

# Pray for Kenya

## October 2018

Dear Brethren,

We give much thanks to the Lord for the recent time in Kenya, September 11 to October 8. It was a very profitable time, and the Lord mercifully enabled us to accomplish all that was planned. We had strength throughout and there were no travelling difficulties. This was a scheduled visit primarily to teach in the TPC.

### Trinity Pastors' College (TPC)



Sadly, a few students were not able to come, but numbers were augmented by past students who had not studied this unit. A common difficulty that causes absence is the need to provide for one's family. One student has had to drop out because he must get a full-time job. Others have the pressure of siblings because parents are deceased and it falls to the older ones to provide.

There was a lot of interaction. Please pray that these men will be well-grounded and established in the faith once for all delivered to the saints. The usual debate was on, 'Dowry payment should be banned in Kenya'. The opposition won the day with the best arguments! It was interesting that those who have gone through the process tended to support it. The real struggle is for these men to read and write their answers to the set questions by the time the next classes in November are upon them.

### Nairobi Trinity Baptist Church

I had the opportunity to preach both the first and last Sundays to a full house, as many as 200. What a delight to preach to such eager hearers of the word of God! While in Nairobi I spent almost all spare time visiting various members. There are now nearly 130 members on the books, coming from all over the town and beyond its boundaries. Various meetings take place midweek in various places to make it easier for people to attend. One Wednesday evening it was a Book Club where they had been going through the magazine Free Grace Broadcaster on the Sinfulness of Sin. One church member came to the conclusion that she was not truly saved and she was subsequently baptized on profession of faith. At another Bible study I was

It was another great privilege to teach these men the word of God, about 6 hours each of the 6 days. The main teaching was The Doctrine of Man and Sin. We also dealt with part of the Early Church History unit, especially the life and teaching of Augustine. So there was heavy emphasis on Pelagianism and the contrary Augustinian doctrines of total depravity and total inability. How important it is to get the full extent of sin's effect on the human race in order to get the effective remedy!

asked to give an overview of the Gospel of John before they embark on a detailed study. I thank God for the seriousness of these brethren. May the Church not be deflected from pursuing that knowledge which is unto holiness.



Sunday morning service, 7<sup>th</sup>. October 2018



Visitors invited to stay for tea

As it was the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup>. anniversary of the start of the Church it was found fitting to have a Covenanting Service. In the constitution of the Church 10 responsibilities are listed, 2 were read out in unison and then prayer was offered that each might be fulfilled in the life of the Church, and so on 5 times. I could only be a spectator and thank God for giving TBC such joyful and committed brethren.



Members at the Covenanting Service

I found the Church united and continuing to be faithful to the gospel. Of course there are problems, with some struggling, others careless. The 2 Elders have a big responsibility and one of the great needs is for the Lord to grant additional Elders. There are 8 Deacons who are truly seeking to fulfil their ministry.

#### 40<sup>th</sup>. anniversary



All past and present Elders were invited to the front and given a small cake.



All the guests (200?) were served with lunch

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>. October the 40<sup>th</sup>. anniversary celebrations were held. As is usual on such occasions people come bit by bit. I started by outlining God's gracious providences in my own life and then in the history of the church that have brought TBC thus far. In the Bible we ask why Joseph was hated by his brothers and sold into slavery. But we know the answer: God meant it for good. Why did Ahasuerus find it impossible to sleep that very night? Why did God arrange for a certain room-mate in College? Why did a Somali Muslim come knocking on my office door? How wonderful to be able to look back and too view with amazement these marvellous providences! Because of so many of the previous members present, and visitors, Pastor Murungi took us through, Why We Worship the Way We Do? Pastor Abwao exhorted to Church to look forward to fulfil the Church's Mandate, that what and how we preach is of primary importance.

One thing that impressed me was the attention given to earnest public prayer. Although no such occasion in Kenya is complete without a cake, first of all 5 men were tasked to pray for the church to fulfil its mandate.

### Reformed Baptist Association of Kenya (RBAK)

It was decided to hold the Association meetings at the same time as the celebrations of the church so that the brethren from across the country could join with the church on this occasion. 19 local churches are officially members with a number of others present and interested. The purpose of these annual meetings is for mutual encouragement, by the preaching of the word, by reporting about each church and praying for it, and by joining together to do things that would be difficult alone.



This year the theme was Evangelism. The first evening (Thursday) I spoke on Preaching Christ and Him Crucified. The next day Pastor Abwao spoke on the example of Christ, the importance of following His example from Matthew 16:24-28. In the afternoon there was a good presentation on, What's Wrong With Our Evangelism Today? Do we preach evangelistically? Are we provoked by false religion, as Paul in Athens? Do we seek to grab every opportunity? Do we pray for one another, for boldness, for open doors, for clarity of speech? Pastor Murungi spoke on, The Practical Importance of Associating. It was encouraging to hear of ways in which the RBAK has been helpful in the past to the churches in terms of visiting for encouragement and ministry, helping with building construction, sending members to respective camps and conferences organized by local churches.

On the last day, at the Delegates' Meeting, the request of brethren in Pokot North for help in church planting in the main town of Kapenguria was brought forward. It was agreed to send one of the brethren in early November to look at the situation, both the opportunity and the resources required, and to report back. Maybe the Lord will lay it upon his heart; otherwise the Association will prayerfully seek another qualified man. It is a small Association, with very limited resources, but may such a practical effort be of great encouragement to press forward.

[The various situations and requests for prayer from the churches will be in the November Prayer Diary]

### Grace & Truth 130

The special edition of the magazine was ready just the day before the 40<sup>th</sup>. anniversary celebrations! At 58 pages it is double the size of the usual publication that is brought out 2 to 3 times a year. At <http://www.trinity.or.ke/wp-content/uploads/GT-130.pdf> you can get your virtual copy. Apart from the usual teaching, the purpose for which it was started way back in 1984, there are many articles reflecting back on how the Lord has graciously been at work over the decades in the lives of specific brethren, and in various ministries in which the church is engaged. We trust that you will find it of great value spiritually.

### Prayer

1. Thanksgiving to God for His continual mercy to Trinity Baptist Church, Nairobi.
2. The grace of God for the two Pastors, Murungi and Abwao, and for the Lord to raise up more qualified men.
3. The TPC students, for their diligence in their studies, and for the Holy Spirit to equip them for ministry in the churches.
4. May the Lord graciously provide resources for men already desirous to serve, in Osani (Charles Awelo), in Kericho (David Ng'etich); and provide labourers where there are wide open doors, in Rendille, in Kapenguria, etc.

In Christ's service,

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