

Prayer Letter from the Underhills

2023/6, 11th. September

Dear Brethren,

By God's grace we are doing well, especially considering there has been much ministry recently involving much travelling. The last week has seen unusually warm weather (I can't call it hot) with temperatures consistently around 30°C. The air was coming from the Sahara and deposited a layer of dust/fine sand on the cars, reminiscent of Kenya and the constant layer of dust.

Ministry in UK

It has been a privilege to minister to about 10 different churches in the past months. Half of them do not have full time pastors, and none have more than 100 attending. One is a church plant in the nearby town of Warrington (<https://warringtonreformedbaptist.weebly.com/>). Two have less than 20 attendees, and two others have seriously ageing brethren. A few of them are clearly knowing the blessing of the Lord. There is a great need for the Lord to graciously raise up ministers of the gospel to pastor churches, and to use the preaching of the gospel in the salvation of sinners. We are thankful that here in Liverpool three young people are being interviewed with the desire for baptism upon profession of their faith in the Lord. Here are a few details about some of the churches visited:

For the 5 Sunday mornings of April I was preaching in Grace Baptist Church, Southport, centring the ministry in Luke 24. The church has had serious difficulties and has no official leaders so they, as all of us, need to be directed to the living, exalted Christ.

The afternoon and evening of May 21st. we were with the brethren in Ramsbottom, giving thanks to God for the 25 years of ministry of Oliver Allmand-Smith there. I was asked to say something in the afternoon about my connection with him in regards to the ministry in Kenya. Then later I preached on Hebrews 13:8 and *The One Who Celebrates No Anniversaries* as He is eternally the same.

Sunday May 28th. we were in Kingston Evangelical Church, Hull. It was actually the last Sunday their beloved pastor, Dennis Hill, was resident with them. So I sought to direct them to the two essentials that are the only hope for the future of the church: the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ and Him crucified which is the power of God (Romans 1:14-17), and the need to persevere in prayer as a church (Luke 18:1-8).

Future Ministry

I am so grateful for your prayers for me as I seek to continue to serve the Lord in this way.

September – 10th., 17th. and 24th. Warrington Reformed Fellowship (afternoon)
29th. Loughborough (Saturday) – meeting of the newly formed Association of Confessional Baptist Churches in the U.K. <https://www.acbcuk.org>

October – 8th. Maidenbower Baptist Church (one service)

15th. Belvidere Road Church (to be confirmed)
22nd. Langley Park Baptist Church (both services)
26th. Depart for two weeks in Mombasa (Kenya), and Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)
November – 19th. and 26th. Warrington Reformed Fellowship (afternoon)
22nd. Pershore Evangelical Church (Wednesday)
December – 3rd. Warrington Reformed Fellowship (afternoon)
10th. Kingston Evangelical Church, Hull (both services)

Book launches, in addition to the one in Aberystwyth last month. The purpose is for me to speak about the book, 'Planted by the Providence of God', with some other contributions. The publisher will be there with a special offer on the book, and no doubt with other titles they offer!

September 27th. at Trinity Grace, Ramsbottom (19.45)

October 7th. at Maidenbower Baptist (whether morning or evening not decided)

[see the website of the publisher Broken Wharfe - <https://brokenwharfe.com/keith-underhill-planted-by-the-providence-of-god-book-launch>]

Kenya

God willing I shall be visiting Kenya again arriving 27th. October and departing 6th. November. I shall be hosted by brother Barnabas Olare of the Gospel Missions Agency, and will be accompanied by brother Abdi from Ethiopia. I know there will be much to do, preaching and teaching in the Wisdom Training programme. There are a number of other contacts to visit in the area of the Coast, especially George Mwanjisi in Boyani, who I have known since the 1980s.

The Chepkinagh church building has had its roof on for a couple of months. The urgent need is to block the gap between the top of the wall and the roofing. This is because such a space can be used by a strong gust of wind to lift off the iron sheets.



The TRAIN(Kenya) charity continues to support more than 20 extra teachers in the government primary and junior secondary schools that are sponsored by Trinity Baptist Church. Please pray for the 5 trustees of TRAIN(Kenya) as we meet for the day on October 12th. to consider the work the charity is seeking to do in Kenya. The reports we have from the church leaders and head teachers regarding the schools are quite encouraging. One teacher, who is at Kapkewa, and is also a TPC student in Nairobi, has written the following:



I have seen a great change and attention of the school and even surrounding community, some children yet they are still young, you see something happening, fully engaged to PPI and how to rely on God's providence by prayer, always to ask God. Before starting a day to study I pray for them and every time I see them bowing their heads for prayers that is my happiness that God is really working on their part.

One day, when I was in secondary school I was challenged by brothers who came from Nairobi and I believe my salvation start from there and I know that school or institutions are means of getting and teaching people to prepare to learn and be saved when they see the truth. I am happy that the Lord has opened for me a door to act the same way I have been brought to salvation.

As you know the disadvantages of loneliness, my prayers for their work has brought many to attraction as I have a brother who works closely with me and if God permit and faithful brethren may add one more teacher, I will be greatly happy, because I have seen someone qualified to occupy that position.

I know that what God has started He must bring it to completion (Phil. 1:6).

Other Brethren

Please do not forget to pray for our brethren from Somal1a.

AO continues to live in Ethiopia and minister over the radio the gospel of Jesus Christ in his somal1 tongue. He will be with me all the time I am in Kenya from late October, and then I will spend a few days at the end with him and his family in Addis Ababa.

MO settled in the States from 2009, and has been in Seattle for a couple of years. He has been hospitalized for quite a few weeks now, at least with trauma, although I really do not know what has happened. I usually phone him weekly, but have not been able for quite a time now. I thankful that a number of brethren in the area have sought to minister to him. May the Lord keep him faithful to the end.

NH lives with is wife in Nairobi. His ministry is speaking "the Word of God on Telegram, (and) now we are 73 Somal1 believers around the World".

AS fled to Kenya earlier this year, professed faith, and is now part of TBC. A couple of months ago his wife and two daughters were able to flee from home and join him in Kenya. Please pray that as they learn about Christ, they might also be saved.

In Christ's service,

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Other websites

TBC Nairobi – <https://www.trinity.or.ke>

TPC – <https://www.tpc.or.ke>

TRAIN(Kenya) – www.trainkenya.com