

Pray for Kenya

2020/4 September

Dear Brethren: This Prayer Letter is a report by Murungi Igweta of his recent visit to west Kenya for ministry.

On the 3rd of August I took three TPC students who are also pastoral interns, Nick Teka (3rd year), Yohana Mugo (2nd year) and Ebenezer Kimathi (1st year) on a trip to Kericho, Migori, Homa Bay, Kisumu, Siaya, Funyula, Bungoma and Kitale. The purpose of the trip was to expose these men to real church planting work on the ground and encourage the men leading their respective work and their churches. We also hoped to do a reconnaissance with Teka, with regard to establishing a church in Kitale town. In addition I would preach at Ken & Njeri's *ruracio* (when the bride price is paid) in Kitale and so the trip was planned with this in mind. Other additional objectives were to visit a few TPC students and distribute some literature.

Kericho

The Lord has given David Ng'etich a lot of favour with regard to establishing a church in Kericho town. We passed by his home where we had breakfast and lunch. He had invited four men to meet

with us. He told us that he has nine people with whom they gather regularly. Since the Covid Pandemic struck they had not met but were going to meet the following week since they had acquired the thermo-gun as required by the government. With his family of 7, they would be 16 gathering and so I encouraged him to consider beginning Sunday worship soonest. They began meeting on 16th August. Thankfully, there is a lady who has offered them an empty plot in town where they can possibly pitch a tent to begin meeting. He has a young man who would wish to join the TPC in 2020, Nathaniel Rono. I met in him in the Meru Bible Study along with his brother who was a student at Kenya Methodist University, while Nathaniel was at Chuka University and graduated last year.



Kericho: David Ng'etich with his family and some of his contacts

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Oyani: Erick Omenda with some of his contacts

Oyani

Erick Omenda is now pastoring the little congregation at Oyani since Fred Lodeki relocated to Migori town to church plant. He is an amiable young man who was a TPC student but could not complete because of financial challenges. I had also officiated and preached at his wedding. We had recently helped him relocate closer to this church.

Migori

We passed by Migori town to see Monica Patricko who had been hospitalized for about two weeks to see how she was faring. We found her still admitted having 8 more days to be at the hospital because of the medication she was taking. Patricko had come from Kamketo to be with her but then we took him with us to visit other churches in the region. It might be that this family will have to leave Kamketo where there is no health facility to serve in a more urban area for the sake of her health. We have thought of Kapenguria. I also met Isaac Kelegwa who continues to shepherd Nyamanga even though he resides so far away from it. He has been thinking of church planting closer to his home which is right next to the Tanzanian border.

Osani, Wath Orango, Thimlich & Nyakwaka

Wath Orango: Section of some of the Got Orango members at the plot that has been recently bought and where they hope to put up a church building at Got Orango.



We arrived at 9.00 pm but thank fully we found more than 15 of the Osani brethren waiting for us at the home of Daniel Ngollo. Yohana taught the group from the word of God before dinner. It was so encouraging to see Daniel's ambitious itinerary for us for the four churches.

At Wath Orango, more than 20 were eagerly waiting for us. Teka took up the preaching here. [I had to go back to Migori due to a tyre problem where I met with

Kennedy Ogutu who pastors a church in Kopanga by the Tanzanian border. He leads a group of five churches, three in Kenya and two in Tanzania. They would like to work with us.] In Thimlich Ebenezer preached from Luke 13:1-5 very clearly. There were more than 15 people present. I was encouraged to see that the brethren in Thimlich are united and working together. They dug the pit latrine and we have provided them with 60K to construct it. The slab was already in place being cured when we were there. At Nyakwaka, I preached from 1 Timothy 2:5-6 to about 10 people (without counting the team of 7 with me). Caleb Onyango requested help to construct their church toilet. We agreed that they will dig the pit and we shall provide funds for the structures. Caleb has been working hard and the church seem to be doing well. He is also well respected in the area as a preacher of the gospel.

Kisumu

On Wednesday 5th we left early morning for Kisumu, and spent about 2 hours with Tonny Karwa and his son Junior. Olivia has recently resumed her work and is due to have their second-born soon. They are doing well as a family and Tonny is happy at the Grace Baptist Church. We left him with lots of literature and especially Grace & Truth #133, to which he is a contributor.



Kisumu: Tonny Karwa and his son Junior, Yohana, Teka and me.

We passed by Aloice Oginga's home in Obambo and met his wife and son. They are doing well even though he has had to deal with high blood pressure. He is also doing well with his TPC studies.

Nyaguda

Nathan Opany was eagerly waiting for us with fresh fish at his home! I preached from 1 Timothy 1:15 to a group of over 20 people whom he had assembled. I was impressed by his organization. Nathan has seven children and although two of them have completed their studies, he is so hard pressed financially.

Siaya

Although we arrived late in the evening (possibly 7.30 pm), we found Charles Abwok and Jeremiah waiting for us. They have been working on a huge crack in the wall of the building and needed financial help. The church has stagnated for many years and desperately needs gospel impetus. Thankfully, Roy Onyango and Samuel Waswa are willing to go there to seek to re-establish the work.

Funyula

It was so refreshing to see what Simon had planned for us on the 6th. He had invited more than 30 people who attended a mid-week service. Yohana preached the gospel very well and encouraged the brethren to remain steadfast in their pursuit of holiness. After the service, I



Funyula: Zadok, Simon & Mary and some of the members of the church

was assigned to speak with young couple that was visiting for the first time, Michael and Faith, who are both high school teachers. I sought to articulate the gospel to them as patiently and clearly as I could and prayed that the Life-giving Spirit will enable them to come to the saving knowledge of Christ.

After the meeting we passed by Eric Ngala's home in **Bumala**. He graduated from TPC and pastors an African Inland Church there. Then we went to **Bukhalalire** where we gave out a thermo-gun to Kalisto Odong'o.

Then we went to **Simba Chai** where Paul Zadok and his wife reside. We talked about his desire to join the TPC in 2020, and to establish a church in **Amagoro**. He is a serious minded studious man.

Mwiyenga

Samuel Waswa was waiting for us at Kimaeti so that we could pass by Mwiyenga to see his father who had been recently discharged from the hospital having had hernia surgery. Edward Simiyu was there with him and he said that they would desire that we re-establish the church in Mwiyenga but I did not commit to anything. I spent some time with Samuel and his wife before we left for Bungoma.

Bungoma

We went to visit Jeff Bys, an American missionary who has substantial gospel and mercy work going on: Mercy Baptist Church, Mercy Academy and Mercy Ministries which cares for 100 orphaned children and has established a school.

We later went to see **Isaiah Juma** who desires to establish a church in Chwele market after he 'retires' from his mission work in Kasei (Pokot) next year. Back in Bungoma, we met a JKUAT student called Tito Sitati who is also seriously considering ministry. I advised him to complete his Computer Science degree before embarking on ministry. His father is a pastor and he preaches and teaches at his small church regularly. He would want to be trained for ministry.

Kitale

We passed by Tito's home off Kiminini and had breakfast there. In Kitale we saw Francis Waweru (one of our members who now resides in Kitale and who desires a church there) before Ken and Njeri's *ruracio* where I preached in Kiswahili from 1 Timothy 2:5-6. We then visited Dr. Kwambai, who is a close family friend of the Bargebo family, before visiting Ronald's mother.

Even though we did not complete the reconnaissance efforts for a possible church planting in Kitale, I am persuaded that the ground is ripe for church planting. There are at least five different contacts there who would like to be identified with the work. We intend to go to Kitale again in October, on our way to the RBAK Annual General Assembly in Kasei, Pokot North.

In Christ,

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