

## Pray for Kenya May/June 2016

Dear Brethren:

We thank the Lord for so many evidences of His grace. He has kept us as we have continued to struggle to settle. We continue to so much appreciate the church we are involved in and the ministry we receive. Priscilla still has her ups and downs as she seeks to cope with all the changes. We are happy that the warmer weather has come so we do not need to keep the heat on in the house (sometimes we are tempted to do so!). We had an encouraging weekend of ministry and renewal of fellowship in Aberystwyth (15<sup>th</sup>. May). I preached morning and evening on the 3 privileges of belonging to the church, as in Ephesians 2:19-22 – it is God's nation, God's house, and God's temple. We appreciated the visits to churches in Leeds and Hull to tell them about the ministry in Kenya. Forthcoming, there are preaching engagements in Ramsbottom (26<sup>th</sup>. June), Aberystwyth (10<sup>th</sup>. July), and Charlesworth (17<sup>th</sup>. July).

### TBC Nairobi

The last month has been dominated by the repercussions of the death of Peter Kivati. The church remains united, and the Lord has enabled the elders to bring good, relevant ministry. I am seeking to listen to all sermons as they are downloaded onto YouTube. New members continue to be added.



Eric Aluvisia &  
Eric Kahure

However, there has been some struggles amongst the elders, and we are thankful that the differing perspectives now seem to have been resolved. This has involved me spending much time on Skype especially with Murungi on whom the bulk of the responsibility has lain.

“I have never seen Trinity Baptist Church so full as on Sunday. Every seat taken at 11 a.m., the overflow room for mothers and babies also packed, and people standing or sitting outside, under the roof, listening. 200 folk plus. So we first began here with the Sunday school; the lesson taught by Murungi was on the return of Christ. Then the service started at 11. The pre-sermon pieces went on too long so that I did not begin to preach until 11.55. The edge is taken off the preaching when there are lengthy prelims whether they are 40 minutes of modern songs (not in Nairobi) or lots of words spoken in long readings, comments on them and prayers. Remember that in addition to this service about 100 of this congregation had already had 45 minutes of Sunday School. There was no stress on singing, in fact we sang just three hymns plus one in Swahili. A lot of words, exhortation and information. Another negative factor is a very large, high, dark brown pulpit behind which you see the head and shoulders of Murungi. The pulpit does nothing for him, in fact it dwarfs him and it must be put on one side and another shorter lectern be made for Murungi. Finally I got up there and preached on the privileges of being a Christian and engaged evangelistically with them.

At 3 p.m. on my only Sunday in Kenya I spoke until 4 to sixty godly women on not worrying, from Matthew 6 and Philippians 4. I was very relaxed and believe good was done. Don't you think that men are more prone to certain sins like violence and vain ambition and lust, while women are more prone to such a sin as that of worry? At 4 we had the evening service, and again what a growth in numbers, maybe 100 there with Stephen Turner preaching on John the Baptist and we even sang a Welsh hymn tune which they sang well.” [go to <http://trinitybaptistkenya.org/reports/> for a fuller report of the visit of Geoffrey Thomas to Kenya]

#### Pastoral Theological Course (May 11-18)

We are going to rename the training TPC = Trinity Pastors' College. Below is part of the report by Geoffrey Thomas. Please read the full report as above.

“The lecture room is 20 paces away, surrounded by familiar books. I thank God for sustaining this witness for 40 years. We both and the 10 students meet together at 9 for morning prayer. One of the students in turn speaks to us. They vary in their gifts as they do in their subsequent praying. Some are particularly spiritual and educated men, graduates. Others are not. We sing three over-familiar hymns and whoever precepts inevitably pitches them low. We wing in our boots, and then we share topics of prayer... There is a high tubular steel seat to sit on in the lecture room here which helps in the three hours of our daily sessions, but I occasionally wander around. Stephen is taking them through Gaffin's New Testament theology for three days, and then he is to give them three days' survey of Romans. After he speaks we all go down to the dining area and eat rice and vegetables and beef from 1 to 2 p.m. We eat it in bowls on chairs and talk. At 2 p.m. I am taking them through modern church history from the Puritans until today. I gave them all copies of Phil Arthur's Banner of Truth booklet on why we should study church history and we went through it in 20 minutes. Then into the Puritans and their building on the Reformers, then an exemplary life of one Puritan, John Bunyan, and on to Thomas Brooks' pastoral masterpiece on the “Precious Remedies” we have from the devices of Satan, and finally I ended by opening up the abiding value of the Puritans, and their understanding of preaching. The students ask good questions and venture wise opinions.”

The annual Africa Pastors' Conference (APC) will take place at end of June (28-29<sup>th</sup>.) on the theme of Christ is Building His Church. Judging by the levels of interest shown we are expecting at least 50 in attendance and trust it will further promote the spread of Biblical Christianity.

#### Pokot North

(1) Schools. We wish to thank those of you who responded to the information in 'Pray for Kenya' April 2016 and the needs in the schools in Pokot North we sponsor. We have been able to raise enough money for the support of teachers in Kwirir, Wasat, Apur, Kapkoghun, Tarakit, and Kapyomot for the whole of 2016. We hope that other contributions will do the same for Kapterema, Kapkewa and Kasepa. Of course the brethren there are very encouraged. In a few months' time we shall have to see if we should continue into 2017 and it would be helpful for our planning if you could indicate if you will be able to give for next year.

(2) Preaching. But even more important is the ministry of the word. Please pray for the brethren from Nairobi who will be going to the area for a week 20-27<sup>th</sup>. June, especially for the weekend of ministry ('Challenge Weekend') in the two secondary schools at Kasei (Boys) and Kamketo (Girls).

Elly Achok of Mumias has written a lengthy account of how the Lord turned him around from Word of Faith teaching to the Biblical gospel and the wide iopen doors of ministry the Lord has given him. Please read the report under the heading Gospel Missions Agency at <http://trinitybaptistkenya.org/reports/>.

David Awan has finally made contact with us from Malakal in South Sudan (SS). His family remain in the refugee camp in north Uganda for he says that no medical or educational facilities have yet been re-established in SS after the recent internal war. Even to get in contact with us he had to travel north to Paloich. He very much wants to continue with the TPC studies so that he can be of help to the churches when normal life is resumed in South Sudan in the not too distant future, Lord willing. Please pray for this sad land and for David's ministry. His home town of Malakal was all but destroyed in the fighting.

Thank you for your continuing fellowship and prayer for us and the brethren in Kenya.

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