to face the future.

Praise God for all he is doing in the lives of those who come on the APF training courses.

Why wives?

APF training courses are almost unique in offering training to pastors and wives together - find out why.



It is estimated that women produce about 80% of Africa's agricultural output, but earn only 10% of income. In the churches men and women sit on separate sides, with the children often just playing outside. Many families will pay to educate boys before they will consider giving the girls an education so there is a greater proportion of women who are illiterate. The pastors are often not given a wage, even if they are due one, and most will rely on farming to provide for their families.

One of the ways of helping pastors to see their spouses as a partner in the mission and ministry of the church is to bring them both for training together. In this way we hope to break down barriers and enable wives to appreciate the part they have to play in the work of the church. Actually, there are now some women pastors in East Africa, and likely to be more over the coming years, so perhaps we should start referring to pastors and spouses - we invite husbands to come when it is the woman who is the pastor.

This approach has been greatly appreciated by both husbands and wives. Many of the sessions on leadership in the church and the servant nature of Christian ministry are held with both the men and women together, but some sessions are taken in same sex groups.

The women's groups can look together at running small income-generating projects from the home, and talk about family planning. Meanwhile the men look together at their role as husband and father, and also talk about family planning issues. It is quite interesting to hear how many of the men think they should have as many children as possible, and how many women would rather limit family size.

Cultural values place a high emphasis on large families, but this is often accompanied by complaining that they need more money to feed everybody and to pay school fees. We have always tried to encourage a responsible approach and can cite the good example of Bishop Godfrey Sehaba in Morogoro, Tanzania, who has chosen with his wife to only have 2 children as on a pastor's salary this was all they could afford. While he may have been influenced by Ian's teaching, he didn't follow his example as there are 4 Enticott children!

The best way forward is to try and encourage people to read the Bible for themselves and to seek to apply it to their own situations - something which APF encourages strongly. The place of women in society is gradually changing, and there is a need for a firm theological understanding of the nature of men's and women's ministry in the churches.

We are often told how much it has meant to the spouses to be included in their partner's training, there are very few organisations that operate in this way, but we think that when we are teaching it is best to model what we want learned - it is as much by what we do as what we say. That is why the women come too.



Prayer Fellowship

January - February 2012

To print just the prayer notes select pages 7-10 in the print options

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.

January 1st - 7th

Look both ways ([page 3](#))

There was a reminder at the Global Connections Conference that we need to listen to God for his direction ([p.3](#)). There was also a challenge to re-think our models of partnership at the Partnership for World Mission Conference ([p.10](#)).

Pray for:

- 1 the year ahead as APF seeks to adjust to the changing mission scene.
- 2 the Director, Administrator and Trustees to be open to listen to God.
- 3 a true sense of partnership between supporters and pastors in Africa.
- 4 an appreciation of all that is good in APF training as we seek to bring in new ways of accomplishing our objectives.
- 5 the planning of training courses for this year.
- 6 a better understanding of issues of dependency and lack of resources
- 7 Ian developing on-line resources for pastors in Africa

January 8th - 14th

Kenya ([pages 7-8](#))

Kenya has seen many mission partners over the years, and much good work has been done. Churches are stronger now and developing their own world outlook on mission. The country needs continued stability to enable this work to continue.

Please pray...

- 8 for Ian speaking at St Lawrence's Measham
- 9 that there would be peace and wise governance in Kenya
- 10 for a just and honest government and an end to corruption
- 11 that the lead-up to this year's elections would be peaceful
- 12 for the APF Commentaries to be used well as they are distributed by SIM (Sharing in Mission) on pastors conferences.
- 13 for integrity in Christian teaching and discernment about television preachers.
- 14 for practical response to the crisis in northern Kenya and Somalia

January 15th - 21st

Pastors' wives ([pages 5-6](#))

Women are more likely to be poorly educated and less likely to be in paid employment throughout East Africa. The inclusion of pastors' wives on APF training courses enables them to see their part in Christian ministry. Small loans help provide start-up costs for income-generating projects for the family.

Pray for:

- 15 the wives to have successful projects to boost family income.
- 16 increased opportunities for ministry by women in churches.
- 17 a shift in the cultural expectations on women in society.
- 18 the women who have received training on APF courses to continue to put into practice what they have learned.
- 19 pastors and wives to model good marriage relationships.
- 20 changing attitudes towards family planning and size of families.
- 21 for Ann-Marie in her campaign to end FGM ([page 10 - Mid-Africa](#)).

January 22nd- 28th

Burundi ([page 10](#))

Renewed violence in Burundi - including the killing of 2 aid workers and a nun remind us how fragile this country is. The British Government have a report that suggests that aid should not be withdrawn but they may choose to ignore this. The churches need to model honesty and co-operation.

Please pray...

- 22 for peace and stability in the country.
- 23 for the UK Government to ensure adequate aid is given to Burundi.
- 24 for the churches to set an example in behaviour and honesty.
- 25 for an end to the unrest and the rebel groups' indiscriminate killing.
- 26 for security and peace of mind for foreign workers in Burundi.
- 27 for Archbishop Bernard as he seeks to mediate in different ways.
- 28 for the work of our partners Ceprodilic in literature distribution.

January 29th - February 4th

APF literature

APF is printing and distributing Bible commentaries and Safari Bible-story picture books, and picture sets for classroom use. Getting them to where they are needed is often a problem. Writers are working on manuscripts for Old Testament commentaries but these are slow in coming to fruition. We aim to make some of the material - particularly the commentaries available on the web-site.

January 29th - February 4th APF literature/cont...

Please pray for:

- 29 the writers to complete manuscripts for Old Testament commentaries
- 30 the efficient distribution of already printed material
- 31 the possibility of a storage container in Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)
- 1 the development of appropriate web resources for internet access.
- 2 the Safari books to be more widely used in children's ministry
- 3 sufficient resources to enable printing of picture sets for all the stories.
- 4 the New Testament commentaries to be used by preachers.

February 5th - 11th UK Support

Churches and individuals are facing tough decisions on their giving to charities. It is difficult getting the work of APF more widely known by those who might like to support. Changing models of partnership need to be thought about to enable effective mission support to take place from the UK.

Please pray:

- 5 for more invitations to speak in churches in UK
- 6 for APF to model good practice in its partner links
- 7 for Ian on retreat and meeting students at Cranmer Hall Durham (till 8th)
- 8 for the work of APF to be known by a wider audience
- 9 for the APF trustees meeting today
- 10 for Christians to give biblically in their support of churches and mission
- 11 for sufficient resources to accomplish all God has called APF to do.

February 12th - 18th Pastor training

APF run 5 day 'refresher' training courses for pastors and wives. Very few pastors are able to attend a college or gain a degree because of lack of opportunity and finance. Pastors need to be able to think biblically and to teach how to discern truth if the churches are to continue to grow and flourish.

Please pray for:

- 12 Ian speaking at St Mary's Great Baddow.
- 13 sufficient resources for running APF training courses this year.
- 14 discernment for churches choosing who to fund for higher education.
- 15 pastors in East Africa to be diligent students of God's word.
- 16 all those who have been on APF courses to model servant ministry
- 17 effective co-operation between the different groups offering training.
- 18 the theological colleges and Bible schools to find sufficient resources to offer courses that are needed.

February 19th - 25th

Tanzania

Several diocese in Tanzania have run Rooted in Jesus courses recently ([see p.10](#)). Many of our authors of new Bible Commentaries are from this country. The churches are strong, but there is hostility from Muslims. Particularly along the coastal regions. Several Lutherans are helping on our small-group Bible study outlines.

Please pray for:

- 19 the continued stability of Tanzania as an 'island of peace'.
- 20 a renewed emphasis on personal discipleship as a result of the Rooted in Jesus courses.
- 21 the development of Christian leaders particularly in the 'secular' world.
- 22 continued religious freedom and freedom to proselytise.
- 23 the continued growth of evangelicals in mainline churches.
- 24 churches to take the opportunities for social development alongside their preaching of the Gospel.
- 25 those writing manuscripts for APF materials.

February 26th - March 3rd

African church links

Many churches in East Africa are still very dependent upon the developed world to fund their ministries. It is getting more common for individual churches or regional organisations (Dioceses or Associations) to form direct links. This affects traditional sending agencies, but also means there is little strategic planning going on and resources becoming concentrated in one or two areas. Partnership needs to be more two-way.

Please pray...

- 26 for a better model of partnership to emerge between churches.
- 27 for 'dependency' to be replaced by a new 'inter-dependency'.
- 28 for church resources to be spread effectively.
- 29 for churches to look at the wider implications of their links.
- 1 for APF to be able to advise and offer consultancy on church links.
- 2 for the sustained development of the churches in East Africa
- 3 for East African churches to see what they have to offer to the wider church.

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Country profile: Kenya



Kenya is one of the most industrialised countries in East Africa, yet it is heavily reliant on agriculture and its economy is adversely affected by drought and crop failure. The current crisis in the north of the country is affecting about 10 million people in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia.

Tourism is also a major earner for the country, and any unrest has adverse effects on tourism. The road networks, particularly in cities, need drastic attention. The amount of petrol wasted with queues of traffic stuck for hours on end with idling engines is a major concern. Food prices continue to rise sharply and changes in the climate have led to a decrease in livestock.

Corruption has been a major issue and the current government under President Kibaki, is trying to crack down on it. Violent unrest



after the last elections in 2007 have caused anxiety that the elections in 2012 may suffer a similar reaction. However, a new Constitution was approved by a 67% 'yes' vote in a country-wide referendum in 2010 which will affect the way the vote is counted. The next parliament is also likely to have a greater number of women MPs.

The position of women in the country is improving - but traditional attitudes towards inheritance and land rights still hold sway. Women are still a minority amongst salaried workers.

About 40-45% of the population are protestant Christians and a further 30% are Roman Catholic. Muslims are around 10% of the population, but no accurate data is available. There are many different denominations, and many 'adherents' are nominal Christians only. Discipleship is still a key issue, as is training of leaders within the churches. There are many television stations now broadcasting 'Christian' content - but it varies in its orthodoxy. The 'Jesus' film has been widely shown in the country and is available in over 30 Kenyan languages.

Kenya is a hub for mission in East Africa - many of the big agencies have offices here - including Scripture Union Africa. It is a useful stopping-off place for most of East Africa. APF works alongside various agencies in Kenya. Courses have been run in several Anglican dioceses, Baptist, Africa Inland Church, Pentecostal and Maasai churches. APF books are stocked and distributed from Christian Booklink, and Sharing in Mission (SIM) have recently shared in publishing the combined 3-volume edition of our Swahili commentaries. A large and increasing number of Kenyans are serving with mission agencies either cross-culturally within Kenya or in other countries.

In praying for Kenya we might particularly want to pray for the country's long-term stability, for the churches' response to political issues, for the equipping of Christian leaders and for sustained discipleship in the churches.

More information can be found at:

[Operation World - Kenya](#)

[World Prayer Map - Kenya](#)

[Daily Nation - Kenya newspaper](#)

News from around East Africa

Uganda

Pastor Michael Okwakol, senior pastor of Agape Baptist Church in Kampala, Uganda, was elected President of the All Africa Baptist Fellowship during its 7th Assembly in Lagos, Nigeria, from 16-20 November 2011. He has stepped down as President of the Baptist Union of Uganda and former Dean of Students at Makerere University, Pastor John Ekudu, has become President in his place.

Reg Hughes (APF Trustee) reports that the Teso region in the north-east of Uganda has been inundated by floods. Many homes have been washed away and crops have again been ruined. The road between Kumi and Soroti is awash and has suffered serious damage - particularly where the road and bridge have been under water. Last year crops were lost from drought, and with extensive flooding this year many fear that this is the result of long-term climate changes. Do pray for the country and the people with all these new trials to face.

D.R. Congo

The election results were delayed several days partly due to the ballot boxes from outlying areas taking so long to come in, some due to delays in the voting taking place. The initial result is that the standing President Joseph Kabila won 49% of the vote against the opposition's 32% for Etienne Tshisekedi. But Mr Tshisekedi has rejected the results and declared himself president, raising fears of violent protests. There are issues which the Election Observers are looking at, but these are not expected to change the over-all result.



President of D.R.Congo Joseph Kabila

Burundi

Burundi is descending into violence again. Attacks on villages and targeted assassinations are increasing. A new rebel group has been formed to challenge President Nkurunziza. Some reporters from FRANCE 24 went to meet its leader in the mountains of South Kivu, in the DRC. This is the first time he has agreed to speak to journalists.

View the report here: [FRANCE 24 Report](#)

Conference Reports

Rooted in Jesus Conference

Rooted in Jesus is a Discipleship training programme being run in many different African countries. The material is written specially for Africa and uses facilitators from UK and within the local country. The group leaders come for a 4 day training course. They then work through the first 12 lessons with their groups of around 12-15 people over the next 6 months. The entire course takes around 2 years. See: [Rooted in Jesus](#)

Mid-Africa Conference

The theme for the weekend was 'Mission and Suffering' with Bible readings on 2 Corinthians led by Bishop Michael Baughen. It was a useful time to meet up with many of the mission partners and supporters of Christian work in Rwanda, Burundi, Congo and Uganda. One inspiring young woman is aiming to try and end the practise of Female Genital Mutilation globally.

Find out more on [28 too many](#)

Partnership for World Mission Conference

Mission representatives from dioceses in UK and various mission charities met for 48 hours to look at the future of partnership. We were challenged about how we show partnership in practice.

Global Connections Conference

Ian Enticott is now on the Council of Global Connections.

[Global Connections](#)

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



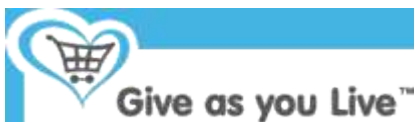
- give regularly or occasionally to help pastors
(Standing Order forms, Gift Aid forms,
and collecting boxes available)
- encourage your church to support African
pastors through APF
- put on special events for specific projects



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

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Noticeboard

Save the date

North West Day Conference on 12th May 2012
in Maghull

More details to follow.

Contact the office if you would like the Director to come to your church meeting or Sunday worship. Trips to Africa are being planned for March and September this year.

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