

## Pray for Kenya October 2016 (2)

Dear Brethren:

The second part of the ministry in Kenya was a visit to Pokot North from September 15<sup>th</sup>. to 21<sup>st</sup>. I was with Cliff Barton, a Deacon in the church here in Liverpool, and a trustee of our charity TRAIN(Kenya). He says it was his fifth time to visit Pokot with me.



I finished the TPC teaching lunch time Wednesday then travelled with all the students as far as Eldoret to spend the night with a family from TBC Nairobi. We then travelled into Pokot North with the 4 students who come from there (on right) – Samuel Waswa, Peter Nalunyit, Stephen Ong’ulo, Geoffrey Ng’ole.

Pokot North is the northern most part of the County of West Pokot, that which is north and west of the Turkwell/Suam River that eventually flows into Lake Turkana. It has been a remote and undeveloped area as it is only approachable from the west and until a bridge was constructed over the Kanyareng River it was cut off during rain. The plains stretching into Uganda were also dangerous places with endemic cattle rustling involving neighbouring tribes. These things are now largely of the past and even electricity is being supplied. We started work in the area in 2000 and there has been church planting and establishment of schools.

In the few days we were there we were able to visit 9 of the 14 meeting places, 6 of the Primary Schools, and both of the Secondary Schools. In the 7 days there were 22 opportunities to preach. The most demanding day was climbing the few thousand feet up to the work on Tarakit mountain. While the local people can do it in an hour or even less it took us about 3 hours! What incredible views greet us, all the way into Uganda on a clear day.

### Churches

(Left to right)

Andrew Chemolok (Chepkinagh)

Thomas Lokerisa (Kamketo)

Patricko Odhiambo (Kamketo missionary)

Joshua Sitet (Kasei)

[excuse the quality, we talked so much that I forgot to take a picture while it was still light]



There are 11 churches with a total of about 200 baptized on profession of their faith in the Lord Jesus. 3 Pokot men lead the work, each having gone through the TPC in Nairobi many years ago.

There are another 3 men we have sent there from other parts of Kenya so they do not speak the Pokot language. Many of the local people do not speak Kiswahili or English, only Pokot. So the main work of these 3 is in the schools where all teaching is in English. Then there are also the 4 more men who are being trained in the TPC, 3 of whom are Pokot, and one is from Uganda.



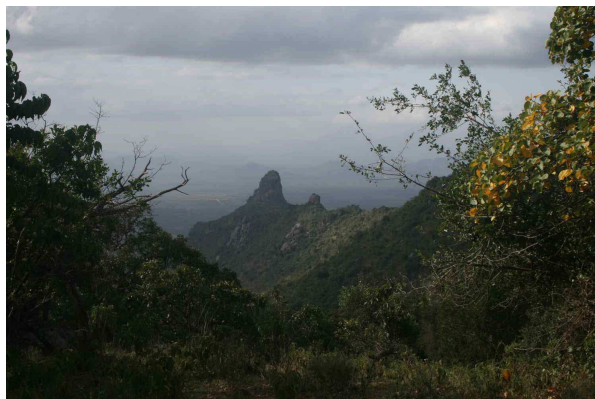
*This is Samuel Wafula Waswa (and family) who is a missionary in Chepkinagh. His wife and oldest son are already conversing in Pokot. Samuel ministers in our Primary School and visits the many surrounding churches.*

There is a plan to start a training programme in Kamketo to help those who do not have proficiency in English to be part of the TPC in Nairobi. Each of the local churches needs men who are apt to teach, and such men need to be sent out to still other places.

There has been the influx of a multitude of churches over the past years and we wonder how many have the Biblical gospel. One of the great problems in society is polygamy so that even younger men are adding wives. This necessitates

excommunication for those who came in to the church not being polygamists, and refusal to consider leadership for those who were already polygamists. We have recently seen one long-standing professing Christian finally succumb and add a wife. Another serious problem is the inability to see their own responsibility to provide for their leaders. Most live by growing crops in the hills and keeping cattle on the plains, so there is not the normal cash economy. Animals are not regularly sold but are kept for dowry payments and special needs like hospitalization and school fees.

Climbing the few thousand feet up to **Tarakit** was quite challenge! At 7,000 feet it is appreciably cooler. But the views are stunning. On a clear day it is claimed one can see Lake Kyoga in Uganda.



Although it was past 10 o'clock the small school was just having its assembly outside under the flag. We went to the staff room and talked with the Head Teacher. All the classrooms are mud walled with corrugated iron roofs. However this room had a concrete floor and a concrete facing for the inner walls. This is so that the wiring for the solar panels could be done leading to sockets all around for the time when computers will be standard for every pupil. We were taken out to the playing field where the pupils sang for us in English and Kiswahili, and then we preached to them. Then it was time to preach to the people who had gathered in the church building, not only from Tarakit, but also the further ridges of Kapkaghun and Kapyomot. Again there were two consecutive sessions of preaching. First on the Parable of the Sower and people who fall away. Second on John 14:1-3, the hope we have vs. their too great involvement and hope in politics. Then finally we had to hear from representatives of each local church what are their problems and needs.

Andrew Chemolok has been going to near a centre named **Kiwawa** for a number of months, and we made our first visit there this time. We went off the road/track, through the bush, got out and walked over a gulley, and there we found people waiting for us.



Almost immediately I engaged an older man (Mzee) who had recently become very interested in the Word. He had been a formidable raider of cattle of the neighbouring tribes but the gospel has changed all that. I questioned him about his faith in Christ and he showed a good basic understanding which so encouraged us.



The story goes that Mzee Jackson was at the Men's Retreat held for the churches in July this year. There he spotted another Mzee, Domoo, who many years ago had also been such a noted raider. It may be an exaggeration but without more ado he immediately went to the man and embraced him, two wicked men saved by the same Lord!

One of the most encouraging places has been **Wasat** where we first went to preach the gospel in 2008. Many from a completely pagan background have been saved and are continuing in the faith. We started a school here and because the Government recognized the work we had done in opening up a completely new place they quickly built some classrooms. It is the first place where we are working that also has its own water supply from a bore hole and that also supplies the small centre that has recently grown up. As in every place we go we are able to gather the school pupils and freely speak to them from the Scriptures. Here in Wasat the Head Teacher is a professing believer and wants to be a member of the church.



In 2013 we walked through the bush for an hour from Wasat to a further new place called **Kwirir**. For the visit we drove for only 10 minutes along the 'road' that had recently been hacked out of the bush. This is the way that communities are gradually opened up to modern society.



Preaching in Kwirir



New Kwirir road

Of course, this process of road building is far more difficult where people live on ridges high up in the hills. In the 3 hours we spent at Kwirir I preached on The Death of Christ (Matthew 20:25-28), and on What is a Christian? (Acts 2:37-38). In the interlude we drank tea (chai) and ate unleavened flatbread (chapatti). Far more importantly brethren from Wasat now come to preach here every Sunday. The word is spreading and the kingdom is advancing. There is another community, yet two more hours walk away that we have our eye on.

The main town for the Pokot people is Kapenguria/Makutano. They are constantly making the long journey and many have found jobs here. Because the business that brings them often requires many days there is the need to plant a church in this town. Meetings have already started and there is a need for a trained leader to be sent there. Would you please pray about this?

Lastly there are various financial needs.

- We support the 3 leaders and 3 missionaries working in North Pokot.
- The church building at Kasei needs completion.
- Chepkinagh needs a permanent church building.
- There are the needs of the schools, to which I now turn.



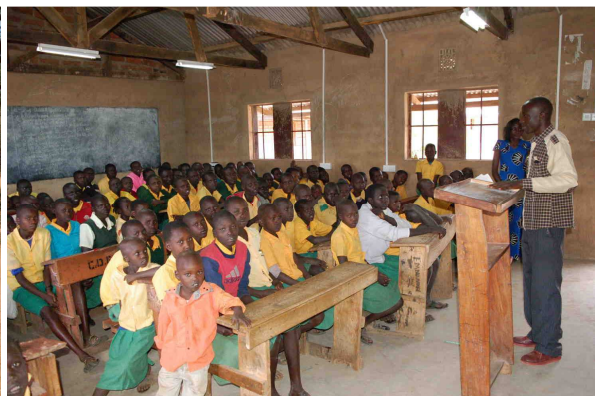
Kasei building

## Schools

The highlight of our visit to the schools was the Sunday afternoon we visited the girls at Kamketo Trinity Girls' Secondary School.



Kamketo Trinity Girls



Chepkinagh Primary Pupils

The girls sang for us, Cliff spoke to them, and I spoke to them on the theme that struggles bring maturity. This was because we had been presented with all the usual problems that a new school experiences. But it was what the Principal of the School, Mary, said when she welcomed us. She clearly noted that it is the policy of the Kenyan Government that 'every pupil in a school sponsored by a church should follow the doctrine of that church'. So what an opportunity the Lord has given us!! The previous day we also had the privilege to speak to the few hundred boys at the Kasei Boys' Secondary School, and I spoke on Acts 17:16-31 with its call to repentance. Isaiah Juma ministers to the boys in Kasei, and Patricko Odhiambo with his wife to the girls in Kamketo.

We would like to give thanks to God that many of you gave so that we could have all the funds needed to support the schools for 2016. But 2017 is just around the corner, and we do not want to be in the situation where we pay out without the funds coming in. It has been a real struggle to clear the debts of 2015, but by God's mercy we have managed to do so. The details remain more or less what I sent you some months back (4.2016). I can resend that to you or answer any questions you have. We shall be so thankful if you can commit to helping for 2017, and even more long term.

In Christ's service,

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You might be interested to read what happened at one of our recent weddings -  
<http://afrocalvinist.com/wedding-sermon-adulterated-by-bishop/>

For the latest report from Elly Achok in Mumias (October 2016) go to  
<http://trinitybaptistkenya.org/category/gospel-missions-agency/>

Please visit the TRAIN(Kenya) website [www.trainkenya.com](http://www.trainkenya.com)