

Pray for Kenya January 2016

I have just arrived back from my short trip to Nairobi, with thanks to the Lord for uneventful journeys, and for a most profitable time of fellowship and service. 6 of the 9 days were spent teaching, Sunday I preached in both services, there was a lengthy Elders' meeting, and the rest of the time I was graciously hosted by brethren.

PTC

To teach these men was the main reason why I went as we could get no one else to teach this course on Old Testament Prophets. We were able to consider principles for interpreting prophecy and to look at the contents of each of the 'Writing Prophets'. I found O. Palmer Robertson's book, *The Christ of the Prophets*, extremely helpful. He makes it abundantly clear that the twofold message is exile and restoration and then shows how this restoration is ultimately accomplished in Christ.



Sadly, a number of the students did not come, citing work responsibilities or inability to raise transport costs to travel to Nairobi. Many do struggle as they get little or no support from their local churches. However we have not deemed it wise to fulfil every need so it costs them nothing.

There was one new student for 2016-2018, Geoffrey Ngole from Pokot North. He has completed his secondary education in Kasei High School that we sponsor, and has been sent to minister in one of the local churches at Kapkoghun. Please note that this year we have had to inform our brethren in Pokot that we are no longer able to support teachers at the various schools as we do not have the finances. We do not know what the consequences will be for our continuing sponsorship of these schools; we function as partners with the Government seeking to develop schools together with the community.

TBC Elders

We had one evening when we 4 elders, with wives and children, were together, in the house we used to occupy but is now for Murungi and his family. I thank the Lord for these 3 men who the Lord is enabling to work closely together.

Murungi is the most experienced and does about half of the preaching. He will be going soon to South Africa to preach in some of the Africa Pastors' Conferences. *Kajuma* is completing his PTC studies and does a lot of personal ministry with the young adults. *Abwao* works full time and is a very valued member of the team. He is hoping to run a butchery nearby so that he can devote himself more to the ministry and to continue to support his family.



I was most encouraged by a discussion we had on the 'New Calvinism'. They contrasted it with our Confessionalism which produces a Christianity which, they said, develops a spiritual seriousness in the whole of life. This is exemplified in the Sabbath. So I find them serious men who want to work out their salvation with fear and trembling. May the Lord use them more and more!

TBC School

The Elders who have children send their older ones to a school named 'Rafiki' ('friend' in Kiswahili). It is a Christian School run on classical lines. Others in the church are seeing the need for a specifically Christian education that also does not put so much academic pressure on the children and are beginning to send their children to this school. Some of the staff attend TBC for worship.



We have started a Christian School that we hope will develop in the years to come. 3 of the 4 girls in the Nursery class are children of members. Many around us are interested but want us to have the children the whole day as both parents are out to work. We are not prepared to back down on our principle that it is not a baby sitting service and that parents are the ones responsible for their children. The mother of Natalia told us that she sent her older child to a nearby nursery

school where she only learned English and how to do exams. She does not want her daughter to undergo this sort of pressure.

Trinity Baptist Church, Nairobi

I was concerned to know how the church is doing after my relocation, although 7 weeks is not a long time to make a meaningful evaluation. Although they kept on saying how much they miss us all the evidence was positive.

(1) I had the opportunity to spend time with older members like John & Ruth Muketha.

They are founder members of the church, although I have known John since 1970 when I was a High School teacher in the same School he had attended. What a privilege to have been their pastor, seeing them through College life, employment, marriage, parenting, and now retirement – perhaps the most difficult phase? What a blessing their consistent testimony to the grace of the Lord has been to the church over all its existence.





(2) The Ladies' Fellowship meets every Thursday morning, and Priscilla was very involved in it. They tend to read and discuss books, the latest being, *The Envy of Eve*. It was encouraging to see more ladies involved with a mix of the older and younger. They are serious about reading good Christian books so a table is laid out for borrowing.

(3) One of our young adults has set up a web site www.afrocalvinist.com. Please check it out and see where our brethren are in the faith. There are so many talented brethren whose gifts have yet to be used to the full.

(4) There are quite a number of young people seeking membership in the church. I talked with one who was converted a couple of months ago. The first church she went to was the typical noisy charismatic one which she did not like. So she started listening to sermons online and got hold of John Piper's preaching. So she learned that the 'buzz word' is reformed and found us on the internet. It was so encouraging to hear of her simple faith. She wanted to know if it is wrong to save money as she has family members to help. What if someone begs from her and that money is for family (Matt. 5:42). Of course I pointed out other balancing principles (e.g. 1 Tim. 5:8), but it is too easy to take the cutting edge off Scripture commands. May the Lord add many such to the church!

For Murungi's ministry in South Africa go to <http://trinitybaptistkenya.org/reports/>
Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FwZdZtMNgc> for Murungi's preaching last Sunday.

Thank you for your continued prayer on behalf of the church in Nairobi and beyond.
In Christ's service,

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