

Pray for Kenya

June-September 2018

Dear Brethren,

It is a number of months since I have written 'Pray for Kenya'. Much of what goes on you may learn from the monthly Prayer Diary. Because we are no longer resident in Kenya we do not have the same ready access to information. Therefore much that is contained below is in the form of reports.

Priscilla and I have continued to know the gracious blessing of God on our lives. Priscilla is conscious that she continues to improve after her stroke almost 4 years ago, and she keeps quite active. We have applied for the extension of her visa to remain in the UK for another 2+ years and we are expecting the result at any time. Keith has been busy preaching most Sundays, latterly at the church we attend in Liverpool, where we are also going through the process of becoming members.

Please do pray with us for the forthcoming visit to Kenya. Cliff Barton of our registered charity TRAIN(Kenya), and also from the Belvidere Road Church in Liverpool, will be accompanying me for the whole 4 weeks. Pray for Priscilla in my absence and for the family as they take care of her. Matthew has recently moved to walking distance from where we live. Below is the proposed schedule of the visit.

September

- 11 Depart Liverpool early morning, and arrive Nairobi late evening.
- 12-14,17-19 Teaching the students of the **TPC** on the Doctrine of Man, and part of Early Church History that has to do with the doctrine of man.
- 16 Preaching at **TBC**, both morning and afternoon.
- 20 Depart for **Pokot North**, and arrive the next day. We expect to visit most of the 13 places where churches and corresponding schools have been established. We look forward to many opportunities to preach the Word to the church members, the wider community, and to school children. On the last Sunday a joint meeting of all the churches is planned at Kasei for the formal setting apart of two leaders in the three most established churches – Chepkinagh, Kamketo and Kasei. We trust that this “putting into order” will be a great blessing to these brethren.

October

- 1 Return to Nairobi, and arrive the next day.
- 4-8 The Association of Churches (**RBAK**) has its annual meeting and we expect 20 churches to be represented. I have been asked to speak twice.
- 6 This year marks the **Ruby Anniversary** (40th.) of the start of TBC Nairobi, and I have been asked to speak on this special day. Already photos across the years are being uploaded onto Facebook as we remember what the Lord has done in His mercy.
- 7 Preaching at **TBC** Nairobi in the morning.
- 8 Depart Nairobi late evening, and arrive Liverpool next morning.

Murungi Igweta

He has been very busy, both in Nairobi and outside.

- (1) He is set to visit the **USA** in September, and the following schedule has been arranged.
- Grace Fellowship , East Haven, CT (5) – Ken Kiambati from TBC Nairobi has been here while studying at Yale, and is now enrolled in the Puritan Seminary in Grand Rapids. Murungi will just miss seeing him.
 - Grace Baptist, Carlisle, PA (9)
 - Reibers Reformed Baptist, PA (9)
 - Grace Church of North Olmstead, OH (12) – This is the church where our son Jonathan and his family are members.
 - Reformed Baptist Church of Riverside, CA (16) – RBCR is closely involved with TBC Nairobi, sending teachers every year for the TPC.
 - Trinity Baptist Church, La Mirada, CA (23)
 - Reformed Baptist Network (25-27)
 - West Coast Bible Conference, Sunnyvale, CA
 - Christ Bible Church, Dublin, CA (30)

[The following make reference to reports, by both Murungi and brother Tonny Karwa who is a TPC student and intern, all to be found at <http://trinitybaptistkenya.org/reports>. These are lengthy reports with pictures.]

(2) Please read the reports from the visit to **Korr, Rendille**, in May 2018. There are further reports that the Bible has been officially presented in the Rendille language. While this is a great milestone, the overwhelming need remains the true preaching of that word throughout the villages of the Rendille people of north Kenya. That burden comes through in these reports. Please pray for more zealous labourers of the gospel.

(3) Please read the report from the visit to **Katilu, Turkana**, in the remote north-west of Kenya, north and east of Pokot North. This is the first time that leaders of TBC Nairobi have visited this ministry. The Pokot and Turkana have an age-old conflict over animals in their communities leading to countless raids and deaths. Education and modernization is conquering it, but it is only the gospel that can change the heart of hatred and coveteousness.

(4) Please read the report from one of the leaders in **Pokot North**, Joshua Sitet of Kasei. It is so encouraging to read of new opportunities to spread the gospel and start new churches.



We have also received a report from Samuel Waswa that on 26th. August 54 persons from a number of our churches were baptized upon profession of faith in Christ at Wasat. It is so difficult to get enough surface water for baptism that they had to walk 1 km. to this rocky place.

Please do pray for a young man, **Chris Herwig**, from the church here in Liverpool, who is going out to Kasei to get experience teaching in our secondary school there. May it be a very defining influence in his life! He will be there in September, but leaving as we are going to Pokot, and I wonder if we will meet up?

(5) Please read the report of the visit of Tonny Karwa and his family to **Osani** in south-west Kenya for their first ever Youth Camp, 24th. – 26th. August. It is an area of the country hardest hit by the HIV/AIDS scourge so that the theme of the Camp was, 'Young People and Sexual Activity', with 23 in attendance. This is the first area of the country where TBC Nairobi sought to open churches. There have been many ups and downs over the past 35 years but the work is now being revitalized. We are still praying to send brother Charles Awelo and family here to further strengthen the work.

(6) Murungi spent 13th. – 25th. August in 4 places in Tanzania with a team taking **Africa Pastors' Conferences** on the theme of 'Preaching Salvation'. The first was in the island of Zanzibar which, according to figures is more than 99% Muslim. They went on to the port city of Dar-es-Salaam, then way inland to a remote place south of Tabora, and finished up at Kilimanjaro near Arusha. There were scores of church leaders at each place.

This is Murungi's evaluation at the last Conference, and the need of Tanzania as a whole. "There was good preparation by the host church. Speaking with many of those who attended, Tanzania is ripe for the doctrines of grace. The last word I heard was, 'People are tired with prosperity teaching and charismatic gifts that are fake!' We're only able to work with Pentecostal churches. Spending time with these men was enlightening into their way of thinking – it's mostly mysticism and presumption. Let's pray that our gracious Lord may open their eyes of understanding to hear, receive, believe and live the gospel."

100 church leaders gathered under this huge Magumo tree for this last APC in Tanzania. 'Under tree' meetings are very common for shade from the intense sunlight, but with the advantage of the outdoor breeze! You might also have noticed that these plastic chairs are everywhere. What a wonderful invention providing seating that is comfortable and affordable.



Elly Achok

Our brother from the Gospel Missions Agency Church in Mumias has contacts in DRC (Congo), over the border from Burundi. In both Mumias and Mombasa they host a Reformation Conference annually, and run the Wisdom Training School. With a long background in the Word of Faith movement, Elly and his brother Barnabas are passionate about ministering to leaders caught up in this false movement.

Please go to www.reformedgospel.org and read a two part report on the Mission to the DRC, and of the Reformation Conference 2018 in Mumias. Below is a paragraph that forms part of his summary.

“The influence of the East African revival of the late fifties and early 1960s is very conspicuous. Obviously been overtaken by the charismatic and Pentecostal excesses. Yet one can still see that there is a very definite order in the Church, plurality of leadership and shared leadership, and the general oversight of the main leader in worship and church programs. This is how it was some years ago in Kenya. The seeds are already present for that downward spiral and when it starts it will be fast and insurmountable. There is need now for proper theological training, a short but very intensive sort of training. I see the desire in people from all ranks. The denomination within which we minister here has a kind of a training but it has three main limitations. First it is expensive for the ordinary man who feels a desire to study God's word and theology, secondly; It is limited to those already practicing ministry within this denomination ,that means any other person desirous of studying for the ministry is locked out and thirdly it is a training deeply steeped in the error of Pentecostal and Charismatic excesses. So in my view this is a real prayer point and perhaps a matter to look into keenly going forward.”

In Christ's service,

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