



# TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

N A I R O B I

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Dear brethren,

We thank God for you. We are grateful for your continued interest and prayers for us. We have thought it wise to give you an update of the state of things as we have plodded through this global pandemic which is now endemic. We take this cup of God's providence with thanksgiving and prayer, don't we? We have no doubt that these days have been unique and challenging for you as well. The Lord has continued to be gracious to us as we preach and pastor the flock of God here in Nairobi.

## **1. COVID-19 CRISIS – Nairobi**

The last time we met physically was the 15<sup>th</sup> of March. The first Coronavirus infection had just been reported on the 12<sup>th</sup>. For 18 weeks there were no physical gatherings allowed. Social distancing measures, hand washing and sanitization became the order of the day. Dusk to dawn curfew was enforced and more than twenty people lost their lives under the hands of police brutality as they enforced it! Schools are closed; wearing of masks is mandatory. Nairobi and Mombasa counties began to experience a high rise of infections and so the government responded by ordering cessation of movement in and out of these two counties. Meanwhile floods and landslides were killing people while locusts were raving through parts of the land! The economy is crumbling as businesses began shutting down and companies downsizing by firing some of their employees. By April about 40% of our members had either lost their jobs or their incomes had been significantly reduced.

Thankfully before the pandemic we were live-streaming our services and so we very quickly adjusted. On the 22<sup>nd</sup>. MI preached from Psalm 73:26 acknowledging the distress and giving guidance from God's Word. As Elders we agreed that the best approach to shepherd the flock was to give them more spiritual meals, and be more deliberate in ensuring the spiritual wellbeing of the flock. The needy ones have been given food and others helped financially. We thank God for his kind and rich provision. Moreover, the Lord has brought a young man, Joe Nderitu to faith and was baptized last Sunday.

Thankfully none of the members has contracted the virus. We have been sending the members a pastoral letter every week. Each letter gives a short scriptural devotional and guidance on various current issues. The Sunday School hour was initially turned into a panel discussion and later to a table talk among the three Elders and a few men from the church touching on various issues

ranging from ‘What is Coronavirus?’ to ‘A Godly use of the Lord’s Day’ etc. Afterwards, all the three men went back to their regular exposition of the Scriptures. The flock is in distress and it is absolutely necessary to ring the bell of the gospel and assure them of God’s goodness as we break the bread of life. Let them stand on the firm foundation – the Lord Jesus Christ, through this gloom.

Now the government is easing the measures and it has been announced that the churches may resume gathering from the 19<sup>th</sup> of July. A maximum of 100 people are allowed and even those must observe the 1.5M rule, wear face masks and sanitize. They must not be less than 13 years or be older than 58. Those with underlying health issues are advised to stay at home... clearly what the right hand gave the left has taken back! For most of those under the age brackets may also have young children to look after. It was announced that the service should not last more than an hour! (Our services last about 2 hours and we are now working hard to adjust). The Lord will give sufficient grace, because we believe limited gathering is better than no gathering at all.

Please pray for us as we gather physically this coming Sunday. I will be preaching both morning service on Hebrews 13:10-13 and evening from Joshua 14. May the Lord give wisdom and grace.

## 2. TPC

KU was due to teach in March but MI took the classes and taught Church History in Africa along with Hebrews, James and 1 Peter. The classes went well and all the students came. In May Conrad Mbewe could not come, and so we had to adapt quickly and do the classes on Zoom. He taught them the Doctrine of the Church. Thankfully the classes went on well.



Murungi and the Students in March

Come July and Ryan Devine from California was to come but he could not and the 10 hour time difference hindered him from doing live classes. He put together a website and gathered all the relevant lectures. He then joined up with the men on Zoom at 1600 hrs. every day. The classes ended on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> July. They were given work to do up to September, when KU is due to come. We know it may not work, but we leave everything to the Lord. May the Lord help these men who are being equipped for the ministry to be profited.

Some of the men are due to be commissioned to establish churches in different parts of the country. For instance, Eric Kahure is due to go to Meru, Nickson Teka to Kitale in 2021. Meanwhile, Manases has been helping the church in Kima, and his wife is due to have a baby soon. May the Lord prepare the ground for the work.

### 3. RENDILLE

We were due to make a trip to Rendille and Miathene in June with KU but this did not materialize. Even with the challenges and the various hindrances, yet the power of the gospel is still at work. The work in Rendille got a shot in the arm with the relocation of Stephen Silamo (a member of TBCN and a Rendille speaker with theological training) back to Korr and the additional men



Preaching to a Sunday gathering in Lekuchula

who are college students. They strengthened the hands of Ogom, Stanley, Godana and Nadesol and all have been moving from one *goob* (village) to another preaching the gospel almost every day. The fellowship is warmer now with a few more men.

They have been able to visit Losidan and Lekuchula regularly. The prospects of planting a church in Lekuchula seem to be realistic now than ever. Stanley Musyoki's family is now with him since his children are not in school. They have settled in well. Stanley's son is due to join in university in September but they lack school fees.

Please pray that the Lord may bless these efforts so that the gospel preached may fall on fertile ground and bear much fruit. The limitation in movement has left the community without enough food. The relief food from the World Food Programme ceased. Most of the business people who used to transport food can no longer go and those who do, have so inflated the prices leading to a serious food crisis. We are working on sending them some food or funds before the end of the month.

### 4. POKOT MINISTRY: CHEPKINAGH

Andrew Chemolok and Samuel Waswa parted ways early this year over a problem that has not been resolved. Please pray that it will be possible to bring the two together soonest to ascertain (or disapprove) Andrew's accusations against Samuel. Meanwhile pray that the gospel work in Chepkinagh will not be hindered but that the Lord will prosper it even further and raise more gospel preachers there.

Much of the work in Pokot continues well even though all the schools are closed. Patricko and Thomas are working well in Kamketo, except Patricko's wife was sick, but she is now recovered. The church in Kasei is hosting the Reformed Baptist Association of Kenya (RBAK) in October. We pray that many churches will be able to send delegates. The church in Kasei is also working towards beginning Bible Light College next year to offer pastoral training locally.



## 5. THE MURUNGI FAMILY

We are well and healthy for which we thank God. All the children are at home and it may be necessary to begin thinking of home-schooling, now that the government has announced that the schools will remain closed up to January 2021!

We thank the Lord that he has graciously upheld us and blessed our marriage with Charity for the last 17 years. Charity has indeed been a helper meet for me, as she has looked after us and opened our home to offer hospitality.

Asaph is now 16 and Ruth will be turning 11 in August, while Gaius is 6. On 17<sup>th</sup> July we shall be releasing Joyce Wango, a young lady who has been staying with us for the last 2 and half months, to be married to Paul Ruhui, who is both a theological



Asaph, MI, Charity, Gaius and Ruth

student and an intern with us. I will officiate and preach at the wedding, even though only 15 people can attend!

One of our daily prayers for our children is that they may be saved. I am amazed at how much gospel and Scripture content they already know. Sometimes we have wondered if this may have hindered them to be bolder to profess their faith, but yet we have to patiently wait for the Holy Spirit to work faith in their hearts so that they may believe in Christ. Ruth thinks that she is a believer and she has told a few people. She, however, fears that her sinfulness comes up ever too often. Asaph has been in a boarding secondary school and has shown much appreciation for the church.

As you pray for them, pray for us to be faithful in instructing them in the Word of truth; to be patient and to know that the Word they hear daily, is God's power for salvation.

With warm regards.

**Murungi Igweta**

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