

Pray for Kenya 2022/1

19th. February

Dear Brethren,

Trinity Baptist Church, Nairobi started in 1978, and over the decades many other local churches have been planted in various parts of Kenya. Because of Government registration requirements they had to be formally linked with TBCN. To some people it looked like we were starting a 'denomination'. More recently, a number of these churches have obtained their independent registration, and a few have started having had little or nothing to do with us. The internet reaches so many we could not hope to reach! So in this Prayer Letter we thought we would tell you about some churches with which we have close fellowship and which are quite independent of TBC. Thank the Lord there are still other churches that adhere to the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith but we cannot write about them all! Some of the following are written by Murungi (MI), and others by me (KU). We want this letter to be an encouragement for what the Lord is doing in Kenya.

1. Hope City (MI)

Solomon Mbutia Muigai leads this young and fast-growing church along the busy Thika Highway running north out of Nairobi. He is a '1689 LBCF man' who loves the doctrines of grace. He was one of the pastors at Kahawa West Baptist in Nairobi but his efforts at reforming the church were not well received so that eventually he resigned to plant Hope City. The two-year-old church has been growing very fast with an attendance of about 150. They are now in the process of considering the expansion of their leadership. Along with EA and MI, he was on the Meaty Forum panel on Evangelism, 11th. February.

Please pray for the church:

- ❖ That the Lord would give Solomon much wisdom as he leads the church with many young people, and young families. He also has a young family with two young sons.
- ❖ That the Lord would raise more men to co-labour with him for the strengthening of the body as they lay the foundation in these formative years.
- ❖ That the Lord would provide a place for them to meet. They have moved to three venues in the last two years. The cost of renting has also been very high.

You may visit their website at <https://hopecitybiblechurch.org>.

2. Christ Bible Church, Mombasa (KU)

The Coastal area of Kenya is Muslim dominated, and **Mustafa Abubakar** was saved from that background in 2014. Mombasa is the second largest city in Kenya and he started Christ Bible Church in 2019 on the Island which is the heart of the city. He had been evangelizing and discipling campus students. Knowing the state of churches in the Island, that they are not healthy and sound, he saw the need to plant a conservative evangelical local church where these students could fellowship. He asks prayer for two things for the church:

I. For more faithful and committed men to join us, put their hands on the plough in Mombasa and labour with us. Mombasa is very needy. The Lord has opened quite a number of ministry doors but the labourers are few.

II. They are currently meeting in the living room of an elderly couple own a property in the central business district of the Island who have opened their house for the church to meet. They need a more convenient meeting place outside this couple's living room. To this end, they are trusting the Lord for consistent support to either rent a place or buy a property.

He has set up Calvary Hill Theological College to train pastors in Kenya, Tanzania, Zanzibar and South Sudan. He makes visits and instructs over Zoom. Sadly so much of Christianity is Word of Faith, prosperity teaching, and charismatic. He has written *Material Prosperity and Perfect Health?: A Biblical Examination of Prosperity Teaching* that you can find on Amazon. His desire is that many will come to know the true gospel, the doctrines of grace and shape their pastoral ministries according to the Scriptures. You can follow him and learn much about what he has been doing in ministry in various places at <https://twitter.com/ beholdgolgotha> and <https://www.facebook.com/mustafa.maiwa.1>.

3. Gospel Missions Agency, Maweni (KU)

Barnabas Kuogo is pastor of this church in the north part of Mombasa. From a very strong Word of Faith background he was convinced of the doctrines of grace through his brother Elly (see 4) and attended the TPC 10 years ago. You can read his testimony of what he found at the TPC at <https://www.trinity.or.ke/wp-content/uploads/TPC-Brochure-A4-2016-8p.pdf>. He is on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/bkolare>. During these years he has sought to bring reformation to his church. He is now the only elder with his fellow having just left. He requests prayer for wisdom and grace to guide the church through this season, that the Lord will give strength, greater unity, stability and genuine love among the brethren.

The church runs the Wisdom Training Centre (WTC) programme (for more details see under 4). They have started a new station at Malindi, about 70 miles north. There currently have 17 students here and most are pastors. Classes are once every month for 4 days. The Lord has raised a couple of brethren who help with the work which makes things a little easier for Barnabas. They plan to have a gospel conference in Malindi 5th. to 6th. May, then WTC graduation on Saturday 7th. May. The need in this part on the country is great. Our prayer is that the Lord will raise faithful labourers from this class, and that the conference will serve to scatter the seeds of gospel truth far and wide as we expect many from the larger Kilifi County.

4. Gospel Missions Agency, Mumias (KU)

Elly Achok Olare is one of the pastors here. Mumias is about 45 miles north of Kisumu in west Kenya. You can read his testimony of how he was delivered from the Word of Faith error at <http://trinitybaptistkenya.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Elly-Achok-Testimony.pdf>. In God's providence he joined the TPC in 2010 and so began the struggle of reformation of the church in Mumias.

Another struggle has been their meeting location as the Muslim dominated Town Council has constantly contested the land. The Lord has enabled them to purchase land and construct a new facility, which it is hoped will be ready for the annual Reformation Conference 20th. to 24th. April. You can read about past Conferences in which I participated (2013 & 2014) at <http://trinitybaptistkenya.org/tag/reformation-conference>. Prayer is requested for a speedy completion of especially the main facility by that time. A week later, 28th. to 29th. they will host the African Pastors Conference (see <https://www.africanpastorsconferences.org>). These are two major events which require extensive planning and mobilization. 'Pastors Murungi and Barnabas Kuogo will be helping us to take stock of the Gospel during the Reformation Conference 2022.'

Brother Elly has this interesting analysis of the underlying motivations of many in Kenya. 'Even with a genuine call to ministry, many of our people are torn between the practicalities of life (in terms of daily survival) and pure heart relationships. There is the long held view which in effect suggests that ministry work is for Wazungu (in this context meaning foreign missionaries) and the man on the ground is simply advancing a foreign work. I am sure this is not a conscious thought but that is how many of us proceed, as if our churches are simply extensions of some foreign missionary enterprise. I have always encouraged our people that until the eternal plight of our people grips us, and we are moved with such passion as moved Paul in Romans 10:1, we really have no legitimate right to be in the ministry.'

For full details of the work of the Wisdom Training Centre that was begun in Mumias by Elly, please visit <https://reformedgospel.org/wisdom-training-center>.

5. Grace Baptist Church, Kisumu (KU)

Tonny Karwa has been the pastor here for a few years, having been a member at TBC Nairobi. At <https://heartcrymissionary.com/testimony/tonny-karwa> you can find the testimony of Tonny and his wife Olivia. His Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/Tonny.E.Karwa>. He asks for prayer for the following:

(1) The church AGM is this Saturday 19th. It used to be held on a Sunday, but it has recently been on a Saturday in order to spend the Lord's Day for spiritual benefit of the soul. This will also enable them to have an afternoon service from 4 p.m. hopefully starting in March. There had been some resistance to this but the explanation from chapter 22 of the 1689 Confession was convincing.

(2) Six regular attendants are interested in becoming members of the church. Those who show genuine fruit of conversion will be taken through membership classes before being received.

(3) Tonny is preaching through 1 John and there is encouraging feedback. One of his Pentecostal friends from his time in University has been following the sermons online and he is now persuaded that predestination is Biblical. He has even done a YouTube video to try to persuade his friends. May the Lord help him to fully grasp the truths of God's word and be genuinely converted.

(4) The three deacons have expressed interest in expository preaching and have asked him to take them through preaching classes every week. So weekly they meet for about an hour to read through Olyott's "Preaching Pure And Simple" as he makes comments where necessary. Please do pray for the fruitfulness of these efforts.

6. Grace Baptist Church, Kericho (MI)

David Ng'etich leads this work having been sent from Glory Baptist Church, Chebang'ang' (Bomet County). Kericho is about 50 miles east of Kisumu. He was sent from TBC Nairobi to plant the church in his village, where he has laboured for 15 years, and we had been trying to see a Reformed Baptist church established in Kericho Town. David and Caroline (his wife) relocated their family there at the end 2019. You can read his testimony at <https://heartcrymissionary.com/testimony/david-ngetich>.

MI was able to visit and preach there last month January. There were more than 25 adults gathered and David reports that more are showing interest in the truths that they proclaim. MI had met two young men at the Meru Bible Study (which is now Trinity Reformed Baptist Church) who hail from Kericho town and encouraged them to be part of the church. One of them has become a part and is training for ministry at Kisumu Reformed School of Theology (KREST). Last year a young South African couple from Indian background, Brendon and Keshika, joined them and this gave a new impetus to the church plant.

The Lord sent another man to work with David, **Paul Cheroiyot**. When he came to know the doctrines of grace, he was still pastoring an Arminian church. He took his stand and eventually had to leave. Thankfully the Lord brought them together. They are praying for the church in Kericho to be constituted. Then they are thinking of relocating his family to the nearby Bomet Town which also needs a Reformed Baptist church.

Please pray for this new church:

- ❖ That the Lord of grace and mercy may show forth his glory in the salvation of many men and women and children.
- ❖ That the leaders being developed may be used of the Lord to equip the saints for ministry.
- ❖ That they would have their own property since they meet in a rented place.

7. Glory Baptist Church, Chebangang (MI)

William Keter leads this work. He is married to Irene and they have grown up children. He worked as a nurse before he took an early retirement to devote himself to the ministry. Irene is a teacher. He was one of the founding elders of GBC with David Ng'etich, and has been in the church with his family since its establishment in 2005. Since he was not the lead pastor, after Ng'etich left, the other man who served as the pastor tried to change the church to be charismatic. He was shown the door and William left his employment to devote more of his time to the work of ministry. MI was also able to visit this church last month.

Some of the needs of the church are:

- ❖ The salvation of sinners and their addition to the church.
- ❖ That the Lord may raise more leaders to work with William Keter.
- ❖ To be more active in outreach in the area and especially for gospel influence in the huge tea plantations in the area, where there are workers from across the country.

I know this has been long, and full of information and no pictures! Please pray for my forthcoming three-week visit to Kenya, Lord willing. I must have a negative covid-19 test in order to enter Kenya.

Thursday 24th. Feb – Arrival late evening; Thursday 17th. Mar – Leaving late evening.

Saturday 26th. to Monday 28th. Feb – Meru.

[See March Prayer Diary]

Thank you for your fellowship in the gospel. In Christ's service,

Keith Underhill with Murungi Igweta

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<http://www.trinity.or.ke>; <http://www.trinitybaptistkenya.org>

<http://www.trainkenya.com> (TRAINKenya Charity)

<http://www.trinitypastorscollege.com> (TPC)