

Pray for Kenya

2020/1 March

Dear Brethren,

I had planned to get this latest prayer letter to you before departing for Africa, and adding 'Lord willing'. If I have read the situation aright then the Lord is not willing. In consultation with the family I have cancelled the whole trip. This is of course a result of the spreading coronavirus in the world. It was a difficult decision as it puts burdens on others where I was going and with such short notice. So please PRAY for the following:

(1) Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

- I was due to arrive Saturday morning and spend a few days with Abdi O and his family. His ministry to his fellow S0mal1s is through regular radio broadcasts in cooperation with MERF (Middle East Reformed Fellowship). The message of the gospel goes throughout the horn of Africa reaching places where no one can go physically and ministering to many whose hearts are aching because of what is going on around them. It even reached a S0mal1 working in Mecca with saving power!
- I was to preach at Addis Baptist Church on Sunday, but now the pastor, Gedion Agzew, will take over. Please go back to the Prayer Letter for April 2019 for details of the last visit. Abdi and his family are now part of this church although Abdi still finds the Amharic tongue difficult.
- I had arranged to fellowship with a brother labouring in church planting in Mekele in Tigray in the north of the country; also with another brother who teaches in a training centre for those labouring in Muslim dominated parts of the country. I shall miss this fellowship but the Lord's work goes on. Ethiopia a very needy country spiritually, being dominated by the Ethiopian Orthodox, Muslims, and Charismatic/Prosperity groups.

(2) Trinity Pastors' College (TPC)

The main reason for my visit was to teach the students of the TPC in Nairobi. I have been able to switch with brother Murungi so he teaches this month and I teach in September, again, God willing. Of course, it is very short notice for him and it will be his first time to teach the TPC having been a student there some years back. The Units for him to teach are: (1) The history of the evangelization of Africa, zeroing in on Kenya in particular; then considering the state of Christianity in the world, with especial focus on the unreached, including Kenya; and (2) The first half of the New Testament General Letters, Hebrews to 1 Peter. Please pray that the Lord will greatly help and make him so useful in the lives of the students.

In January Naphtally Ogallo, a pastor of Grace Baptist in Eldoret, was the teacher. He was one of the very first to go through the TPC around 30 years ago. He sent the following brief report: "January 14th to 22nd I was teaching at Trinity Baptist Church (TBC) Pastors' Training College, Nairobi. I was assigned to handle the Doctrine of Last Things (Eschatology) and Cults. I felt it a great honour that I should be called to teach courses that I myself had been taught. I think that the way the courses are handled at the moment is just right. The ten students were lively and cooperative throughout. While some of them are already

involved in pastoral ministry, the rest aspire to join full time Christian ministry in the future. On Sunday the 19th I preached at their morning service from Matthew 7:21-23 urging all to 'Beware of False Peace.'"



Naphtally Ogallo

There are 10 students in the TPC, 5 of them being newly enrolled this year. They are of various ages, backgrounds and abilities. 5 are members in TBC Nairobi, 2 others are from other Reformed Baptist Churches in Nairobi, 2 are from Gospel Missions Agency Churches near Kisumu, and one is from Pokot North. We are thankful for this good fellowship with like-minded churches who entrust their men to us.

(3) Trinity Baptist Church, Nairobi

I was scheduled to preach in both services on 15th. March. As the church I preached to from the very small beginnings in 1978 all the way through to 2015, I shall miss that opportunity. But there are 3 men in the Eldership who are capable of preaching, together with other younger men in the membership. Both services, and sometimes even the Adult Sunday School, are livestreamed, and you can find the sermons on YouTube at <Trinity Baptist Church, Nairobi>. The membership stands at 125 and many more come to the morning service.

(4) Making best use of the time in writing. I have two free weeks here in Liverpool! I hope to be able to basically complete the work on my book on Conversion. It is expounding accounts of people in the Gospels and Acts of whom we have details about their conversion. Then the second project, that has just got underway, is to write about me and Trinity Baptist Church Nairobi. This is much more than for historical interest. It is primarily to promote the Biblical teaching and principles underlying all that has taken place. May these be useful in the extension of the kingdom of Christ.

(5) Lekuchula, Rendille

We have recently had some very good news from Rendille. The goob (village) at Lekuchula finally has preaching every Sunday! (see photos at <http://trinitybaptistkenya.org/rendille-ministry/lekuchula>) It was in 1998 that I first visited here and there have been regular visits ever since. Recently the brethren from Korr have been going weekly to teach in the Primary School that we sponsor there each Friday morning. But some weeks back the contacts that we have there besought the brethren to stay over to Sunday so that there could be a service. The Full Gospel had tried but failed as many people see themselves as 'Trinity' people. May there be genuine converts and a true local church in this place.

Pray for Diba who is seriously considering moving from Korr to settle down there. Being unmarried, we would not want to send him alone. So we are speaking with some of the brethren in Korr to see if one could possibly go along. Diba's mother has expressed her willingness to relocate in order to support this effort of church-planting.



Wazee (married men) resting under the tree. Joseph Ogom is preaching to them.



Diba and Lekuchula Primary School children. Trinity Baptist Church sponsors this school.

(6) Boyani, Kilifi

This is part of a report from the brothers about the recent visit to Boyani, which is about 25 miles inland from the coastal city of Mombasa.

The ministry in Boyani was so encouraging. We visited six homes on Friday where we were given opportunity to share the gospel and answer personal questions. I was pleased that George Mwanjisi visits these people regularly and shares the gospel with them. He is well respected in the area as a pastor. It was also instructive how he patiently, gently and respectfully handled the people we visited. He explained spiritual concepts simply with a clear understanding of the local context. When it came to Islam vs Christianity, he was both understanding and firm showing that Islam cannot be right on many levels, especially in the deficiency on how to deal with sin. In these visits, most of the people we encountered were women, and only managed to meet five men. We met more than 15 women.

On Sunday, the room he has given in his home to be used as the church hall was full. Many children, women and few men – I think there were only four or five men (apart from us). The preaching from John 6 by Yohana was clear especially enhanced by his mastery of Swahili. The attention was good, even though it is so hot and humid. I was especially moved by one woman who has recently been converted. Her husband is a popular witch doctor who they say has the power to kill her just because she has become a Christian. May the Lord help her to be faithful in persevering amid such opposition from her own husband.

Clearly the need for the church building is evident. Mwanjisi's homestead is strained in its facilities. We went after the service to survey the plot where they intend to put up a building. They do not think that they have the financial capacity and we could do everything possible to support them. Yet it is encouraging that they have made some bricks and dug the foundation for the store/kitchen. We agreed that they will need to make sure that all the church land document are in place. Kevin expressed his willingness to go and help them, on the condition that they will connect water in the plot for the use during the construction.



Morning worship at Boyani



Manases speaking outside

Benson Kambi helps George in the running of the church. It is a hindrance that he comes from so far, but he comes with his family. He is gifted in speaking and bringing people together. He expressed his desire to resume and complete the studies at the TPC.



From left to right: Manases Bor*, Irene & George Mwanjisi, Yohana Mugo*, Nick Teka*, Mustafa & Maria, Murungi Igweta* [* = from TBC Nairobi]

There is much to be thankful for. The Lord is at work. The true gospel is being preached. Sinners are being converted and added to churches. May God raise up many more labourers to gather in the harvest. We need to learn more and more our utter dependence on the Lord, and therefore the necessity and priority of prayer.

In Christ's service,

Keith Underhill

27 Inwood Road, Liverpool L19 6QA

kunderhill@digitalsavannah.co.uk & priscilla.underhill@gmail.com

+44-151-222-3749 (land) +44-7842-698151 (Keith), +44-7583-375522 (Priscilla)

<http://www.trinity.or.ke>; <http://www.trinitybaptistkenya.org>

<http://www.trainkenya.com> (TRAINKenya Charity)

<http://www.trinitypastorscollege.com> (TPC)