DAMASCUS TRUST

Updates

Sharing news of our ministry for praise and prayer

Nov 2026 - Jan 2027

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ.

Colossians 4:2-3

THE DAMASCUS TRUST

Prison Ministry: On 22 September ACV started another Mentoring Programme in Oradea Prison. Twenty-two inmates have registered and each week around eighteen attend the sessions. ACV has a good team of volunteer workers who help run the course each week. One of the new volunteers, Andrei B. has written about his visit.



Peace! Yesterday, I participated for the first time in a group meeting with inmates at the penitentiary. There were 17 participants present, along with the psychologist, Giorgiana A. It was a new experience for me, as I had never been involved in this type of ministry before. I felt a bit nervous at the start, unsure of how the lesson and the subsequent discussion would unfold; however, I was deeply moved by the testimony of Brother Iulian—a testimony that offered hope both to me and to everyone else present. Furthermore, the lesson—which focused on the topic of dealing with failure—was truly valuable; it explained that even if you have experienced failures in your life, change is still possible, and with the Lord's help, you can make better decisions for your future.

Following the lesson, we were divided into smaller groups to talk with some of the inmates. I spoke with two of the older men, who shared a bit about their lives; one of them even came from a family of believers. Both had been arrested for drug trafficking. I sought to connect with them on a deeper level, and I was glad to see that they were open and genuinely desired to draw closer to God. They mentioned having families, which gives us a reason to pray for their loved ones—and also to pray that the Lord might touch their hearts and bring about a transformation in their lives. Although I realise they have a lot of work to do, I know that if they keep their hearts open, the Lord can bring about change in their lives and help them overcome their past failures. As for the rest, the participants were calm; there were no serious incidents and the course and the mentoring session proceeded smoothly. For a first experience in a penitentiary, I felt encouraged and enjoyed serving alongside my brothers; even though my contribution wasn't huge, I want to stay involved and help the inmates overcome the struggles they face.

Please pray for the prison staff worker, Giorgiana, who has been assigned to coordinate ACV's work. She has recently joined the staff and is very supportive of ACV's work. She is attentive to what is being taught, so please pray that the Holy Spirit will touch her heart as well as those of the inmates. Ω

Helpful abbreviations: DT = Damascus Trust; **PoL / ACV** = Path of Life / Asociația Cărarea Vieții;

PRAISE & PRAYER FOR ASOCIAȚIA CĂRAREA VIEȚII

The Guitar classes started again on 18 September after the summer break. Each session includes guitar tuition followed by Bible time. As well as younger students, the class includes two adult students. Please pray for Marius Pop the guitar teacher and for Nicoleta and Amalia who lead the Bible teaching times. Ω

Night Shelter - During the summer, Oliver Lazar joined the management team of and is now coordinating ACV's ministry at the Night Shelter. He has made a big difference for good, already. Please pray that this will continue. Also a young man who stays at the Night Shelter has begun to follow Jesus and has asked to be baptised. Please pray for Gabor as he joins a local church and attends baptism preparation classes. Ω



ACV Food Parcels - Oradea Food Bank has experienced some recent challenges which has affected their operational costs. So now ACV, and other NGOs, are asked to help cover transport costs incurred by the Food Bank in delivering the food. Please pray that this will not affect this aspect of ACV's work detrimentally. Ω

ACV recently hosted a conference for **Tomorrow Club** leaders working in Bihor county. Tomorrow Clubs provide the material that is used with the young people attending the ACV guitar class. Tomorrow Clubs provide children and young people with a programme of games, songs and activities along with Bible teaching. This was a time to share ideas and encourage one another in this important, but challenging work. Ω



Partners

PRAISE & PRAYER FOR ASOCIAȚIA CĂRAREA VIEȚII

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. *Ps 32:8*

Please pray for Oliver Lazar as he oversees ACV's visits to the Night Shelter. Pray for a good team of volunteers to support him and for each visit to be meaningful for the guests.

Give thanks for Gabor's decision to follow Jesus. Pray for the work of the Holy Spirit in his life and that Gabor will be welcomed into a local church fellowship. Pray that his baptism will be a powerful witness to other guests from the Night Shelter.

Praise God for the impact of the Mentoring Programme in Oradea Prison. Pray for the team of ACV volunteers as they go in each Tuesday for the next twelve weeks.

Please pray that the Bible teaching given each week as part of the Mentoring Programme will resonate with individual inmates.

Pray too for the group times each session, for good discussion and application of the teaching. Pray that the group leaders will be sensitive and wise as they lead discussion and offer support.

Pray too for each inmate who attends the classes. Pray that their hearts will be open to hear form the Holy Spirit and that lives will be changed as a result.

Give thanks for the support of prison staff, especially Giorgiana. Please pray for her to come to know Jesus in a real and personal way over the coming weeks.

Give thanks for the Management team - Sorin, Iosif, Emil, Nicu, Oliver and Noemi, as they oversee different aspects of the work. Pray that they will be able to manage their time well along with their responsibilities for families and in church leadership.

Give thanks for the supplies from the local Food Bank that ACV can distribute to some of the poorest families. Pray that supplies will run smoothly.

Pray too for the poor families that are visited each month by ACV. As well as giving food parcels, ACV share songs, testimonies and a message from the Bible.

Please pray for the guitar classes and for Marius Pop who leads them. Pray too for the Bible time and activities that are led by two mothers of children in the class, Amalia and Nicoleta.

Please pray that the young people from the guitar class will grow up to love and follow Jesus for themselves. Many come from Christian families but need to make a decision for themselves.

Pray too for church visits that ACV make each month. These services offer opportunity to share news of the ministry and for the guitar class to lead worship songs.

As we reported in a previous Update, as a result of the generosity of two of our UK partners, DT is able to help support nine pastors from **Byumba Diocese** through extra training to bring them up to the level required by the government. There are four pastors who are studying for a four-year BTh degree course and five who are doing a one-year post-graduate course. Their term started at the end of September and we will be sharing news of how they are doing in the coming months. These qualifications will allow them to continue to serve as pastors within the diocese.

In **Byumba** diocese, financial challenges continue. The increased cost of health insurance for pastors, is more than the diocese can afford. So pastors and their families are at risk. Providing houses for pastors that retire is also a problem as the diocese simply does not have the financial means to help. With the majority of church buildings closed, there is not enough income to pay pastors a full wage. We pray that the **Diocesan Development Fund** which DT contributes to, can help pastors set up income generating projects to provide for their families now as well as for the future. Yet, despite these challenges Christians continue to help the poorest families with food distribution such as in Kibare parish (see photo).



DT has offered to help provide vocational training for those pastors who have not qualified for further theological training, but are too young to retire. We are still waiting to find out what sort of training is available and what costs are involved. Ω

In **Gasabo** diocese, and for the Anglican Church in Rwanda, the main news is that there is a new Archbishop, who is also the Bishop of Gasabo - **Abp Dr Manasseh GAHIMA**. He has taken over from Abp Laurent MBANDA who has now retired. This is a challenging time for the Church of Jesus in Rwanda and Abp Manasseh needs the wisdom and strength of the Holy Spirit to help him in his extra responsibilities.

In **Gasabo** diocese, the **Community Bible Study** course has now over 2,800 active participants - reading the Bible and learning together in small groups each week. They have also recorded 225 baptisms for new believers. So much to give thanks and praise to God for.

This year, despite the challenge of bringing church buildings up to government requirements, **Gasabo** diocese has trained more than 300 lay leaders and pastors. These are sharing responsibility for Bible teaching, home groups and evangelistic programmes across the diocese. Ω

Helpful abbreviations: **DT** = Damascus Trust; **SAP** = Support A Parish; **ADoB** = Anglican Diocese of Byumba; **ADoG** = Anglican Diocese of Gasabo;; **WHP** = Water Harvesting Project;

PRAISE & PRAYER FOR DIOCESES OF BYUMBA & GASABO

The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Deut 31:8

Please pray for the four pastors and their familise, who are doing the BTh degree course: NDAYISABA J. Baptiste, Nshimiyimana Elisa, Hatuyumuhanga Emmanuel, IRAGUHA Clemence

Please pray for the five pastors and their families who are on the one-year postgrad course: Kamali JMV, MUSABIREMA Illdephonse, MUKABUCYANA Florence, Nzirorera Theophile, Bugabo Erneste.

Pray too for the parishes where these pastors are serving, that the witness of the local Christians will continue and grow, even whilst their pastors are away studying. Rutoma, Kavuma, Kibali (x2), Manyagiro, Bwanika, Giheta, Byumba, Ruhondo.

Please pray for Abp Manasseh and his wife Rose, as they take up their extra responsibilities for the Anglican Church in Rwanda. Pray that Abp Manasseh will remain true to God's Word and do what is right before Almighty God.

Give thanks for the new believers in both Gasabo and Byumba dioceses. We praise God that, even when buildings are closed, the Church of Jesus is still witnessing and growing.

Please pray for Bp Emmanuel and his senior clergy in Byumba diocese as they try to provide help and support for pastors and parishes during very challenging times. Pray that the local Christians will share the responsibility for looking after one another spiritually and physically.

Please pray for Susanna, the wife of our SAP Coordinator in Byumba, Rev Placide Nizeyimana. Since mid-September, Susanna has lost her voice and despite many visits to doctors, she still cannot talk. Please pray with us for God's healing.

Give thanks for lay leaders who have received training and now take up responsibilities in their parishes (see photo).



Give thanks for all those involved with the Community Bible Study. Pray that these times of learning together will strengthen their commitment to one another as well as to following Jesus.

In both dioceses, there are church schools which provide a good level of education for many children. Please pray for the witness of these schools.

There is a high level of unemployment in Rwanda, especially amongst young people. Please pray that the Church will be able to provide encouragement and practical help for those struggling to find work.

BIBLE TEACHING
CHANGING THE WAY WE LIVE
at home

Our current DTAH Bible course is **When Jesus Returns.** This was first run in 2022 and is back with revisions and updates. We have people on the course who have been before as well as new attendees. The Bible teaching material remains much the same but the recent social, economic and technological changes in the world make this teaching even more pertinent.

In the future we hope to run two courses each year (spring and autumn). One will deal with a new topic and the other will be a repeat of an earlier course. The next course will be run in Spring '27 and details will be posted on our website as well as sent out by mail-shot. Do consider joining us. Ω

A recording of the first session of our teaching series **Jewish Roots of the Christian Faith** is now available on our website. More sessions from this series are being edited and recorded. We continue to work at making more of the Bible teaching available to download from our website. However the process is taking longer than we had anticipated. Andy's teaching notes need to be re-written as a script to condense them and make them easier to listen to. Please pray for this process. Ω

Andy has visited a number of our partner churches over the last few months. We are grateful to the Lord for these links and for the prayer and financial support that they give to our ministry. One of these churches is **Guithavon Valley Evangelical Church** in Witham who have just appointed a new pastor after a number of years without one. Please pray for God's blessing to be upon this next phase of their work and witness for the Lord. Ω

ENGAGE with the Bible

Today's **Engage with the Bible** is available here or on our website at www.damascustrust.org. Why not sign up and have it delivered each day by email?

Helpful abbreviations: **DT** = Damascus Trust; **TMB** - Tamworth Men's Breakfast; **EWTB** = *ENGAGE with the Bible;* **DTAH** = Damascus Trust At Home

PRAISE & PRAYER FOR DAMASCUS TRUST

Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him. Heb 9:28

Give thanks for all who support the work of DT through prayer and giving. We are grateful to the Lord for his ongoing provision for all our needs.

Please pray for wisdom in how we use the money that is given to DT, especially in working with our overseas partners. Pray that we will invest money in projects that will help individuals as well as the witness of the local Church.

Please continue to pray for Anne Davis, the wife of one of our Trustees as she continues to recover from a cerebral aneurysm. Anne is due to have a final operation in mid November. Her recovery has been remarkable and we continue to give thanks to the Lord for his healing.

We're grateful for the oversight of the Trustees. Please pray for them and their wives and families (see list on back page).

Please pray for Andy as he wrestles with recording the Bible teaching. It's not as easy as he thought it might be and is taking more time than he planned. So patience and perseverance are required!

Below: Pastors and Church leaders being inspired and envisioned by the outgoing Abp Laurent in Gasabo diocese.



WHO'S WHO & WHAT'S WHAT

Trustees: Robin Swan (& Hilary); Peter Harrington (& Susanna); Floyd Davis (& Anne)
Hon. Treasurer: Joy Dean; **General:** Andy & Liz Paine
Local Coordinators: Sorin Maier (Romania); Placide Nizeyimana (Byumba); Samuel Kayitare (Gasabo)

Christian Partner Organisations:
Asociația Cărarea Vieții / Path of Life Association, Romania, overseen by Sorin Maier
Diocese of Byumba, Rwanda cared for by Bishop Emmanuel Ngendahayo
Diocese of Gasabo, Rwanda cared for by Archbishop Manasseh Gahima

Rwanda SAP Programme:

Parishes/Pastors with ADoB, Rwanda:

Bwambi - Rev. Onesime; wife Marie
Gaseke - Rev. Seth; wife Jeanette
Giheta - Rev. Lucien; wife Dative
+ Giti - Dcn Boniface
Kibare - Rev. Eric; wife Hyacinthe
+ Kinihira - Dcn Aimee
Kinyana - Rev Emmmanuel; wife Felicite
Kitazugurwa - Rev. Evariste; wife Berancille
Mimuli - Rev. Alexis Moses; wife Clementine
Mugina - Rev Celestin
Ngarama - Rev. Placide; wife Susanna
Nyabihu - Rev. Innocent; wife Marie
Nyande - Rev. Sylvere; wife Seraphine
Rebero - Rev. Augustine; wife Florence
Ruhondo - Rev Clementine
Ruyange - Rev. Kezia (widow)
Rwasa - Rev Geoffrey
Rwesero - Rev. Felicien; wife Placidie
Tsima - Rev. Jean de Dieu; wife Rev. Patricie
Tumba - Rev Philbert; wife Ernestine

+ sub-parish

Parishes/Pastors with ADoG, Rwanda:

Gacuriro - Dcn Cyprian
* Karama - Rev Clement; wife Marie Immaculee
* Kayanga - Revd Benjamin; wife Egidie
Kinyinya - Rev. Jonathan; wife Ruth
* Nduba - Dcn Appolinaire; wife Francoise
Nkuzuzu - Rev. Alfred; wife Claudette
Nyabikenke - Rev Eugene; wife Marie Claire
Rubungo - Rev. Emmanuel; wife Francine

* new parish plants

ACV Romania:
Board / Management Team

Sorin Maier	Emil Bodog
Iosif Rezmives	Florin Maghiar
Oliver Lazar	Noemi Lazar
Nicu Maior	

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