

October to December 2022
APF Prayer and Newsletter



Impetus.

A photograph of a man with short dark hair and a beard, wearing a brown suit jacket over a green shirt and a striped shirt. He is sitting outdoors in a rural setting, holding a smartphone in his hands. In the background, there is a traditional mud-brick building with a thatched roof and some greenery.

Deepening Bonds Down South

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From the CEO

Welcome to the latest edition of *Impetus*.

You'll notice that it's a little slimmer than normal. Reducing the number of pages in our newsletter is just one of several small steps we are taking to try to minimise costs to the charity.

Despite there being fewer pages in this edition, I think you'll agree, there is no less activity being reported and exciting opportunities coming up.

With costs increasing, we're working hard not only to maintain our work in Africa but to grow it. Please pray for our staff team and trustees as we make important decisions about doing just that.

How you can help

Firstly, if you use email, we would encourage you to receive *Impetus* in digital form rather than on paper. Please let us know using the enclosed form if you would like to do so in future.

Secondly, we always love to meet supporters and share what God is doing through his Church across Africa. Why not invite us to a Sunday service or midweek meeting at your church? We're taking bookings for online and in-person engagements during 2023 now.



Perhaps you might be able to host a fundraising event for APF? Invite friends and neighbours to an advent coffee morning and we'll help by sending you some resources to promote APF.

Or you can get in touch to order your Christmas cards or purchase some beautiful African notebooks from us (pictured above).

Finally, we'd be very grateful if you might consider including a gift to APF in your will.

Most of all, we continue to value your interest and prayers.

Thank you!

Dave

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Dave Stedman', written over a dark background.

Revd Dave Stedman, CEO

In the UK

Back to school

APF staff, Dave, Geoff and Susan are all enrolled in part-time study courses. Dave continues his master's degree in Digital Theology at Spurgeon's College. Geoff has started training for ordination in the Church of England in Ludlow with Cuddesdon Gloucester & Hereford. Susan is completing a Counselling Skills certificate course locally in Kent. Please pray for the APF team as they juggle work, family life and study and seek to model lifelong learning.

James Baker



We're excited to welcome James to APF on a consultancy basis to help us with fundraising. James is a corporate and charity fundraiser and governance expert. He brings many years of experience to the task. James attends his local parish church in Newdigate near Dorking and has recently been appointed churchwarden.

Governance

Please pray for the APF trustees as they meet in November to consider a challenging budget for 2023 and important structural and strategic organisational changes. One important question for discussion will be whether to re-register the charity as a CIO. A CIO (or Charitable Incorporated Organisation) is a modern charity structure. This significant step will help future-proof the charity, attract new trustees and provide confidence to new donors.

In loving memory

We give thanks for the life of Reg Hughes. Reg was a former APF trustee and died in August after a lengthy battle with cancer. With his wife Christine, Reg often visited Uganda representing both APF and Baptist church links between Soroti District and south-east England. It was Reg who invited our CEO, Dave,



to become an APF trustee about ten years ago. Gifts for APF were received at his thanksgiving service held at Gillingham Baptist Church on 19th September.

Around Africa



Somalia



With support from OM Special Projects, APF is developing a partnership with the Mogadishu Christian Leaders Fellowship. The group comprises faith leaders from within the city's secure 'Green Zone' and is committed to leadership development and humanitarian outreach among Somali nationals.

Rwanda



APF was able to sponsor a conference for married couples in leadership in September. The event was hosted by Pastor Víctor Imanaturikumwe (pictured) of Église Evangélique de la Bonne Volonté Au Rwanda (EEBVR).

Kenya



- A major scaling project to increase awareness and use of eVitabu in Kenya has been completed. There are now more than 700 eVitabu subscribers in Kenya, which is about 60% of all users.
- Dave will be delivering a Digital Theology taster session for delegates at the Christian Organizations Research and Advisory Trust of Africa in Nairobi on 14th October. The invitation came as a result of a similar session delivered in July at Kenya Highlands University through Transformational Compassion Network.
- eVitabu introduction and induction training workshops will be taking place at Ngong Restoration Centre and for Masaai Pastors Fellowship on 17th and 19th October.
- Ngong Restoration Assembly received an APF grant for local language Bibles during August. Revd Chris Khatelya (pictured below) purchased and distributed 120 Maasai language Bibles to rural Pentecostal pastors from the from six areas following the Kenyan Presidential elections.





South Sudan



A small bike grant has been sent to the Diocese of Morobo to help clergy with their parish duties.

Uganda



- After a two-year hiatus caused by Covid, the third and final module of Next Leadership's 'Role Model Leadership Academy' will conclude with a graduation event at the Pastors' Discipleship Network's Campus in Bweyogorere on 27th October. Thirteen APF sponsored partners are due to complete the course.
- Dave will be giving the keynote speech at the Mukono Pastors' Fellowship conference on 1st November. The monthly meeting is hosted by Revd Peter Mugabi and forms part of the Cephias Leadership Foundation programme.



- In August, APF partner Walubo Jude Tadeo (pictured above) received a grant for 50 local language Bibles for church leaders who attended a recent conference of the Kamuli District Pastors' Fellowship.



Malawi



Lloyd Chizenga and Hunta Faeti from New Life Christian Church in Blantyre are being sponsored by APF to attend a pan-Africa conference on faith and farming run by SIL in Kenya during November. The conference will link the farming traditions of their own culture with the Bible.

Deepening Bonds Down South



While the UK roasted at 40°C, our Projects Coordinator escaped Britain's summer heatwave by traveling to cool southern Africa. Geoff Holder reports on a busy but productive three weeks catching up with APF partners in Malawi and Zambia.

Extreme weather driven by climate change is causing shocks all over the world. As new temperature records were smashed back home, I visited communities supported by Pastor Lloyd Chizenga and Hunta Faeti from New Life Christian Church (NLCC) in Malawi's Shire River valley.

Earlier in the year, the area was devastated by two huge tropical storms. Flooding washed away crops, homes and livestock. Your gifts helped APF provide replacement seed and training delivered by Lloyd and Hunta which was now ripening into a lifesaving harvest.

Outside of the flood-affected area, we heard how the training given by the church was having a huge impact. Global energy prices have made fertiliser unaffordable. I was told, "Pastor Lloyd is a prophet! He saved us with the message of composting now we can't buy fertiliser anymore".



Lloyd showing how high the flooding was.



Patrick runs village discipleship training.

In Liwonde, I met with Pastor Patrick Stephen Mateketa. He runs village discipleship training workshops in rural churches using our library resource app eVitabu as a reference tool. He found APF online and downloaded eVitabu on his phone. "It is good having a library there in my hand when I am teaching untrained pastors in the village" he explained.



Young leaders in Malawi using eVitabu

Back in Blantyre, I ran workshops for NLCC pastors and leaders helping them also get onto eVitabu. Pastor Sousa travelled all the way from Mozambique to attend.

In Zambia, I joined Pastor Lawson Limao (pictured far left) in Shibuyij, a village several hours' drive outside Lusaka, to see him teach in a tiny mud and straw church using resources on eVitabu. The training was fantastic! He'd gathered leaders from local churches and the community to learn about agroforestry and faith, meeting the community's physical and spiritual needs. It was inspiring to see the power of eVitabu in the dedicated hands of a brilliant young leader. In Lusaka, Lawson and I were interviewed about eVitabu on a Zambian Christian radio station with an audience from across the country.



Talking about eVitabu on the radio.

Finally, in Luanshya, a town in Copperbelt Region, Revd Charles Mwape and I ran a workshop helping Baptist pastors use eVitabu. It was especially useful seeing how the pastors used their phones in different and sometimes unexpected ways, lessons that will help us improve the app and make it easier for African users in the future.



Charles Mwape

eVitabu expansion to Church of Uganda clergy



There is a really strategic and exciting partnership developing with the Church of Uganda. Dave Stedman explains:

As you may recall from earlier editions of *Impetus*, during lockdown I was introduced to the Archbishop of Uganda, Rt Revd Stephen Kaziimba. When I was in Kampala in March of this year, he kindly invited me for a breakfast meeting at the Archbishop's Palace, close to Namirembe Cathedral.

As an outcome of that meeting, I returned to Uganda in July to speak at a conference attended by all the principals of Church of Uganda universities, colleges and tertiary institutions at Namagongo Martyrs

University (pictured above). This was with a view to APF providing IT training and sharing eVitabu with Group 2 clergy in the Church of Uganda.

'Group 2' is the label given by the Church of Uganda to pastors who have theological education to certificate or diploma level, and work in poorer informal urban parishes or rural communities. Group 2 clergy represent the largest proportion of Anglican clergy in Uganda and characteristically have very limited access to ministry resources.

By helping Group 2 pastors access eVitabu, we're helping the Church of Uganda with their vision of building digital, pastoral and theological capacity amongst their clergy.

APF is also seed funding a smartphone loan scheme for clergy who don't have an adequate Android phone. The loans will help clergy purchase a device to run eVitabu on, giving them access to local language Bibles, Church of Uganda liturgies, everything on eVitabu, and more.

I will be delivering induction training over three days in early November to the first cohort of 100 Group 2 clergy. An APF team will return in March 2023 to work more closely with selected users identified by the Church of Uganda as having the capacity to become eVitabu trainers ... Then the process repeats!

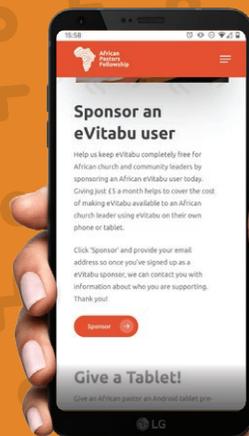
This is a very exciting development for APF and eVitabu. It promises to add many new users to the app and grow its profile across Uganda. The Church of Uganda will also become an eVitabu contributor, making use of the platform to publish their own resources, liturgies and higher-level academic research papers.



Archbishop Stephen Kazimba

Sponsor a pastor using eVitabu in Africa.

1. **On your phone, tablet or laptop, go online and visit:** 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.**





Digital Theology in Africa

Transformational Compassion Network (TCN) is responding to the rapidly changing context in Africa. Revd Walter Rutto explains why Digital Theology is so important in Africa and introduces the pioneering work they're doing.

We live in a digital age. That is true in Africa as much as anywhere else in the world. Mobile technology has changed the way we interact, do business and live our lives. Here in Kenya, we send and receive money by Mpesa, we text to get information on market prices, we speak to our family on WhatsApp, we get our news through Facebook.

Christianity in Africa is not immune to the consequences of this digital revolution. Digital Theology is the study of the connection between digital technology and theology. It reflects the digitisation of our society and the implications of this for our faith and worship.

Like many different religions practiced in Africa, the Christian Church is changing through its engagement with social media, its conversation through websites, and the growing use of digital resources in worship, pastoral practice, and evangelism. The primary premise of Digital Theology is engaging with this new virtual tradition and reflecting on the new context the Church finds itself in. It demands sparkling theological conversations and new approaches.

With the support of APF and our partners, TCN aim to be at the forefront of this revolution. We are formulating a digital curriculum for our certificate-level pastor training programme. This is critical in preparing leaders for ministry in the digital age. It covers topics such as theology and technology, reading the Bible digitally, theological thought in digital culture, online worship, living ethically amidst digital technology, online liturgy and online church.

In July, we organised a workshop as a fact-finding mission for the Digital Theology programme. It was attended by 60 participants in-person and over 100 online. APF helped us facilitate the training. The sessions underlined the huge need for Digital Theology training in the Africa context. With the majority owning a smartphone, they already have the key tool they need.

TCN are grateful to APF for their support in this endeavour and invite any other interested party help develop the curriculum with us. The members of the team may be from any country as we can easily meet together online.

For Prayer.

Winnie Koech | Transformational Compassion Network, Kenya

“As a trainer working with widows and single mums helping them identify local resources to improve their livelihoods, we need your prayers for funds to travel to the places of training and for new training materials.”



Harriet Namirembe Sokiri | New Nation Church, South Sudan

“Most women in South Sudan are single mothers due to civil war. They have hardships caring for their families. Pray for me and my vision to train them in tailoring and to open a nursery school for children from poor families.”

Rose Mugabi | Pastors' Discipleship Network, Uganda

“Women comprise over half of the membership of churches in Uganda yet face many barriers to fully participating in leadership. Pray that women would be allowed to lead at church and community level in Uganda.”



Ivy Kabagambe | New Beginnings Foundation, Uganda

“I have a few prayer requests so this intercession is highly appreciated. Pray for financial independence for New Beginnings Foundation in our work with victims of abuse and violence, for a lifetime companion and for my health.”

Catherine Wanjuguini Ngari | Catherine Evangelistic Ministry and Vocational School, Kenya

“Pray for women ministers in Africa who have to minister and take care of their families, especially now as costs go up and money is a bit tight here in Mombasa and also worldwide.”



Brenda Abeja | Eaglelite Associates, Uganda

“As we serve our clients, we're praying we will provide relevant guidance for their organisations. We have some interventions and we really need God's guidance and the right resources to design and execute them well.”

Revd Elizabeth Cheruiyot | St Paul's Theological College Kapsabet, Kenya

“Besides my role as college principal, I was also given responsibility over a local parish while the college was on holiday. However, there is no recess in the college administrative duties. Please pray for me in this challenge.”



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 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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