

Pray for Kenya March 2016

As we settle in to our new life in Liverpool our life takes on its two-fold aspect with Kenya still looming so large on our horizon.

Liverpool

(1) We have almost finished unpacking the boxes of our things that were sent from Kenya. Of course, it depends on getting the individual rooms ready – painting, flooring. My books and files are all piled up on the floor in our bedroom until the shelving is ready. We hope to have it complete in the next month so we can start to lead a more normal life! Many have asked us how we are settling in to our new life. We are quite adjustable people, but we are missing the constant interaction with God's people. In Nairobi we lived next to the church premises and there were always people there with whom we could fellowship. We continue to be fully involved in the life of Belvidere Road Church, appreciating the ministry and the fellowship. The preaching is on the Gospel of Luke in the morning, and Joshua in the evening. Saturday afternoon and evening (9/4) there were 3 lectures by speakers of Creation Ministries International. How important is the creation/evolution debate in this country when it is pointed out that perhaps more people 'leave religion because of evolution' than for any other reason. There were some very helpful things on Darwinianism and racism, dinosaurs only thousands of years old, and similarities between organisms that cannot be the result of common ancestry.

(2) I have had some opportunities of ministry.

- Trinity Grace Church in Ramsbottom (6/3). We thank the Lord that TGC is much involved with the ministry in Kenya through one of its pastors, Oliver Allmand-Smith. He is going each year to teach in the PTC, and is on the board of Train(Kenya), the charity devoted to supporting the continuing ministry in Kenya.
- Alfred Place Baptist Church in Aberystwyth (13/3). This is the church I have been associated with since 1965, and which sent us to Kenya in 1975. All that time Geoffrey Thomas has been the pastor, but he had just retired and there was the vote to call another man on this very day. I felt it wise to preach on unity from Ephesians 4:1-13 both morning and evening because there is always the potential for division at some times. Thank the Lord that all went well and the new pastor is due to come later in the year.
- Trinity Baptist Church in Charlesworth (3/4). The Chapel was built in 1838 after itinerate ministry over many years by William Gadsby. I was told that on the opening day he was the preacher and the windows had to be removed so great were the crowds. There were 12 or so present today. Then back in Liverpool for the evening service we sung Gadsby's great hymn, 'Immortal honours rest in Jesus' head'. We were also brought to beloved Africa by singing, 'O how the grace of God amazes me', which was written in 1946 by a Burundian Baptist Pastor. It has such good theology that Sinclair Ferguson has written a book on grace based on the 7 verses of the hymn. May the Lord be pleased to raise up more such preachers of grace today!
- Belvidere Road Church in Liverpool (10/4). I filled in for the pastor, continuing with his series in Joshua, and dealing with the cities of refuge (ch. 20).

[Please pray for forthcoming ministry at the 2016 Liverpool Bible Convention (3/5).]

(3) There is also the privilege to represent the ministry in Kenya. We expect to do quite a lot of visiting other churches to keep them up to date with what the Lord is doing. There has also been a meeting of the board of TRAIN(Kenya), a charity registered in UK with the aim of continuing to aid the ministry in Kenya now that we are no longer there. It has a website that is being developed, <http://www.trainkenya.com>, that you could visit.

Kenya

(1) New members – the Lord continues to add young adults to the church.



Because half the church is now made up of young unmarried adults, we are anticipating many weddings in the future, the first being Dominic & Jackie at the end of April. Dominic is the co-ordinator of our Sunday School and Youth programmes.

(2) Peter Kivati is in his 2nd. year in the PTC studies. He believes the Lord is calling him to preach the gospel to the Rendille people and, Lord willing, in 2018 he plans to relocate there with his family. He recently made his first visit by himself (29/2-7/3). You can read his report in full at <http://trinitybaptistkenya.org/reports/>. You will get some idea of the difficulty of working amongst the Rendille people. Traditions like female genital mutilation are all but universal. They are so convinced that they are worshipping God truly and they see Christianity as a threat to their 'tried and tested ways' so they resist the faith. Very little fruit has been seen. Many people are so poor and there has been such a practice of outside support that it is difficult to know whether someone is genuine or whether they show 'interest' for financial reasons. Please pray for the gospel to progress amongst these needy people.

(3) Andrew Chemolok, from Chepkinagh, Pokot North, sent us the following report dated April 8th. It was in response to the withdrawal of support for the 40 or so teachers in schools we sponsor, and to the TRAIN(Kenya) meeting on March 10th.

Greetings in Christ's name from Kenya. It is good that you met in UK on 10th. March where you were all discussed and review the financial situation. Sincerely the situation here financially as you know is great. So it is urgent to save the situation not to go bad. It is true that the Lord has done much over the years and now many churches are established. It is because of the Christian's prayers and their support financially that makes all these all change graciously. You (Keith) also had the privilege to preached all over Pokot North serving with us as missionary. We long for a man like Keith to be raised up as missionary leader for the churches in Pokot North and beyond.

(i) Report that I can share with you brethren is that the ministry over here in the side of Chepkinagh TBC, I can say our situation here spiritually we are keeping on though we face many challenges within the congregation and members too. Also many needs e.g. supporting for evangelists and leaders, then putting up church buildings. Now Chepkinagh church needs a church building etc. Chepkinagh as a mother church we do face many

needs from the 7 congregations while we are not yet able to help or support them at all. Pray for us brethren for this situation that we may go far in ministering... So our cry now is for more men to be raised up as godly leaders for the churches in Pokot North and beyond. Let us pray that the Lord will clearly show us the way forward to reach the unreached but without support then we cannot go anywhere.

(ii) Report in the side of schools ministries. Surely we are in great need!! of support, now you know already three months debt we have. So we do not know what we can do of that debt only we look to the Lord to answer to us. Our prayer now is to the Lord our God and to share with you brethren TRAIN and our fellow brethren Christians to pray with us and stand with us in this situation. Otherwise the schools are going on well, the children are blessed with the word of God...

(4) Please PRAY for my fellow pastor, Murungi Igweta as he makes a journey to west Kenya 19-26 April. He is speaking on the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit at the Reformation Conference in Mumias, the church of Elly Achok. You could refer back to my prayer letter of 2014, No. 6, which is also found on the Train(Kenya) website. On the Sunday and Monday he plans to visit 3 of the churches associated with TBC in the Bungoma area, at Mwiya, Chwele and Bungoma.

(5) Issue 125 of the Grace & Truth has now been published. You may read it at <http://www.trinity.or.ke/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/GT-125.pdf>.

Please keep remembering these things before the throne of grace.
In Christ's service,

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