

Pray for Kenya

April 2017

Dear Brethren:

Greetings in Christ's name. I now have the opportunity to give you two reports consequent to the recent trip I made to Kenya (9th. to 23rd. March).

1. Nairobi City

One of the few reasons I was glad to leave Nairobi was the incessant traffic jams. There is this recent claim that it is the second worst in the world! It came to the point that I did not want to go out in the car, and if I did I would plan to return home very late in the evening. See <http://nairobinews.nation.co.ke/news/nairobi-has-the-second-worst-traffic-in-the-world/> To alleviate this there is much road construction which of course can make things even worse. The nightmare Outer Ring Road near us is being transformed into an ultra-modern highway. Together with the bypasses around the city it will make the church much more accessible, but it will also raise the rents!



Underpass



Overpass

2. Trinity Baptist Church, Nairobi



Sunday 12th. March



Sunday 19th. March

Sunday starts off slowly as people trickle in from 09.15. We sing for half an hour, and then there are the various Sunday Schools for an hour. In the Adult class one of the members is teaching on the Attributes of God. The service starts at 11.00 and before long the auditorium is full. Five hymns in total are heartily sung, usually one being in Kiswahili. A chapter of the Bible is read consecutively (presently Ecclesiastes), with some comments. It has been interesting reading in Johnson's *Worshipping with Calvin* that this 'expository reading' developed in the seventeenth century (pp. 91-94). The sermon is typically 50-60 minutes,

and if you look for Trinity Baptist Church, Nairobi on You Tube (or @tbcnairobi) you can find many sermons. Every Sunday there is lunch to help people to stay who come from various parts of Nairobi and even beyond. There is the afternoon service at 16.00 with up to 50 people only. An hour before this there is always another meeting, 1st. Sunday for membership interviews and prayer, 2nd. Sunday the Lord's Supper, 3rd. Sunday separate Men & Women's Fellowship, 4th. Sunday Young Adults & Families, and 5th. Sunday the Book Club.



Lord's Supper



Women's Fellowship (Thursday mornings)



As if Sunday meetings so far were not sufficient often 30 of the young adults meet in someone's home from 18.00 for up to 2 hours (left). It is called the 'Tea Plot' and of course refreshments are an attraction. There is serious discussion, perhaps about the sermons, or some specific topic. With me present they wanted to ask about life in UK, how the Lord led me to Kenya, how to know one is being called as a missionary.



We have started a small Christian School. I brought some gifts of toys and books, and the children responded with a song and quoting Proverbs 3:5-6. Two things in particular hamper its expansion:

- (1) It is only for the mornings, but parents typically want their children to be there the whole day as a child minding service while they work.
- (2) We need to raise a large sum to get the school registered with the Government.

Please pray for the visit to the UK of Pastor Murungi. The visa has been issued so he is set to arrive Monday 24th. April and proceed directly to the Banner of Truth Ministers' Conference. He will then spend the long weekend in Ramsbottom, at Trinity Grace Church, the Church that has sponsored his visit. May 2nd. to 8th. he will be in the London area at Hayes, Borehamwood, Pain's Hill and Maidenbower, all Churches that have had a long-standing relationship with the work in Kenya. I then plan to take him to Aberystwyth, the Church that sent me out to Kenya in 1975, then bring him up to Liverpool for the final few days of his visit.

3. Ministry

I had the privilege to preach at both services, both Sundays I was present. There is an inexplicable feeling of freedom being back in one's 'own' pulpit. In the mornings I continued the series on Galatians that I had started in early 2015, 'How Can I Live the Christian Life' from 5:19-26. Verse 26 seemed to bring conviction to many as we have gone through a number of problems in the past year. In the afternoons I preached very basically on the Importance of the Church (Acts 20:28-31), and the Importance of the Word (20:32-35). The big ministry was 6 days of teaching at the Trinity Pastors' College (TPC), which I shall write about separately.

4. Visits to various members' homes.

Every evening I was invited to fellowship with church members, many of whom I have known for years and years. That fellowship includes a sumptuous meal. I don't often mention food but I love Kenyan cooking. Those who know me well always seek to cook that white thing with purple specks – arrowroot. It has such an exquisite gentle taste! Together with fried chicken, beef casserole and vegetables. Following that was all the mango you could eat.



What a privilege it was to renew this fellowship, to talk about their conversion and Christian life, and the joys and problems in the church. They would invariably want to know how Mama Matthew is getting on. Older people included a widower, a divorcee, a single mother, one who has never had spiritual encouragement from her husband. There was a couple with whom we started the church in 1978, a newly married couple, a new family in the church, etc.

5. Olgumi



This was the one time I went out of Nairobi, descending into the Great Rift Valley and up on the side of the extinct Suswa volcano. Stephen ole Kakoiya (right) has been the pastor here but after his stroke more than 2 years ago is still unable to talk. His wife Peninah (left) takes very good care of him. Two or more of our young men have agreed to preach here one Sunday a month, and the first time was March 19th. (2nd. picture). The attendance has shrunk from the more than 50 a few years back. Of the 4 men in the picture, one is Stephen, and 2 are from Nairobi! For years Stephen has been planning a home for disabled children. When the land title deed is issued, and it is promised any day, then it should be possible to get funding. The great need is for a Christian to head up the project.

In Christ's service,

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