

## Pray for Kenya October 2016 (1)

Dear Brethren:

Thank you for your fellowship in prayer as I spent time back in Kenya in September. The Lord was so kind in giving a trouble free time as regards travelling and health, and in letting me accomplish all I had planned and more. In addition, Priscilla was kept during my absence, with one or more of the children being with her almost all the time. There were three parts to the ministry in Kenya, and I wish to bring each to you in turn, both for thanksgiving and intercession, in the next weeks.

From my arrival late Saturday evening 3<sup>rd</sup>. September I was in Nairobi until Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>.

### (1) Nairobi Trinity Baptist Church (TBC)

What a privilege to be back amongst my beloved brethren, both the many newer members, and some with whom we have been together before the church started in 1978! It made me realize how much I miss such close interaction that has been built up over the years and how precious it is to bond with children from an early age. At the request of my fellow elders I had the privilege of doing all the ministry over the 2 weekends, continuing with Galatians 5, finishing Isaiah 53, and teaching adult Sunday school on prayer from Ephesians 3:14-19 and Psalm 74. Back on 'home turf' I felt a liberty in speaking which I trust was of great profit. Yet at the same time I felt a reluctance lest it appear I came to take over.



The second Sunday the auditorium was full with congregants, a testimony to how the church has developed since we left. We also had the joy of the baptism and welcoming into membership of Sospeter Odock. He gave a moving testimony of how he joined the very popular cult in Kenya following one who is called 'The mighty prophet of the Lord'. Like so many in such quasi-Christian religions he eventually found himself to be unconverted.

We have had the sadness of the resignation of the newest Pastor, Vincent Kajuma. There have been working difficulties so he took the option to leave. This leaves Murungi Igweta as the only full-time Pastor resident in Nairobi and with a great deal of responsibility. There is the church of over 100 members, so many of them being young adults with all their spiritual needs. There is responsibility for many churches planted in different parts of the country, especially Rendille and Pokot North. Please PRAY especially for him and the continued unity and growth of the church despite these struggles.



Keith Underhill  
Murungi Igweta  
Eric Abwao

### (2) Trinity Pastors' College (TPC)

To teach at the TPC was the specific reason for my going at this time. 5 of the 6 students attended, 4 of them from Pokot North. One other attends all the classes and although he already has his theological degree he gains much from what we do. I had the privilege of taking them through 2 courses – The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit, and Preaching. Scores of men have been trained over the years and many of them are serving in different parts of Kenya. PRAY that God would use the various teachers and their studies to equip them to be able ministers of the new covenant. We are encouraged by a good number seeking to join the studies in 2017. We are also aiming to have the TPC registered, with a Board, so that it can be on a firmer footing.



### (3) Interaction with individuals.

The time in Nairobi was packed full of meeting various brethren when I was not teaching. It was my specific aim to visit many of the older members of the church as with some we have been together for decades.

I was entertained in many homes for supper. Many of the older ladies do not have believing husbands. In one home I had the opportunity to ask the husband if he is 'saved'. He said he is not. I asked him why considering he goes to a church where salvation is preached. He could not give an answer, and this is typical of so many men. They are open to religion, but that is as far as they have got. It was a privilege to preach the gospel to him and to be listened to respectfully. I miss such opportunities in UK.



Abby Kivati, Peter's widow, although struggling is doing well in the circumstances. She has decided to pursue further studies so that she can support herself in the future. This means she has relocated to another part of Nairobi, and also temporarily to another church.

What a joy on the day we were leaving to return to meet with the brother of NH who flew in the day before from Mogadishu. NH has been so concerned because of the many death threats against him because it was perceived he was of another religion. He leaves a family behind him. We pray that now he is in relative freedom he will grow in grace.

With the many young adults in our midst weddings are becoming commonplace. George & Naigha were married the Saturday before I arrived; Edwin & Sheila the Saturday afterwards (in the photo). Victor & Kez are due to be married in November. Thank God that we still have a culture where marriage as an institution is respected.



WhatsApp is very much used in Kenya and one of the groups I am involved with from afar is Word Exalted. It was started by Tonny Karwa, whose testimony I gave you in in the last report. He has wished to bring his friends into the truth that has been such a blessing to him. As we have been going through Romans and then Hebrews we have often got side-tracked on the hot topics of tongues, miracles, prophets and apostles, and such like. It was a great encouragement to meet up with 3 of them I had never met in the flesh, and to see how much they had been benefitting from the exposition.

As many of you know, I was a teacher in Kenya 1968-1970. A few days before arriving one of the young men (as he was then) I taught passed from this world into glory, Isaac Inoti. It is sobering to think that some who were after me have gone before me. The custom in Kenya is to have public meetings each evening in the home of the deceased as arrangements are made for the funeral. Church members, Christian friends, relatives and neighbours all gather and the word of God is preached. I had an opportunity one evening and I told of my connections with him going back to 1969, of his finding refuge in the Reformed Faith when he was a student in Japan, and of his difficult life of battling with corruption in the University administration where he taught. Thank God there is hope in the gospel of Jesus Christ as I then brought it to them from Romans 8:23. Please pray for his widow Judy, who herself has had battles with cancer, that she will continue to give a wonderful testimony to the grace of the Lord.

You will remember the dear pastor, Stephen ole Kakoiya, who suffered a severe stroke December 2014. I went to visit him and found him somewhat stronger. He is able to walk around his immediate home and can make a few more sounds, but nothing intelligible to me. He is not able to read and is relearning to write like a child. How ironical that he was spearheading a project to cater for disabled children amongst his Maasai community. It was encouraging to see that the plot designated for this project had been fenced and some



lorries of stone for building had been delivered. But obviously there is nothing that Stephen can do except to be physically present. The family are struggling to pay for his monthly visits to the physiotherapist.

In Christ's service,

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