

Pray for Kenya

May 2018

Dear Brethren,

In this 'Pray for Kenya' letter and would like to tell you more about the weeks I spent in Kenya & Ethiopia in March. By God's grace it was a very full and productive time.

In and around Nairobi

After teaching I had the privilege of visiting a number of members in their homes for supper. Most of them I have known and ministered to for decades. How kind the Lord has been to give such faithful brethren in the church.

Other brethren came to visit me.



LEFT. *Joseph Ogom* from Korr (Rendille) had come to Nairobi to take his test for a motorbike licence, as we have provided him with such a bike. It should enable him to do more evangelism.

RIGHT. *David Ng'etich* has been set aside by his church at Chebang'ang' to church plant in the nearby town of Kericho. He aims to relocate with his family to the town. There is a great need for a suitable place to meet.



We called the six leaders from *Pokot North* to meet with us one whole day. Three of them are from Pokot itself, the other three being 'missionaries'. We have been with the Pokot brethren for almost 20 years and we wanted to encourage them in a number of areas that we felt would best be done face to face although the journey for them was more than a day.

- Leadership. After all these years there are still no formal leaders, for various reasons. They have now started the process by explaining the qualifications of elders/pastors to the members. Pastor Murungi will be there soon for the voting on those proposed. Then perhaps in September they will be formally set apart in the three main churches.
- Financial self-support. They received well the fact that external support, especially for the schools' ministry, cannot continue for ever. We are going to send them an outline of how we think a phased change can take place
- Preaching. With 13 primary schools, and 3 secondary schools, to minister in, it is easy for them to be taken up with administration, especially as the main Government offices are in Kapenguria (70 miles away on a dirt road). There are remarkable opportunities to regularly bring the gospel to these thousands of young people.

There were also two extra opportunities of ministry.

There was a mid-week home Bible study in Kikuyu the other side of Nairobi about 25 miles (picture). Our brethren come from all over Nairobi and meeting mid-week in a central location is difficult. They have been discussing evangelism, and they wanted me to deal with answering objections people bring to the gospel.



Another evening I drove north to one of the large Universities, JKUAT. We have had lots of contact with this institution, often preaching there, and many members are either students or graduates. To the 50 or so gathered I preached on Hebrews 12:1-3 and the need for perseverance, something I believe is so important among young enthusiastic people.

Safari

For previous reports on these churches go to www.trinitybaptistkenya.org, Association of Churches – RBAK, Reports, and then put the name in search engine.

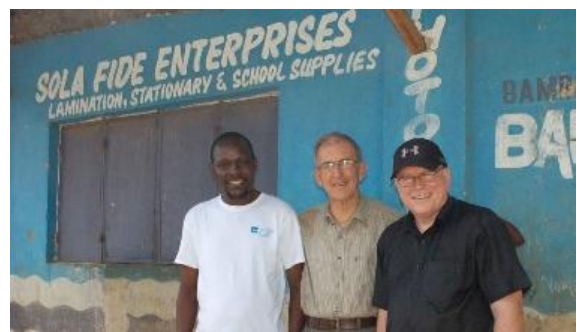
Soon after arrival, Murungi and I took off to drive south-east from Nairobi towards the Coast.

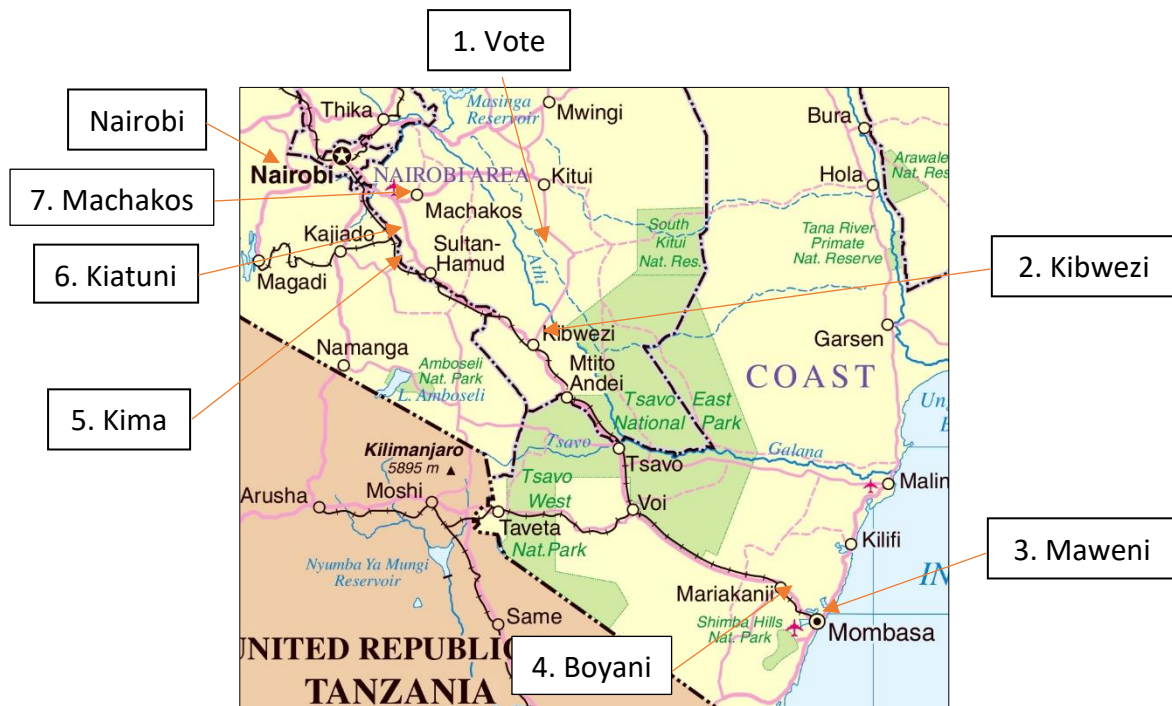
(1) **Vote.** Benson Nyamai is the pastor in this small church of 15 regular attenders. We have recently helped him with a new permanent building as the roof of the old one was blown off three times by heavy wind. There are a lot of churches in the area but, as in much of Kenya, little clear gospel preaching is to be found. At best there is decisionism; at worst the prosperity teaching. Being mid-week, we were able to gather 7 women to whom Murungi preached on 2 Timothy 2:8.



(2) **Kibwezi.** Many Kenyans surf the internet looking for contacts. Pastor Peter Mbako of Kalinga Market just outside Kibwezi got in contact with the publishers of the Free Grace Broadcaster in Florida. We happen to be the distributors in Kenya so we could take copies personally. I wonder if he realizes the doctrinal and practical dynamite he is going to see there!

(3) **Maweni.** Barnabas Olare and Jeff Myers are co-pastors at the Gospel Missions Agency Church in Mombasa. The name of Barnabas' shop, 'Sola Fide Enterprises', says it all! He trained in our TPC 2012-4 and is actively seeking the Biblical reformation of the church. We had a blessed time of fellowship with these brethren and were also able to visit one of the TPC students from the church. Until he joined the TPC Barnabas was fully part of the Word of Faith movement. To build up what he has torn down in the past he has started a 'Wisdom Training Centre' for the instruction of church leaders, and hosts an annual Reformation Conference.





(4) **Boyani.** George Mwanjisi is the pastor here, having trained in the TPC many years ago. We were here for the Sunday and ministered in the morning and visited in the area in the afternoon.



The church still gathers in his unfinished living room. We have been able to purchase a nearby plot of land and hope to help them build a permanent structure soon. This is a growing church of about 35 members, in an area where Muslims are influential and where traditional religion remains as a basis of culture. It is near here, at Rabai, where the first missionary away from the Coast settled in the 1840s, Ludwig von Krapf.

(5) **Kima.** Donald Kivungi has attended TPC at different times. He recently married Sophie from TBC Nairobi. Kima is a settlement area with many older, retired people in church. It is the only one that has been able to put up their own building. There was a problem with the member who gave land and who has taken a dislike to Donald. It is a shame that we had to deal with that while passing through.

(6) **Kiatuni.** Joseph Mutua a pastor of Bethesda Baptist Church with nice acronym BBC! It is a well established with 100 members. I taught him first in Thika in 1970s then in Nairobi in TPC in 1990s. They are seeking closer links with us in Nairobi, and hence our visit.

(7) **Machakos.** George Wambua is seeking to plant a church in this town so we stopped by to see him. He trained in TPC 15 years ago. It was encouraging that he felt compelled to come here without first looking for support. It is often the other way round. All meetings are presently in his house. Very soon there will be the first APC in this town.

Ethiopia

The final weekend I stayed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. AO had been with me in Nairobi and we travelled together and spent with him and his family in his newly occupied flat/apartment. From 17th. February a nationwide state of emergency had been declared, but one would hardly have realized it.

There is much Islamic influence in the country, but it was the Orthodox chanting from 5 a.m. every day that disturbed the peace.



This is a picture from AO's flat on the outskirts of Addis Ababa. As you can see blocks of flats are mushrooming. It is now a city of at least 7 million. A great system of roads is being constructed, and there is a railway right through the city.

On Sunday I preached at the English service of the Lutheran Church in Addis Ababa. There were about 25 present, differing nationalities, to hear about the Conversion of the Thessalonians from 1 Thess. 1:9-10. It is one of 2 largest Protestant Churches in Ethiopia claiming 8 million members.

There are three members of Trinity Baptist Church, Nairobi in Addis Ababa and, together with AO's wife and Zemen, they have begun to meet weekly to study the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith with the ultimate aim of starting a church. They say they have contact with a number of people who are so discouraged by the spiritual situation in the country that they cannot settle in any church. We pray that many of these will soon join them. Please pray the Lord will bless this church planting work.

Sunday afternoon we drove north 25 miles to Sululta past athletic training institutions, and their accompanying grand hotels. Here is developing the training centre for Zemen's work amongst Amharic and Oromo speakers. It is out of town to give some privacy and protection as he works amongst many leaders with an Islamic background. It was so interesting to see that he has translated Stuart Olyott's book on Preaching into Amharic. I was told, 'Christians are asleep while Muslims do door to door work and set people up in businesses'. Coupled with the widespread influence of the prosperity message, there is such a great need for Biblical teaching.

In Christ's service,

Keith & Priscilla Underhill

27 Inwood Road, Liverpool L19 6QA

kunderhill@digitalsavannah.co.uk

priscilla.underhill@gmail.com

+44-151-222-3749 (land)

+44-7842-698151 (Keith's mobile), +44-7583-375522 (Priscilla's mobile)

<http://www.trinity.or.ke>

<http://www.trinitybaptistkenya.org>

<http://www.trainkenya.com>