

Prayer Letter from the Underhills

2023/1, 13th. January

Dear Brethren,

We are so thankful for your continued prayerful interest in us as a family, some of you having followed our ministry in Kenya over many decades. Paul obviously believed in the vital place of prayer on his behalf, even if we can't exactly understand how it works. We too believe your prayers have played a vital part in the ministry. As we get older things of necessity change. With this prayer letter, now that many things I used to be directly involved in have been taken over by Trinity Baptist Church, Nairobi, we will focus on those things with which we are directly involved, both in U.K., Kenya, and perhaps even elsewhere. If you want up to date information about Nairobi/Kenya please request from Murungi Igweta both the monthly Prayer Diary and any other reports and communications for prayer. Please pray that we might continue to serve the Lord to the end.

Ministry in U.K.

Sunday, January 8th. North Preston Evangelical Church. I preached morning and evening on Matthew 7:13-14, 'You must enter the narrow gate', and 'Life!' I feel there is both a great need to emphasize that a Christian is on a totally different journey and it is a hard one. But then there is the great encouragement that at the end there is Life.

Thursday, January 12th. Dudley Baptist Church. I told the brethren about the work of our charity, TRAIN(Kenya), summarized in this letter.

Sunday, January 22nd. Trinity Grace Church, Ramsbottom. Preaching in the morning. Oliver Allmand-Smith is one of the Elders of TGC and is a trustee of TRAIN(Kenya).

Sunday, February 5th. Stanley Park Baptist Church, Liverpool. Preaching again both morning and evening.

Sunday, February 12th. Trinity Baptist Church, Charlesworth. I continue my series on John 17 in the morning and then also take the afternoon service.

Here in Liverpool, we have just finished studying the 1689 Baptist Confession, and we have agreed to continue with a few studies on 'Speech'. We try to meet every other week, and there are 7 regular attenders, mostly young adults.

Pastoral Training

As was reported in the Prayer Diary for January 12th., "the Interim TPC Board which served for about 8 years was dissolved by TBC Elders with a view of constituting a local board", so I no longer have specific responsibilities in that area. The history of the TPC over the past 40 years, with the complete account of the planting and development of the church and associated churches, is described in my forthcoming book titled, 'Planted by the Providence of God', which the publisher aims to have ready by the end of March 2023, Lord willing. Interestingly, I have been asked to join the board of the Ethiopian Bible School of Theology (EBST) which is under the Addis Baptist Church that I have visited on a number of occasions.

TRAIN(Kenya)



I continue to be a trustee of this U.K. charity. There is also Oliver Allmand-Smith, Cliff Barton, David Smalley, and Geoffrey Thomas. Apart from David, they have all been to Kenya many times and so know it well. David had his first exposure late 2022. The charity was set up about 10 years ago by my friends to continue the support of the work in Kenya as I had indicated leaving at the end of 2015. Its mandate is to help churches registered under the Reformed

Baptist Association of Kenya (RBAK). It has been helping in the following ways:

(1) Famine relief. There have been repeated droughts in north Kenya which have affected our Pokot brethren and even more those in Rendille.

(2) In both Pokot North and Rendille TBC Nairobi has started schools.

- In Pokot North there are 14 Primary Schools and 3 Secondary Schools. There are details in the Prayer Letter 2022/4. Initially we helped with infrastructure, now the need is to support of the full complement of teachers needed.
- In Rendille there are 2 Primary Schools, at Lekuchula and Losidan. There is some information in the Prayer Letter 2022/3.

(3) We are helping to fund a permanent church building at Chepkinagh, where there is both a primary and a secondary school. (If you want to look at the area on Google Earth go to Chepkinagh Trinity Baptist Church Kenya).



(4) Very few church leaders get supported financially. When they go to an area outside their home we are willing to help with their daily living and especially school fees for their children. There are others with special needs, such as widows.

(5) The Trinity Pastors' College (TPC) has been a priority as men sent by their local churches are trained to be pastors. See <https://tpc.or.ke> for fuller information, and see Oliver's reports at Kenya-Prayer-Letter-Dec-21.pdf (trinitygracechurch.net).

Family News

Two of our three children live in Liverpool, Deborah with her two and Matthew (and his partner Emily). Deborah tries to come to church, and her daughter Carys (19) has professed faith in Christ and seeks to be fully involved in church activities. We had the joy of having Jonathan and Heather and their 3 teenage children visiting for 2+ weeks May-June 2022. They live in Ohio (U.S.A.).



Joyful news

I think I must share with you this great encouragement the Lord gave about this brother David who I met when I first went to Kenya as a teacher in 1968. It is written by Geoffrey, a school teacher who is a member of the Miathene Church.

Yesterday on 21st. Dec 2022 I visited bwana David. I found the old man in good spirits and with much joy. He was conducting a Bible study with brethren (15) from Miathene and another household in Mombasa and all this through a phone call. Imagine he is their leader. I heard him encourage them to live faithfully for Christ in all righteousness, as well as taking Christmas, not like the way the worldly take it, but to behold Christ and what he came for. I was there for over one hour listening through the phone to the proceedings of their Bible study which he told me has never skipped a single Wednesday from 2016!

When I informed him about you his eyes brightened, and he acknowledged that you are his friend and he remembers you fondly. He told me of your trip to northern Kenya (1970) when you two slept in a car in the middle of nowhere. He told me how you slept heavily as he chased hyenas away at night 😊. Ooh what of you people driving the Land Rover in turns 🙌; also about Lake Turkana when you cheered him to swim to no avail 😂. More so he kept on repeating how you taught him to study the scriptures systematically. 'Keith would teach us in

fellowships different topics, e.g. salvation, Christ, atonement, suffering and much more. I learned a lot from him' David narrated.

He told me of the nights you spent at his home in Karugwa as you went for various conferences. The brother cherished those moments as he narrated with a sharp memory despite his age.

I was greatly encouraged when he narrated to me the Kenya revival and how he was saved. It was wonderful that up to now he is still zealous for Christ. He is so much in grief on the prosperity preaching, hypocrisy and leadership wrangles in the church today. He still yearns for revival in the church.

A message for Keith from David: 'Tell him am delighted to hear from him. It's so encouraging that he remembers and is still mindful of me. I am now sickly suffering from arthritis, diabetes, prostate cancer, blood pressure but still happy in Christ. Only my body is weak but I am strong in spirit. I don't fear disease. I usually encourage my Bible study group that all I fear is the worst disease of sin. I care less on how I will die but more so about the return of Christ that I will be ready to receive Him...'

Ooh, brother I can't write all that was said by the old man, he will be celebrating his 92nd birthday on 22nd. Jan 2022. I have just written for you a summary. I left his place at 5 p.m. having arrived at 12 p.m. I left greatly challenged to give my all faithfully for Christ. I promised to be back again to hear about the suffering of brethren under Mau Mau of which he told me he was a victim.

Thank you for your continuing fellowship and prayers.

In Christ's service,

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Websites

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TPC – <https://www.tpc.or.ke>

TRAIN(Kenya) – www.trainkenya.com