

# Gospel Work in Pokot North, Kenya

Pokot North is the north part of West Pokot County in the remote north-west of Kenya.

There are about 800,000 people who speak the Pokot language, and those in Pokot North still largely follow their traditional ways. Here they have farms in the hills and keep cattle and other livestock on the plains stretching west into Uganda where many wander in the dry season in search of pasture. So there has been endemic cattle raiding with the neighbouring people to the west (Karamojong in Uganda), and to the north (Turkana).

Christianity is only a generation old in Pokot North. First, it is a remote area, only accessible from the west. Then until as recently as 1970 it was administered by Uganda and was not a part of Kenya at all. It is less than 20 years that a bridge has been built over the seasonal Kanyareng River which cut the area off during the rainy seasons.

Trinity Baptist Church (Nairobi) started preaching here about 20 years ago and in 2000 three churches were established. There are now 12 churches with many having been saved over these years. Pictures of these different places can be found at:

[www.trinitybaptistkenya.org](http://www.trinitybaptistkenya.org)



Traditional Pokot Hut



# SCHOOLS



Preaching to Kapterema Primary



Preaching to Chepkinagh Primary

It is usually the community that starts schools in Kenya, then when it is established the Government comes in to develop infrastructure and begin supplying teachers. The community looks to well-wishers like churches. The well-wisher remains the sponsor, which means that as a church we can teach our faith in all the schools. We have 3 Kenyan missionaries (from outside Pokot) whose primary work is to minister in the schools as Chaplains, especially where there is a boarding element.

There are now 12 primary schools sponsored by Trinity Baptist Church in Pokot North with a couple of thousand children registered. There are also 2 secondary schools, Kasei Boys with 250 pupils, and Kamketo Trinity Girls with 40 (2016) but is developing. The Government does not have enough trained teachers for these growing numbers of schools so that we as a church are employing more than 30 teachers, plus the Chaplains. This is a great financial burden for the sponsoring church in Nairobi, Trinity Baptist Church. Although many in the community are quite rich in cattle, they have yet to see the great importance of education, especially for girls. We are praying that there will be more genuinely Christian teachers and so we are concerned to support those suitably qualified to train as teachers.



Preaching to Kasei Boys' High School



Kamketo Trinity Girls & Principal



# CHURCHES



Kasei Trinity Baptist



Kapterema Congregation

The gospel started to come into this area of Kenya less than 40 years ago. Most people are still enmeshed in their traditions. Polygamy and FGM remain very widely practised. So although there are many churches now Christian practices are not deeply rooted. In 2000 there were just 3 churches in fellowship with Trinity Baptist Church, Nairobi, now, there are 12, and 2 church plants, and yet further areas calling for us to come. With religious freedom and development of the area many kinds of Christianity are vying for influence, yet not much of it is solidly Biblical.

3 local men have been trained in the Trinity Pastors' College in Nairobi, and get some support. One more is being trained. The brethren want to start their own Bible School so as to train those who cannot make it to Nairobi for one reason or another. So few have education and so lack a good knowledge of English. There are more than 150 baptized believers. Each year they organize large conventions for many hundreds of men, and women and youth. These are days of great opportunity, but the labourers are few. We have been able to send them 3 missionaries from within Kenya especially to help in ministering to the young people in schools where education is all in English.



Tarakit Church building



Preaching at Kwirir



# TRAIN (Kenya)

TRAIN (Kenya) is a charity, registered in the U.K. set up to encourage churches in Kenya that belong to the Reformed Baptist Association of Kenya (RBAK). The charity seeks to support the work begun by Keith Underhill in Kenya (1975-2015), by visits from the trustees, spreading information to local churches in the U.K by personal visits and the below website, and encouraging prayer and giving.

Please visit the charity's website where you will find the ways you can make contact:

[www.trainkenya.com](http://www.trainkenya.com).

On the website you will find various reports, and a daily prayer list which is produced monthly.

Further information, and many photos, can be found at:

[www.trinitybaptistkenya.org](http://www.trinitybaptistkenya.org).

## **Prayer needs:**

- Faithfulness for the leaders in preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- The triumph of the gospel in the salvation of sinners.
- Raising up of more leaders, and start of a local Bible School.
- Church members standing firm against the old culture.
- Conversion of secondary school students to become future leaders in the churches.
- Impact of the truth upon the hundreds of primary school pupils.

## **Financial needs:**

- Support of the three local leaders, and the three missionaries sent there from outside of Pokot.
- Support of the more than 30 teachers needed to augment the few the Government is able to provide in the 12 primary schools.
- Development of church buildings and school infrastructure.



Church Leaders in Kasei



Andrew Chemolock Church leader  
in Chepkinagh area