

Prayer Letter from the Underhills

2024/6, 25th. November

Dear Brethren,

Greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ. It has been a very busy time since the last prayer letter with a lot of preaching opportunities some of which have involved weekend travelling.

The Charity TRAIN(Kenya)

We had an all-day meeting in mid-October to consider our priorities and how to use the funds with which we have been entrusted. At the present time we are supporting church leaders and students in pastoral training, theological education, extra teachers in church sponsored schools, and school fees for students.

We have started a Newsletter for the charity which we plan to be bimonthly. If you have not received no. 1 and would like to be put on the mailing list please let me know.

Pokot Ministry

(1) Two of the trustees of the charity will visit the Pokot brethren late January 2025, Oliver and myself. We will want to encourage the brethren, and see how the funds we have been sending for churches and schools have been used for the furtherance of the gospel. In six days, God willing, we shall do much visiting, speaking and consultation! Once again, the visit is being facilitated by brother Elly Achok of Mumias who will be with us with his vehicle.

(2) Youth Conference in December 4-7, at the Kamketo Church. This is a photo from the



August Ladies' Camp at Kasei, when there was an attendance of about 150. This time they are expecting at least 200 youth to attend for these few days. We have helped them with half the budgeted amount for the food and trust this Camp will be a great blessing to these young ones.

(3) Bible Light College, Kasei. There has been a long-standing plan to start a local church leaders' training programme. It was 20 years ago that the three present leaders completed the studies in Nairobi (TPC). Since that time a few others have started studies, but none have completed. Rooms for accommodation and teaching are half completed and there have been many applications from brethren in the churches to begin the studies (20?). The teaching materials to be used are from the Wisdom



Training Centre in Mumias. They have now questioned the proposed starting date of January 2025 because of the failure to complete the buildings. But we have encouraged them to start and to use the existing facilities (a large church building) and to have fewer students at the beginning. We have been very impressed by their planning and trust they will not be discouraged when things don't go exactly as they plan.

(4) Leaders. Brother Muketi from Kamketo has now completed two years at the TPC in Nairobi. In addition a brother from outside the Pokot community is considering helping in the ministry there. There is a such a need for well-trained leadership as there are 14 churches and only 4 men specifically set aside for the work of ministry.

(5) Chepkinagh church building. Much has been done on this permanent building so that it is now useable. There remains some plastering of walls, painting, widow glasses and doors. They were hoping to have it completed for our visit in January, but this has not proved possible. This photo was taken in July 2024. There are now 3 permanent church buildings in the 3 centres. The one at Kamketo is 20 years old and now too small!



(6) Baptisms. We thank the Lord that there have been reports of a number of baptisms. The photo is one of 13 who have professed faith in Kamketo and Kasei Churches and who were baptized during the Ladies' Camp in August. There were also baptisms in the Chepkinagh region when there was a joint service in September and another 13 were immersed. The Lord is at work and we are looking forward to going there soon and rejoicing.

Our Ministry

(1) Preaching in UK. From July through October I preached twice almost every Sunday, including 14 times in the local church here in Liverpool. This gave me the opportunity to preach a series on Hebrews 8 and the New Covenant, and Amazing Grace (The 5 Points of Calvinism). The latter I also preached over Zoom to Bethzatha Church in Nairobi as the pastor, a former student of mine, felt it was so needful for his church members. Future preaching opportunities, and other times of consultation, are now relatively few and this will enable me to devote more attention to writing:

29/11 Bethzatha Baptist. They want me to continue preaching over Zoom, this time on The Lord's Day, which I will base on Revelation 1:10.

08/12 Charlesworth, Trinity Baptist. I preach twice, morning and early afternoon, after a lunch together. This is my third visit in the past few months and I will conclude a short series on Habakkuk. They are a church of about 12 when they are all there.

10/12 Ethiopia EBST (Ethiopian Bible School of Theology). This school is under Addis Baptist Church where brother Abdi and family are members. This is a Board meeting where they are looking for my advice with my past experience of the TPC in Nairobi.

10/12 Pains Hill Chapel with Abdi. This is a small church with an interest in the ministry amongst his 5000 people. As the brethren seek to find out what he is doing on a Zoom call I am there with my background to help them 'understand'.

12/12 Young Adults. There are at least 5 young adults in the local church and I meet with them in the home of an elder fortnightly. We have been studying Biblical Manhood and Womanhood and now, at their request, we will spend a few sessions with an overview of church history.

04/01 Ramsbottom Youth. This is a ministry of Trinity Grace and this Conference is on the theme of The Working Christian, and my responsibility is to deal with Work in the Home.

[07-09/01 Carey Conference. Let me inject here this Conference on 'To the Ends of the Earth' a subject very dear to me of course. We hope to attend together with brother Barnabas Olare from Mombasa. TRAIN(Kenya) is wishing for him to have exposure here in UK, but at present there is delay in securing the necessary visa.]

20/01 Visit to Kenya

(2) Visit to Kenya. God willing, I shall be making a further visit to Kenya in January/February 2025. Here is the proposed itinerary.

- 21st. Tuesday – Arrive early morning in **Nairobi** and spend much of the day with brethren. Meet up with Oliver late afternoon and fly to **Kisumu** where we shall be picked up by brother Elly and taken to his home in **Mumias**.
- 22nd. Wednesday – Drive to **Pokot**, where we plan to spend 6 full days.
- 29th. Wednesday – Return to **Mumias**.
- 30th. Thursday – Drive to **Kisumu**, from where Oliver will return to UK later in the day. I plan to spend the weekend with Tonny Karwa and family, pastor of Grace Baptist Church there, and to minister the word on Sunday. I shall also plan to see some brethren in the area on Friday and Saturday.
- 3rd. Monday – Morning flight to **Nairobi**. I will spend the rest of Monday and the whole of Tuesday with brethren in Nairobi, and depart for home very late in the evening.

(3) Apart from preaching I have been very busy writing. Since October 2023 I have been writing a weekly Facebook blog usually from something I have been reading which I think significant. We are hoping that the book, *Planted By The Providence of God*, will be printed in Kenya, and that *Becoming a Christian*, will be published here in UK. There is interest in printing a translation of the latter into two languages in Ethiopia. I have taken up a new project, to write on the glorious subject of *Grace*, grace in the various aspects of our

salvation. I preached a series on this twice while in Nairobi and received the impetus from Abraham Booth's *The Reign of Grace*. With the help of son Matthew I am also seeking to develop a website, with information about the Lord's work in Kenya and beyond, and with various resources that I have developed over the years.

(4) Other interests. A family from TBC Nairobi have recently relocated to **Rwanda** to teach in the Rafiki Village (school) there. You might be aware that very many churches have been closed because of new government regulations. "They require that it's built on a property owned by the church, with soundproofing and water harvesting. There are also requirements on parking areas, and security systems. Also, there must be something else other than the church, such as a school. So, it's only one reformed (Baptist) church which was on their property but then they have had to start a school in the property. They hope to be approved to reopen soon. Most churches will not reopen, since their financial capabilities are way too low to meet these demands." There are also requirements for formal training for leaders, something that the Kenya government also says it will implement. This is one reason why there are many applicants for the Nairobi TPC.

Ourselves

To finish with, a little about ourselves. The Lord has given us contentment in our house here in Liverpool. Between church, family and ministry we keep quite busy and are thankful for usefulness. What used to be the downstairs dining room we have converted into a sewing room for Priscilla for the many Dorcas-like projects she seeks to be involved in. Over the past months she has had cataracts in both eyes removed. The second one caused some inflammation but she has now be pronounced OK! Soon she will have to go for a spectacles' prescription. I have been able to preach although my right vocal chord has still not completely recovered from its 'palsy'.

Keith & Priscilla

kunderhill@digitalsavannah.co.uk
priscilla.underhill@digitalsavannah.co.uk

+44 7842698151 (Keith)
+44 7912079482 (Priscilla)

Other websites:

TBC Nairobi – <https://www.trinity.or.ke>

TPC – <https://www.tpc.or.ke>

TRAIN(Kenya) – www.trainkenya.com

Trinity Grace Church, Ramsbottom –
<https://trinitygracechurch.net>