



TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

N A I R O B I

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Pray For KENYA: 2020/5 December

Dear Brethren,

We praise and glorify the Lord, that in spite of the frowning cloud of providence which Covid-19 has brought, He has been at work ensuring that the Gospel continues to speed ahead. At TBC Nairobi, we have known God's grace from many different angles. In this update allow us to especially focus on the various prospects of establishing new churches in different towns of Kenya. These open doors for church planting/revitalization work are indeed a gracious answer by God to your prayers for us. It is only fitting that as we sing a song of praise and thanksgiving to God for answered prayers, we also invite you to join with us in exalting the Lord for His kindness. A lot of the existing mission work done by TBC is in the rural areas but now, we believe, the Lord has opened a door for urban ministry in five major towns. These towns are all headquarters of their counties.



Roy & Gladys Omondi

1. Siaya Town

This town is 425 km west of Nairobi and this is the home county of Eric Abwao (one of the Elders at TBCN). There has been a church in Siaya which was planted by us more than 20 years ago. This church has gone through various leadership difficulties. The founding pastor (now deceased) sadly proved unfaithful. The next pastor after some period was no longer resident. Brother Charles Abwok has only been able to come to Siaya on Sundays when he has preached during the service before travelling back to his home. Clearly these two challenges have contributed towards a stunted growth in the Siaya church at least because the evangelistic efforts were limited.

Thankfully, the Lord has now provided another brother, **Roy Omondi**. He was originally a member of the church at Siaya before he was sent to plant another church, which he thankfully established. He has now come back to Siaya with his family. The Lord has enabled us to commence the work of helping him to resettle in the town. He lives near the church and has taken up a lot of public and private ministry. As a result, two men, Ezekiel and Paul were baptized last month and added to the church.



We are optimistic that the church will request him to be their pastor. Presently there are only less than 10 official members at the church. This limits the ability to financially support their own pastor. Thankfully, the Lord has provided what we need for Roy's upkeep for first two months (October & November). Going forward, we are praying that the Lord to provide.

Because of the gross unfaithfulness of the founding pastor, the church building was never completed. It has been degenerating over the years. We are so thankful to God that there is a church that has offered some money to commence the renovation of the building. We have also found a man to carry out the construction.

2. Kapenguria Town

This town is 430 km north-east of Nairobi and it is the capital of West Pokot County. It has an urban population of about 20,000 and a total population of 56,000. It is especially known for the prison where Kenya's founding president, Jomo Kenyatta, was detained from 1952 before independence. It is a high altitude and therefore cold town with tea farms nearby and very high agricultural potential.



Patrick, Monica & some of their boys

All the churches planted in Pokot North are in the rural areas close to the Kenya-Uganda border. Many of the members of the 15 churches often go to Kapenguria, which is the county Headquarters. These brethren begun efforts to establish a church in this town about three years back under the oversight of Kamketo Church. So far there has not been anyone to lead the work. The wife of one of the Elders of Kamketo, Patrick Odhiambo, has been struggling with various health challenges. Knowing that there is no medical facility in the bush meant that Monica Odhiambo (Patrick's wife) has had to constantly travel to Kapenguria and Kitale for medical attention, well over 100 km. away. At the meeting I had with the Pokot leaders in Kitale last month, all of us present requested the Elders of the church in Kamketo to seriously consider sending Patrick to Kapenguria so that he can establish the church and have his wife close to the health facility until such a time as the Lord provides someone else for the work. The church has seriously considered this and during their congregational meeting on the 16th of November approved to send him there.

We now trust the Lord to provide the necessary resources for this work. It has the potential of not only serving the members of the various churches in the rural areas but also of reaching out to those who live in the town. It is also very close to Kitale, less than an hour away.

3. Kitale Town

Early November, I took Nickson Teka and Martha Nasimiyu to Kitale Town as the second trip to assess the feasibility of planting a church there. The last trip in August was cut short by the road accident that left six of our members seriously injured. We confirmed that there are more than 5 people who greatly desire a Reformed Baptist church in the town. We also have seven of our church members in TBCN who originally come from Kitale and one of them, Francis Kamau, has now permanently relocated to live there and lacks a church he can identify with. His parents have been exerting pressure on him to rejoin them in the Roman Catholic! Please pray for Nick & Martha since they were married today the 5th December!



Nick Teka & Martha Nasimiyu

Nick Teka comes from the area and has a burden for his own area. Kitale is an agricultural town and a cosmopolitan area with most of the Kenyan communities living here. It has a population of over 160,000. It is especially known for its large maize (corn) farms and other agricultural products. They have already settled on a name – **Providence Baptist Church Kitale**.

4. Meru Town

This is the sixth largest urban centre in Kenya with an urban population of over 240,000. It lies on the Equator to the east of Mount Kenya, and 225 km north of Nairobi. It has subtropical highland climate. MI took Eric & Martha Kahure on the 24th November, with a view of sending them there. There is already a church 20 km east from the town planted by TBCN at a centre called Miathene. This is where Keith Underhill taught at the secondary school between 1968-1970 as a young man and where Murungi was later born! The church in Miathene is willing to bring Eric into its eldership for a period, where he can be tested before being sent out to plant a new church in Meru Town. It will also provide a softer landing for the Kahures as the Murungis have offered their ‘rural home’ to the couple.

There has been an ongoing Bible Study with the students of the Methodist University for over two years which is overseen by the brethren in Miathene. This will be a special responsibility assigned to Kahure once he arrives there.



Eric & Martha Kahure

5. Isiolo Town



Ebenezer Kimathi

This is a town 285 km north of Nairobi and is referred as the ‘gateway’ to Northern Kenya, and is situated in the middle of the country! The town has an estimated population of 80,000. There is an increasing urban population in the recent years, with people from as far as Samburu, Marsabit, Moyale and Mandera and even Ethiopia. They are mostly Cushitic-speaking communities such as Somali, Borana, Burji, and Rendille, together with the Nilotic-speaking Samburu and Turkana. Being by the borders of Meru County there are many Ameru people as well. Isiolo town is also increasingly becoming a centre of interest because of its newly acquired status as a resort city cashing in on the popular Samburu and Shaba Game Reserves, which have become preferred destinations after the famed Maasai Mara. It is also set to become a major part of Kenya's economic development plan, Vision 2030^[2] being designated the transport hub at the fork of LAPSSET, which will be the second largest corridor connecting the new Port of Lamu with South Sudan and Ethiopia. After Eritrea and South Sudan successfully seceded from Ethiopia and Sudan respectively, the two countries (South Sudan and Ethiopia) are

depending on Kenya to provide access to the sea for connectivity to the rest of the world for trade. For this reason, Isiolo International Airport has recently been built while various roads have been completed.

The town is dominantly Islamic and has several mosques. The Jamia mosque is the largest of all and the Roman Catholic Church's twin bell towers are also among the remarkable landmarks of Isiolo town. Although there are many Protestant Churches, there are none known to preach the doctrines of grace. For this reason, Ebenezer is seriously considering going there and so on the 27th November (last week) MI took him. We met a family who work for the Life Ministry (Shake & Ann), Mitchell (Ebenezer's friend) and the local Anglican Church pastor, Ibrahim Oche. Ibrahim narrated to us the difficulties and dangers of preaching the gospel to Islamic communities. He lamented that he has sustained three bullet wounds and one bullet is still lodged in his body! He welcomed Ebenezer and urged him to be strong and courageous as he prepares.

Ebenezer has just completed his first year of pastoral training at the TPC and pastoral internship. He has had interest in taking the gospel to the least reached communities especially the Somalis. Isiolo is one of those least militant towns with an Islamic presence because of its cosmopolitan nature. Ebenezer hopes to build contacts here in the next months and hopes to settle down to establish a church here within two years. Being unmarried, untested, inexperienced and a theological student, we don't desire to send him alone. We are especially praying for another man to join him so that the work can commence earlier. Please pray for the Lord to provide for his work.

Please pray for these prospects of church planting that the Lord may open wide doors for the gospel that Christ Jesus may be magnified in this country. We pray for the faithfulness of these men that they will serve the King with utmost diligence and zeal. We also trust the Lord to provide financially for his work as men are sent, so that they will not suffer in the field or be hindered from the work that the Lord is giving them. They all need much grace.

While we are very excited and eager for the gospel to go forth, we are also aware of the possibility of making mistakes since we have not really engaged in the work of this nature and magnitude before. We need a big dose of unlimited wisdom from above!

In Christ,

Murungi Igweta

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