

TRAIN(Kenya)

Newsletter 7 – November 2025

Our aim as a charity is to pull alongside the brethren in Kenya and encourage them to persevere. This is a vital work, as we are exhorted by the writer to the Hebrews:

Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed. Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears. Hebrews 12:12-17

The danger of losing heart and falling away is especially great in a context where the afflictions are many, needs mount up, support is lacking, discouragements are relentless and temptation never ceases. How critical our work really is! How necessary that we should never tire in continuing to lift up and sustain and relieve and support as best we can. Will you help us? Below are three examples of the discouragements that our brethren face “on the ground” in the parts of Kenya where we are active.

False Teaching

One of the greatest discouragements is caused by false teaching. So many who claim to be Christians are deceived by the “Word of Faith” movement, where people are taught to use their words to access God's blessings, including health, wealth, and prosperity. The claim is made that physical healing has been secured for all who will believe; that it is God's purpose for all his children to be wealthy and successful; and that positive declarations of faith in God's readiness to give us what we desire will bring it to pass.



Ibrahim Katana, a pastor that we help to support in the Mombasa region, was delivered out of this false doctrine, trained in the great truths of the Bible and now seeks to teach other pastors the real gospel of salvation in Christ. In a recent message he reported:

The month of September has been a busy month as the Wisdom Training Centre classes started in Kilifi county where we have 21 students. I was teaching unit 'A', Are you a Christian? In this unit, we seek to prove from the Scriptures and show it to the students by explaining it clearly why we need to be saved and how we are saved. In so doing we refute the wrong ways that has made salvation so cheap; e.g. sinners' prayer among others. This unit brings to the students the saving gospel in its reality. And almost all of them at the end agree that they are not saved. I taught the same class in in

Malindi. There I have 35 students. Most of the residents there are Cushite, their language is somehow related to the Somalis, but these ones are hunters and gatherers. What I noticed there is that place is totally dark; yes there are few buildings called churches, but they go to the church while following their traditions. I thank God for giving me an opportunity to preach to them the gospel.

We thank God for building Utakaso Bible Church. Right now there are 30 regular attendees. Among them 13 were baptised, and 6 are awaiting interviews. We do our evangelising on Fridays and we thank God, for through the evangelising, we receive visitors, though not every Lord's day. But whenever we have visitors, I personally meet with them after the service with an aim to see where they have been challenged, or where they have not understood, answer any questions, and expound the gospel to them again and again in a way that even if they will not come back, they may have heard the gospel that saves. I always appreciate you for your advice that I should not be amazed if troubles arise, but to be steadfast, patient and faithful to my Lord. I'm eagerly longing for the return of my Lord and master.

Rooted Immorality



Another great challenge and cause of discouragement is the immorality that continues to trouble communities, even when the gospel has been proclaimed and churches established for many years. Often the reason for this lack of transformation is the “rootedness” of traditional practices and ways of living. Even when the truth of God’s word has been proclaimed repeatedly, there can be a great reluctance to “live it out” because of this cultural context.

A clear example of this concerns polygamy. In the Pokot region of rural Western Kenya, polygamy is a way of life for whole communities. By means of polygamy, families are able to expand, men can increase their wealth, while at the same time establishing their reputation in the community. Even when younger men become convinced of the Bible’s teaching and desire to be faithful to one wife, the older men, including their own fathers, continue in polygamy and discourage them from choosing what is perceived to be the path to poverty and insignificance. This can even be the case with some of the older men in the churches (similar to those pictured) – while they would not openly oppose the truth, they quietly undermine the necessity of applying it rigorously.

This can be extremely discouraging to church leaders who have been teaching and setting a biblical example, in some cases, for decades. Yet progress is being made, with several of the younger men now standing out and being faithful to their wives. How they need our prayerful and practical support.

Lack of Resources

When basic necessities are lacking, it can be very difficult to focus on the work of the gospel and to remain faithful in the ministry. Often, lack of resources can strike at the heart of a man's family life and cause such anxiety and distress that he finds it almost impossible to continue. For example, a minister in Pokot might face some or all of these challenges at once:

- His wife is suddenly taken ill, and the nearest hospital is several hours away by motorbike, which is hardly suitable for transporting her in sickness; on arrival and diagnosis, the pastor cannot afford the drugs that are prescribed.
- The school fees for his children (everyone has to pay towards their children's fees) are too high and they are therefore not able to attend school.
- Drought or disease has caused his crops to fail, or his animals to die, so that he cannot feed his family.
- He lacks the resources necessary to repair his motorbike, meaning that he is unable to travel except on foot, which makes his ministry in the churches almost impossible.
- When this is added to the fact that he is opposed in the church by one of the older men (such men have authority in the community) on the matter of polygamy, and he finds himself isolated and undermined in his leadership, the result is that he "feels like giving up."



Will you continue to help and support those facing false teaching, rooted immorality and severe lack of resources? Please pray and give as you are able.

Newsletter written by Oliver Allmand-Smith on behalf of all the trustees.