

PRAY FOR KEITH & PRISCILLA UNDERHILL  
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH, NAIROBI, KENYA

“Pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honoured” (2 Thess. 3:1, ESV)

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Dear Brethren

Thank you for your prayers for us. Priscilla continues to make progress although she is apprehensive about the visa application. We went to see an immigration lawyer and found out that there is yet another document that we need to have which might take some days to obtain. While there we saw a file some inches thick for another person applying for the same visa. Hopefully, ours is a lot more straightforward, as we did not get married yesterday! God willing, we hope to be able to apply very soon.

We had the joy of son Matthew visiting us for a week at the end of June / beginning of July. He had been sent to do a week's work in Malawi so was able to stop by on the way back. He is an obvious one to represent his organization in Africa, being a son of the soil and so having an immediate understanding of some things that would perplex/annoy others. He feels fulfilled in the work (in IT) as it is in the medical field and it is of genuine help to needy people.

**Trinity Baptist Church, Nairobi (TBC)**

(1) On Sunday mornings I have continued *preaching* on Galatians, and the theme of Justification by Faith. I chose this as my last series before leaving Kenya with the prayer that the church will be totally founded on the Biblical Gospel, and on its proper relationship to the law of God. I have also finished the short evening series on the Five Points of Calvinism, the first time I have done this! The auditorium is fairly full on a Sunday morning with up to 150 including children, but only 30-50 at 4 pm and mostly members.

(2) A further *Meaty Forum*, this time on Christian Liberty, was held on 10<sup>th</sup> July. We tried a new format as we were only two panellists (Murungi and myself). We sought to make it a discussion and interaction between the two of us, so it was more of a conversation than alternate lectures. We wanted to emphasize that really there is nothing like 'freedom' for Biblical principles must govern the sum totality of our lives. We sought to set the groundwork by telling people that we are set free from sin, not in order to sin, but to become slaves of righteousness (Rm. 6:18). The second half of the two-hour programme was for questions, and again the 30 or so participants showed their seriousness in getting to grips with what the Bible teaches instead of just arguing for a position.

(3) A '*Preachers' Club*' has started as many, especially the younger brethren, feel that we must take the Gospel into the community around us. Each month there will be a Saturday morning meeting, where there is to be preaching on 'preaching', discussion and prayer, and then evangelism in the afternoon. So on 11<sup>th</sup> July I spoke for about an hour on 'The Gospel Message'. The PTC students were present together with about 10 of our brethren. In the afternoon Murungi led them in an open-air meeting in our nearby shopping centre. What a marked contrast it was from such meetings that are so regular and what an eye-opener to the PTC students! They could not believe you can have such an open-air without endless entertainment with singing and blasting people's ears with the PA system. Thank God for the freedom we still have in this country, although we did need to get permission for the open-air.

### **Pastoral Theological Course (PTC)**

We studied Hermeneutics from 8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> July. Sadly a number of students were not able to come. Some were too sick, others could not find money for transport to Nairobi. We used three books which are at different levels, Dodman on Hermeneutics, Berkhof on Principles of Biblical Interpretation, and Terry on Biblical Hermeneutics. With backgrounds in churches where the Bible is handled very carelessly, the students were very challenged by the hard work that must go in to 'rightly handling the word of truth'.

Only two of them had completed the work that was introduced in March, the last time the PTC was held. They struggle with the large amount of work, having to support their family by working because their churches do not support them, and being church planters/pastors.

The next session is in September when I shall be teaching again.

### **Other Churches**

In the forthcoming letters I want to tell you all of the churches and church plants with which we have close fellowship.

Olgumi: There are three churches immediately west of Nairobi in the Kedong Valley of the Great Rift Valley. Olgumi itself is actually on the side of a great extinct volcano called Suswa. **Stephen ole Kakaoya** is the pastor here and the only person with training. He was to re-engage in the PTC in January but in God's mysterious providence suffered a serious stroke in December. Although he is now mobile he cannot talk and may never do so again, although the Lord may graciously surprise us. But for the present the church is effectively leaderless and is going through hard times. My fellow pastor Murungi went there the other Sunday, and at <http://trinitybaptistkenya.org/reports/Keith's> you can read the report of Pastor Murungi. We are seeing how someone from TBC Nairobi can go each month to give encouragement. We do not at present have someone to go there permanently.



### **South Sudan:**



*I took this picture of David Awan and his family in Malakal in 2010 on my first visit to South Sudan.*

As you may know this new country has been involved in a civil war for more than a year. Our contact there is **David Awan Malek**, who is the Moderator of the Trinity Baptist Churches of South Sudan (TBCOSS). What does that mean when vast areas have been devastated? Malakal where he comes from, the capital of Upper Nile State, is deserted except for soldiers and a UN refugee camp. The area east of Malakal, with towns like Bailliet and Adong by the Sobat River, are totally

destroyed, and the TBC congregations dispersed. David himself took his large family and other dependants south to Yei but even there could not find peace. So they are now across the border in Uganda as refugees. He is especially looking for education for his children. He could get employment with the South Sudanese Government but would have to live away from his family and would not be able to come for the PTC in Nairobi. He was with us 7<sup>th</sup> through 17<sup>th</sup> and fully participated in the studies. His prayer is to do our three year course and, assuming peace has returned to his country, set up a Bible School training in Malakal for the Reformed Faith. It is expensive to fly him here every two months, but we believe it is the only way at present. We have been given a kind gift that will cater for the next two to three visits. The civil war shows how needy the country is, although 80% claim to be Christian. Please pray for David and the dispersed Christians that this will be the opportunity to show the real faith in Christ.

Ethiopia: Three of our TBC Nairobi members are there in Addis Ababa.



*Melesse, KU, Hannah, Mekdes (AO's wife), taken late 2012 on my last visit to Ethiopia.*

They are longing for a Reformed Baptist Church to be planted in this capital city. It is very much dominated by the Charismatics. A meeting has started, encouraged by an Ethiopian Pastor who presently ministers in London. I would like to visit with him to have a Conference so that we can encourage this work to grow.

Thank you for your love and prayers.

In Christ's service,

**Keith & Priscilla Underhill**

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