

Prayer Letter from the Underhills

2026/1, 11th. February

Dear Brethren,

I want to begin with some family news.

1. Family News

(1) By God's will I have attained to 80 years of age. I recently read a prayer of John Newton written in his diary 6 years before he actually died. May this be true of me, and please pray that it may be so. "Oh for grace to meet the approach of death with a humble, thankful, resigned spirit becoming my profession. That I may not stain my character by impatience, jealousy, or any hateful temper but may be prepared and permitted to depart in peace and hope and be enabled, if I can speak, to bear my testimony to thy faithfulness and goodness with my past breath. Amen."

(2) Last month Priscilla became a citizen of the United Kingdom! (also retaining her American as a dual citizen)



There were 20-30 others being naturalized. It was a serious yet welcoming ceremony that took about 30 minutes. It is here that we expect to finish the race and considered that both being citizens would make for less possible problems in the future.

(3) Grand-daughter Carys is marrying May 23rd. 2026. Simon and Carys are both members of the church in Liverpool and they have asked me to preach at the wedding ceremony. May the Lord be glorified on that day and in their marriage.

2. Ministry in UK

(1) Liverpool, Belvidere Road. We meet with 5 or more Young Adults twice a month on a Thursday evening, and have started an examination of the 1689 Baptist Confession, a chapter at a time. It is from such that future church leaders will be raised up, and even sent to where Christ is not known.

(2) Edinburgh, Grace Baptist (1/2). The church was planted in 2014 and, as with many newer churches in the U.K. has many who were born outside the country. It is wonderful to fellowship with Christians all over the world and to know that we are one in Christ. A Kenyan family, who live in nearby Glasgow, came to the morning service. The lady I had first met when I was a teacher in Kenya in 1969 and she was a small child. I have not seen her since. Her father, who is still alive at 95 (see prayer letter 2023/4), was deeply influenced by the East African Revival and was very close to me in the Lord as a young man in Kenya.

(3) Liverpool, Dovecot Evangelical (8/2). I was given the subject 'Suffering and God's Providence' to speak on to their Young Adults in the afternoon. There were 5 in attendance.

(4) Preston, Ashton Baptist (15/2). This small church has no pastor/elders, but has seen a few new faces, again people born outside the country. I will be preaching in the morning and then leading them in the Lord's Supper. Especially encouraging in December was a Pakistani family with a Christian background with two of the late teenage children professing salvation.

(5) Parbold Evangelical (29/3). This is a fairly typical church in a very small town/large village. The only children are of the young pastor! We have arranged this time so that I can preach and give a report of my visit to Kenya (see below).

(6) Hull, Kingston Evangelical (12/4). This is a church on the opposite side (east) of the country from Liverpool where I am invited at least twice a year as they look for a pastor. Again they are mostly elderly. A lovely Nigerian Christian family have joined with children. Some are surprised that the children are brought to all the church meetings, what they always did in Nigeria!

I am planning to attend the Banner of Truth Ministers' Conference, 20-23/4, God willing.

3. Ministry to Kenya

(1) In God's providence, brother Elly Achok was not granted a visa to come to the Carey Conference in January. God has His purpose in these denials. "Weaving blessings out of trials; out of grief evolving bliss; answering prayers by wise denials when Thy children ask amiss" (Hymn by Jane Crewdson, 'Lord, we know that Thou art near us').

(2) We do hope to meet up in early March (next month) when I plan to visit Kenya with one of the trustees of the charity TRAIN(Kenya), Alan Wigley. It will be his first visit! We plan to spend most of the time amongst the Pokot brethren, and Elly will be taking us. The Bible Light College continues with 6 additional students this year, making a total of 15. We are praying for the Lord to raise up leaders for the 14+ churches there. Below is a photo of the students and the three teachers (sitting one on left and two on right).



I am also planning a visit to Kenya in June with a young man from the church here in Liverpool.

(3) I have continued to have monthly Zoom sessions with the Bethzatha Baptist Church of Nairobi and from brethren in some of their church plants. We are going to do the fifth and final session on Covenant Theology on 27/2.

4. Books

(1) 'Planted by the Providence of God', a history of Trinity Baptist Church in Kenya to 2015, is soon to be published in Kenya, which will make it much more accessible to the brethren there.

(2) The book on 'Grace' that I completed a few months back is scheduled to be published here in UK before the end of 2026, God willing.

(3) 'Becoming a Christian' is in the process of being published in a third language in Ethiopia, this time in Somali. You can read it (in English!) on my website.

Thank you for your continuing fellowship in the gospel.

In Christ's service

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