

PRAY FOR KEITH & PRISCILLA UNDERHILL
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH, NAIROBI, KENYA

“Pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honoured” (2 Thess. 3:1, ESV)

2015, No.9 (17/09/15)

Dear Brethren

Greetings in the Lord from Nairobi, Kenya. Although I am not able to take ministry trips outside Nairobi so as not to leave Priscilla alone, it has been extremely busy! We do thank the Lord for all the opportunities of service, all the many people in whose lives we may have an input. By God's mercy Priscilla continues to do quite well, although there was a rough patch when she had to take some additional medicine which seemed to react with her. We probably still have many weeks to wait for the result of the visa application but we continue to make steady progress in sorting out the things in the house, what to throw away, what to give away, what to sell, and what to take back with us. How kind God has been to us that we have not lacked, but that we have far more than we need. We are still anticipating mid-November as the time of departure.

Interesting weekends!

(1) Visitors. Being in Nairobi and having contacts all over the country we often get visitors, even unannounced, and this is especially difficult if the PTC students are also here. We have had an Evangelist from Rendille with a big medical need. He has had 2 operations already and needs a 3rd. There was a single mother with her 5 children who lost her job and so was unable to pay the house rent and as a result her house was closed (with everything in it). There was a student on his way to Teacher Training College who only gave us one day to deal with his fees' need. Then there was a mother who came with her son who has been admitted to University. Even another single mother with her 2 daughters who has no way of supporting herself at present. They are all Christians in churches affiliated with us and we must be patient and caring, yet at the same time seek to show them how to be responsible Christians.

(2) Sundays. How kind God has been to us bringing more and more people to sit under the preaching of the gospel. I preached on 'From slavery to sonship' (Gal. 4:1-11) on 6th and Murungi on 'Great Devotion on Account of Christ' (Mark 14:1-11) on 13th. On the one hand it is encouraging to hear people say that at last they are hearing true preaching of the word, but on the other does it mean that there almost no other churches in Nairobi where this is true? One man has told us that he has been looking for 5 years for such a church and only found us when he entered 'reformed' in the internet search engine.



Last Sunday we received 3 new members, young ladies with encouraging testimonies of God's grace in their lives. Jackie (right) was baptized on profession of faith.

Church Leadership

As my intended departure from Kenya draws ever nearer we are also progressing in adding to church leadership. We have now fixed 1st November as the day for considering Vincent Kajuma as Pastor/Elder, and the setting aside for 15th should the members approve. There would then be 3 men in the eldership, 2 of them full-time. With a membership now approaching 100, a pastoral training programme, and responsibility for many other ministries in Kenya, they will be very busy men. The Lord has also helped us to identify 2 additional Deacons who will be voted on in due course. Both are young unmarried men but very mature who have already been "tested first" in the sense they have shown they are men who love to serve.

PTC (Pastoral Theological Course)

From 9th to 16th September we have had men here to study The Doctrine of God and some Early Church History. 11 out of the 14 came and it was such an encouraging time to me, probably the last while being resident in Kenya (I do hope to return to teach twice a year, Lord willing). Our brother David Awan from South Sudan was able to come again, although it is becoming increasingly expensive to bring him. He and his family are actually refugees in Uganda from the fighting in their country. There were two who minister in Pokot North, two from the Gospel Missions Agency in Mumias, and two from Upendo Reformed Baptist near Migori. There are four from Nairobi, two from TBC, one from a sister church, and one from a regular Baptist church. We even had the privilege of two S0mal1 brethren and two ladies for some of the time! For me the highlights were:

- Showing the doctrine of the Trinity is absolutely necessary to genuine Christianity.
- Emphasizing that the attributes of God are not just doctrines but truths about the God before whom we live that fundamentally shape our lives.
- The fear of God as a missing note in today's Christianity.

Meaty Forum

40-50 mainly young people gathered in town for another Meaty Forum, on the subject of Stewardship. I started by explaining the parable of the Rich Fool, Murungi spoke on stewardship from Acts 2 & 4, and Mbugua a pastor from Emmanuel Baptist Church applied it practically with an emphasis on missions (which warmed my heart). A number testified afterwards that they had been deeply challenged. Generally, young people enter the work force, get amounts of money they have never seen before, and tend to spend it on themselves. And historically there has been a reliance on Western funds. (Please search under 'meaty forum nairobi' and you will learn much more.)

Coast

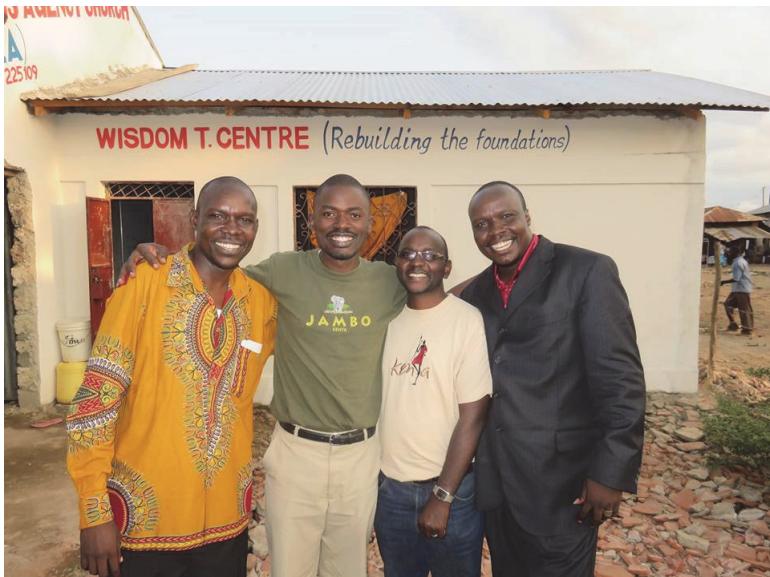
In this letter I would like to tell you of the work we are associated with in another part of Kenya. The coastal region was the first to receive a missionary in the 1840s. Among the local population Christianity is not predominant. There is a strong Muslim influence.

(1) **Idsowe**. Over 200 km north of Nairobi on the Tana River we have sought to establish a work where there are a number of communities that are classed as unreached with the gospel. Sadly there has been no fruit and it looks like we will have to call the ministry to an end, at least for the present. There is a great need for labourers. You can get information from the Joshua Project on the unreached Malakote, Orma, Sanye and Wardei, who each live in the general area.

(2) **Boyani** (see 2014, No. 10). About 30 km inland from Mombasa, near the place where the very first missionary outside Mombasa settled (Rabai), is George Mwanjisi and his family and a growing church of about 35 members. We have known George for almost 30 years and he went through the PTC a long time ago. He recently told us that there is a great openness for the Word. The

people are mixed Christians, Muslims and traditionalists. They have been meeting in their unfinished house for many years, but we recently bought a plot of land and there is a hope one day we shall be able to put up a building for meeting.

(3) **Mombasa** (see 2014, No. 10). This is the 2nd largest city in Kenya and its port. It is largely Muslim but many 'upcountry' people live and work here. Barnabas Olare is Pastor of the small Gospel Missions Agency church in the town. He went through the PTC in Nairobi 2012-2014 having come out of a 'Word of Faith' environment. Apart from the local church, he hosts an annual Reformation Conference, and has started a training programme called Wisdom Training Centre where more than 20, mostly pastors, are hearing the truth! If you would like to learn more please email Barnabas Olare at olare75@gmail.com and request Dispatches from Mombasa, Kenya 005/2015.



Barnabas (GMA Mombasa), Kajuma & Murungi (TBC Nairobi), Elly (GMA Mumias). This is in Mombasa at the Wisdom Training Centre where our 2 brethren visited some weeks back. God has given us a very cordial relationship with Barnabas & Elly (brothers in both senses) and we thank God for the work He is doing through them.

This weekend Murungi and Kajuma are away in South Nyanza, about which I will write later. So I will be preaching morning on Galatians 4:8-20, and evening on Isaiah 42:1-9 hoping to expound each of the Servant Songs before I go.

We thank you again in the Lord for your fellowship and prayers. The Lord be praised!

Keith & Priscilla Underhill

(Previous newsletters may be found at www.trinitybaptistkenya.org)

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