

April to June 2022  
APF Prayer and Newsletter



# Impetus.



## A Tale of Two Villages

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## From the CEO

Greetings from Kasese in the far south west of Uganda close to the border with DR Congo. Despite being overshadowed by the Rwenzori mountain range, Kasese is at a lower altitude than many other parts of Uganda and the March weather is seriously warm. As the evening breeze comes through my window and the fan in my room is spinning to keep me cool, I am reminded of ruach, the breath of God's Spirit.

As you will read elsewhere in this edition one of the highlights of my visit to Uganda was the privilege of meeting Archbishop Stephen Kaziimba. I promised



that the APF family would pray with him for his vision to see Uganda transformed through the conversion of:

- **Heads** - improved access to education at all levels.
- **Hearts** - compassion and social justice for the most vulnerable.
- **Hands** - practical action and campaigning against corruption.
- **Homes** - family life and an end to sexual violence against women.
- **Hospitals** - improved access to clinical care.

Archbishop Stephen's vision is brilliant in its simplicity but profound and far reaching. Together we discussed how eVitabu speaks to each of these aspirations through its various contributors and resources.

Please take a moment to pray for Archbishop Stephen and his team at Namirembe Cathedral in Kampala.

Pray also that APF, through the gift of eVitabu, might be part of seeing a nation changed. Pray for the life giving breath of God to blow in this land and among this people.

Revd Dave Stedman, CEO

# In the UK



## APF Golf Day

This year's Golf Day will be on **Friday 20th May** at the beautiful **Reigate Hill Golf Course** in Surrey. Tees booked from 12.20pm with coffee, bacon rolls, 18 holes of golf, two course meal, prizes and auction.

**£65 per player** or **£250 for a team of four** (paid in advance).

Please email [admin@africanpastors.org](mailto:admin@africanpastors.org) or call **01227 681186** to book.

## AGM

Come and join us for our Annual General Meeting:

From **10am** on  
**Tuesday 3rd May 2022**  
2 Church Close, Whitnash,  
Leamington Spa CV31 2HU



## Sponsor an eVitabu user

1. On your phone, tablet or laptop, go online and visit: [www.africanpastors.org/evitabu](http://www.africanpastors.org/evitabu)
2. Click on the 'Sponsor' link button in the 'Sponsor an eVitabu user' section.
3. Complete the secure online payment form to set up your sponsorship direct debit. Just £5 per month, less than the price of a paperback book, will give an African church leader access to an entire library of books and training resources.
4. You will be allocated an African church leader already using eVitabu to sponsor.
5. You'll receive an email telling you a little about who you are sponsoring including their name, where they live and their ministry background.
6. Your monthly sponsorship will be used by APF to make eVitabu better for the person you are sponsoring and hundreds of other users all over the continent of Africa.



# Around Africa



**During the first quarter of 2022 APF has been able to disburse numerous grants to African partners. These include:**

- Video leadership training course written, prepared and delivered by Eaglelite Associates in Uganda for use within eVitabu
- Local language Bible grant for Ekklesia Afrika in Kenya
- Bicycle grant for pastors from New Nation Church in South Sudan (pictured above)
- Training grants for women leaders in Liberia
- Conference funding for church leaders in Tanzania
- Multiple eVitabu workshops in Uganda and significant investment in eVitabu scaling in Kenya
- Travel grant for Revd Walter Rutto from Kenya to attend a leadership conference in Togo
- Urgent pastoral and medical grants, such as a response to support victims of Cyclone Ana in Mozambique

## Love and Care for the Child Ministries

Love and Care for the Child Ministries (LCCM) received an annual grant to enable the team to develop a training course and support local pastors, teachers, and children's workers. The training happens once a month on a Saturday morning at the Early Learning School in Entebbe, Uganda. During the first workshop, participants were encouraged to think about how to prepare an engaging and interactive Sunday school

lesson. Other subjects will explore safeguarding and how to encourage children to pray and praise. Resources found within eVitabu are being adapted for use in the development of this course.



Agnes Abesiga, LCCM Director

## Deeper Life Church

Pastor Heavenlight Luoga from Tanzania travelled to Burundi with his wife Kesia. The couple had been invited to teach at a marriage conference for pastors and wives. Over sixty delegates attended the residential training which culminated with an opportunity for couples to renew their marriage vows and recommit to loving one another faithfully and in so doing being a witness in their communities. Heavenlight made use of marriage and family resources as part of his background reading and preparation for the conference.



## Meeting with Archbishop of Uganda

In March, APF CEO Dave Stedman had the privilege of being hosted at the Palace of the Anglican Archbishop of Uganda and meeting Most Revd Stephen Kaziimba. Following their conversation, Archbishop Stephen invited Dave to return the following week to address the Directors of Departments at a whole staff meeting and show clergy and lay leaders how to download eVitabu and have an entire library at their fingertips. There are now early discussions between APF and the Church of Uganda about promoting eVitabu throughout the Anglican province more formally.

## More and more using eVitabu

We have been very excited to see significant growth in the number of African church and community leaders registering on eVitabu. Some of the new users are as a result of the APF team's travel and networking, including Dave's recent trip in Uganda and Rossa Wanjiru's work in Kenya.

New eVitabu registrations have also come from pastors simply finding the app online or discovering APF on social media. It's especially exciting when we get a message telling us about a new eVitabu registration from a part of Africa where APF has previously had little or no contact. Recent examples include church leaders from Benin, Burkina Faso and Botswana finding and using eVitabu.



# Training in Burundi

**Heavenlight Luoga is a key APF training partner from north-west Tanzania. Alongside Kesia, his wife, they use eVitabu to run workshops for untrained pastors from rural communities such as the recent programme they provided in Burundi.**

**Greeting from Karagwe! Thank you to APF for sponsoring the pastor and pastors' wife training workshops we ran in Buhiga Commune in Burundi. It is because of APF support that we were able to do this training and reach our goals.**

The training was an amazing time. My wife, Kesia, and I based our training on resources from APF's eVitabu app. eVitabu was a great help in preparing the programme for the pastors and wives. The key resources we chose on eVitabu were from Next Leadership and written by Revd Dr Kate Coleman.

Revd Kate's material covered many important aspects of family life and marriage. We explored together how marriage was designed to reflect the God who created us in His image, both male and female, and who is recreating us to be like Him in loving relationships, deeply connected with each other and in partnership through agreement and cooperation in a way that honours the marital bond.

We looked at how unresolved issues can wreck marriages and destroy families and discussed problem solving and conflict resolution in marriage.

We also talked about repentance and forgiveness within family and married life. At the end of the training, there was an opportunity for husbands and wives to renew their marriage covenants together.

So many pastors told me that this teaching was completely new to them. Wives were praising God and even during breaktimes they gathered into groups to continue to discuss the teaching. Pastors were so happy to sit down side-by-side with their wives. This is not a normal thing! Altogether, over 60 attended the training. We had hoped for 50. But success is not just about numbers, it was found in seeing husbands and wives together, repairing and building their relationships and hearing their testimonies after the training.

One of the pastors at the training was a Church of Burundi pastor called Revd Maendeleo. He enjoyed the training so much that he made a call to Bishop Evariste Nijimbere from the local Buhiga Diocese. I then received a voicemail from the Bishop asking me to come and join him in June to lead some seminars for the Diocese.



**Revd Dr Kate Coleman from Next Leadership provides training resources for African pastors through eVitabu.**



**Marriage renewals during the training**

In more good news, a wider door has been opened for the next year. All pastors in the training programme agreed to sponsor themselves for three days of training next year if I can cover the transport cost for Kesia and myself. Kesia will facilitate the pastor's wives training and I will facilitate the pastors training, then in the evening all of us will come together. We are told to expect 100 or even 150 for that training. I am not the one who asked to do this but the idea came from within the group themselves. Of course, for me this is a great fruit.

The journey from Karagwe in Tanzania to Buhiga in Burundi and back is long. We travelled by bus, taxi and motorbike and had to negotiate the Covid-19 testing challenges at the border between the countries. I was tired and suffered from fatigue at the end of training and after the journey but I had no regrets at all.

I look back to what God has done for me and for all participants and, for the sake of God's Kingdom, I am full of joy in my heart.



# A Tale of Two Villages

**Southern Africa, especially Malawi and Mozambique, have suffered repeated destructive storms in recent years attributable to climate change. Revd Lloyd Chizenga from New Life Christian Church describes how the region's most recent cyclone, Tropical Storm Ana, has impacted some of the communities he trains in sustainable farming skills.**

**Tropical Storm Ana started last January in Madagascar. It passed through Mozambique and came to end up in Malawi. The cyclone caused a lot of damage when it landed in Malawi. There were three days of very heavy rains, very strong winds and a lot of infrastructure was destroyed. Roads, schools, crops, animals and houses were swept away.**

The government has reported that nearly 40 people have been killed in Malawi and something like 200,000 had to leave their homes due to flooding, especially in the southern areas of Chikwawa, Nsanje and the Lower Shire Valley.

In these places, many of the village communities where we have been running the Growing Greener sustainable agriculture training programme with support from Operation Agri and African Pastors Fellowship have really suffered.

One of those communities is Dwanya village on the East Bank of the Shire River in Chikwawa District. Here, all the crops that the project participants planted so carefully with manure, compost and mulch were washed away by heavy floods that came with the storm. As the water overwhelmed the village, family heads carried children and vulnerable people to safety. Families sought refuge in trees and the wind and water rushed across the fields, through their simple homes and stripped away their crops.

While the community in Dwanya are now in desperate need for food aid, basic household utensils and seeds to replant in March, villages in our training programme located in some other districts escaped the worst effects of Storm Ana and are doing very well. Ulongwe village in Balaka District further up the River Shire is one such community. Here the situation is totally different. The fields are doing well with good, green and tall maize. With this strong yield, the community will be able to store more of their crop surplus to sell later in the year when food prices



**Pastor in Ulongwe with his successful maize crop which escaped Storm Ana's worst impacts.**

are higher. This will help pay school fees for their children. It will mean they can invest in animals such as breeding goats to diversify their household income. It will enable them to give more in tithes to support their church and their pastor.

As a leader in the New Life Christian Church network here in Malawi and the main coordinator of the Growing Greener agriculture training programme, it is so hard for me to see so many of our projects so suddenly and so badly affected. My heart goes out to the people in Dwanya and the other villages that are suffering. But I get strength seeing that our work has not been for nothing. We give thanks that Ulongwe and other places away from the path of the storm are doing so well. Please continue to stand with us in prayer and thank you for all your support of this important agriculture training work with vulnerable communities in southern Malawi.



**Flooding in the Shire Valley during Storm Ana.**



# Shockwaves from war in Ukraine reach Africa

Photo credit: CIMMYT/Kipenz Films

**The eyes of the world are rightly turned to Ukraine where, at the time of writing, Russian forces continue to wage war. How have African countries responded to the conflict and what does it mean for the churches and communities APF works alongside?**

The most prominent voice on the conflict in Ukraine from Africa has been Kenya’s permanent representative to the United Nations, Martin Kimani. In a powerful speech, Kimani drew historical parallels between Africa’s anti-colonial struggles – and agreement that Africa’s borders be respected in the aftermath of decolonisation – and Putin’s desire to roll back the years on Ukraine’s independence. He denounced “irredentism and expansionism on any basis, including racial, ethnic, religious or cultural factors.”

Ghana’s permanent representative to the UN Security Council stated that Ghana stands with Ukraine in the wake of the “unprovoked attack”, and Nigeria’s Foreign Affairs Minister said his country was prepared to impose sanctions on Russia and comply with UN resolutions.

While a united African voice in opposition to Russia would send a strong message to Moscow, this remains unlikely. This is in part due to Russia’s economic and military influence at home.

Russia has been courting African leaders over the past few years. Chinese influence in Africa might be far more obvious but Russia has increasingly provided military and intelligence support to countries including Mali, Sudan, the Central African Republic, and Mozambique.

This may in part help to explain the African Union's muted response to the conflict, simply urging a ceasefire, and why seventeen African countries including South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Sudan, Senegal, and Mali abstained from the UN Security Council vote to condemn Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

Away from international politics and diplomacy, what happens in the mud and snow around Kyiv and Mariupol is likely to be felt far away in the dusty streets of Kampala and the villages of Tanzania.

East Africa's increasingly unpredictable weather patterns have forced African governments, especially Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda, to compensate by increasing grain imports. The bulk of Kenya's wheat imports originate from Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. In neighbouring Tanzania, consumption of wheat is estimated at 1 million tonnes per year. The country imports more than 90% of that wheat from foreign markets including Russia and Ukraine.

Pastor Heavenlight Luoga, who oversees one of APF's key partners in north-west Tanzania, told us that people in his church were praying for Ukraine and were worried about what the conflict might mean for them. "We're all very worried on the price of wheat flour coming up" he says.

The dynamics of rising food prices are complex in rural market economics but generally the poorest households suffer the most as they spend a larger percentage of their household income on food compared to wealthier households.

Another impact of the war in Ukraine is an increase in the price of fuel. In Uganda, Revd Peter Mugabi explained how fuel price rises were being felt across the country:

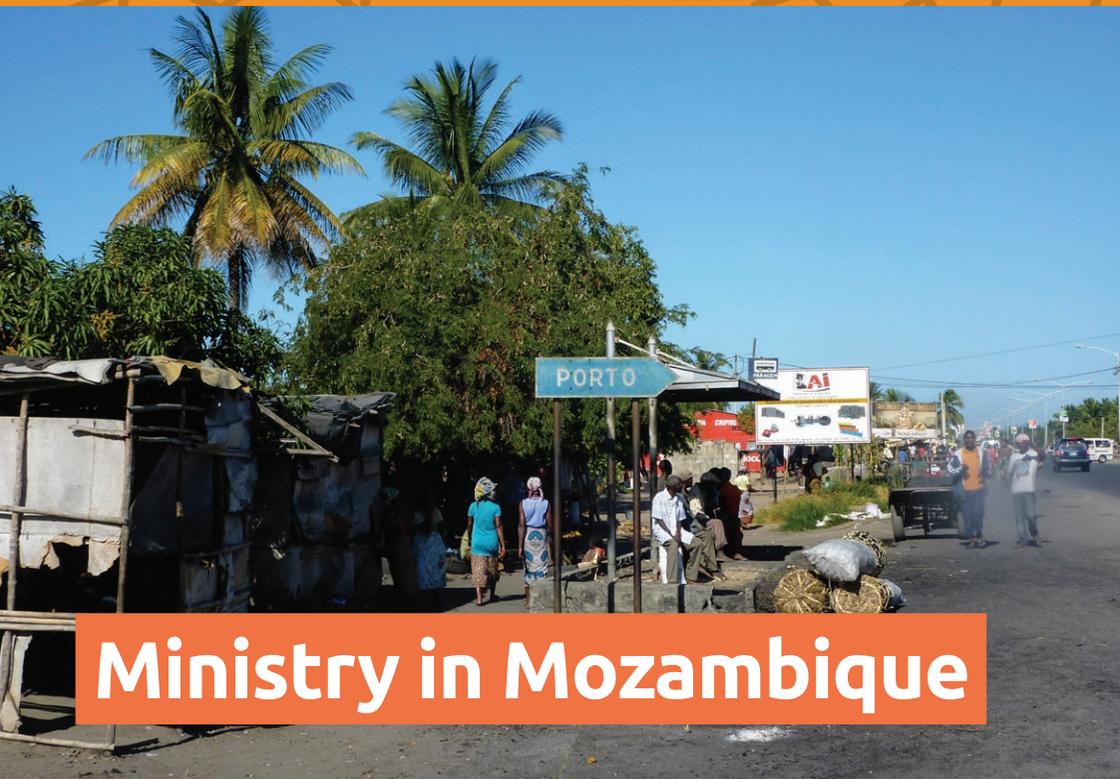
"The fuel board now reads 5,140 [Ugandan shillings] per litre... it's too much and this affects everything in the market space. It's really tough and the masses are complaining but to deaf ears of our political leaders. So prayers should go up for us. Covid and now the new combination of fuel prices have intensified the crisis we are in."

As people of faith from across the world pray for Ukraine, let's also remember the poorest in Africa who, despite living thousands of miles away, are nevertheless feeling the shockwaves of this terrible conflict as well.



Photo credit: UK FCDO

**Kenya Permanent Representative to UN  
Dr Martin Kimani**



# Ministry in Mozambique

**Beira is Mozambique's second city. Its large container port is a gateway for shipping goods into Zimbabwe, Malawi and Zambia as well as inland parts of central Mozambique. In 2019, the city was devastated by Cyclone Idai and more recently, the Covid pandemic has dealt a further economic shock.**

**Carlos Tique Jone is a leader in the Baptist church in Beira. He lives with his family in the city. Carlos was the first eVitabu user in Mozambique and he uses a wide range of resources from the app in both Portuguese and English to support rural pastors. Rural pastors in central Mozambique have virtually no access to training.**

Faith in Mozambique is characterised by a combination of African traditional religious practices blended with aspects of either Christianity or Islam.

In December, Carlos received an APF Covid grant to support vulnerable families in Beira. He describes how he used the funding and the impact it had.

“

Firstly, I would like to say thank you very much to APF for your support. It was great to be able to help some of the neediest in our churches, those who were seriously struggling to provide something for their families during Christmas and New Year time. Your support meant people were able to have a meal on their table and celebrate the New Year with joy.



Pastor Ernesto had a stroke and is unable to work and get income to feed his family. He lives with his wife and son. The church cannot provide him with sick pay or pension.



We made food parcels and identified vulnerable people from the church and local community for the distribution. Each parcel had rice, beans, cooking oil, sugar, salt and fruit. We are very experienced at providing food aid and identifying beneficiaries for support. The Baptist church in Beira did a lot of this work following the emergency when Cyclone Idai affected our city.

Anita is a widow and a member of the First Baptist Church of Beira. She cares for her 15 year old grandson. They share a small room in a very poor part of the city.



Angelina is the mother of four children. Her husband does not take care of or support his family. She is a Muslim believer and is our neighbour. We always help her to feed her children when we can.

”



## A Long and Winding Road

In March, APF CEO Dave Stedman met with one of our newest partners, South Rwenzori Diocese in Uganda. A highlight of the journey was spending time with Diocesan Bishop, Right Revd Nason Baluku.

**Abandoned by his parents aged twelve, Nason Baluku lived alone on a hillside and dug neighbours' gardens to pay school fees. He is now Bishop of South Rwenzori Diocese following a career in parish ministry and an international role with a large NGO. His enthronement took place during lockdown and he brings a wealth of pastoral wisdom and corporate skill to the office.**

I spent three days with Bishop Nason and his team in March. It was my first visit to south west Uganda. He is a kind but no-nonsense sort of man, the type I like and respect. He has spiritual oversight of more than 650 congregations spread across 84 parishes. About a third of the diocese's population of over 800,000 are Anglican.

There are many memories: the intense afternoon heat of Kasese in the valley, the dramatic backdrop of the lower Rwenzori Mountains and a precarious car ride up the mountain to his home village of Kibalya taking in views of the snow topped higher peaks.

Two stories set this man apart: Nason's mother was in labour for three days up that mountain. She took several days to wake from the fatigue that followed his birth. Bishop Nason lamented the lack of healthcare for the densely populated mountain people. "Nothing has changed since 1967" he says. If you are sick, injured, in labour or suffering from malaria, there is no doctor, no clinic, and no pharmacy.

In extreme cases an individual will be carried down the mountain by four men. A state of the art four-by-four vehicle (donated to the diocese by the President of Uganda) took nearly two hours to ascend that hillside. In the rainy season it might have been impossible. But Kasese is the nearest hospital. If it is a life-or-death situation, the men run. It is reminiscent of the four friends who lowered a friend through a roof to receive healing from Jesus.

Bishop Nason has established a simple health centre in the village and has a vision to create a maternity unit so other women will not suffer as his mother did all those years ago, and as others have every year since.

In ministry, Bishop Nason combines strategic leadership with spiritual passion. There is a weekly deliverance service at St Paul's Cathedral. He told me that on one occasion, a woman was brought to a service restrained, so great was her distress. She writhed on the floor "as if consumed by a snake", held in the grip of an oppression most likely diagnosed as a deep psychosis in the UK. The bishop explained that he has a team of



Kasese town in south-west Uganda



Bishop Nason Baluku

deliverance ministers, but he took personal responsibility for this woman, declaring he would not leave until she was healed.

Together with others they prayed for several hours until she was still. Months later that woman continues to be well. Whatever our theology, clinical experience, or cultural interpretation, this represents a triumph for prayer especially when the act of praying was made an absolute priority. I'm reminded of James 5:16: "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

I promised Bishop Nason and his diocesan team that the APF family would pray for them, especially as they seek substantial partners for the clinic and explore options for the training of new leaders. Nason Baluku, an abandoned boy from a remote Rwenzori mountain village, was reunited with his parents in later life. His mother passed on a few years ago but the son she bore provides a home for his father and continues to pay school fees for several nieces and nephews.

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

### **African Pastors Fellowship**

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