

Prayer Letter from the Underhills

2023/3, 28th. April

[Let me put this at the beginning, so that you do not miss it. Some of you have received emails purporting to be from me. It seems someone has got hold of the mailing list. Just be on the look out and see that the sender's email address is not mine]

Dear Brethren,

Thank you for your love and prayer on our behalf. I am writing to you again as next week I am set to make a further visit to Kenya after more than seven months.

Visit to Kenya, May 3-15.

Anticipating that future visits may be more and more limited I am seeking to spend time with different brethren each time. I have the following schedule. Please pray that I will be of encouragement and blessing to all the brethren I meet.

- Wednesday 3rd. Arrival Nairobi midday, fellowship with brethren in north of Nairobi whom I have known for decades.
- Thursday 4th. Day visit to Meru, 200+km. north, specifically to visit brother David Mutembei, of whom I wrote in the 2023/1 prayer letter.
- Friday 5th. Overnight visit to Kiplagat family near Eldama Ravine on the way to west Kenya.
- Saturday to Wednesday 6th. to 10th. To Mumias to spend a few days with brother Elly Achok of GMA Church (Gospel Missions Agency). I will preach on Sunday, visit a Nairobi member near the Ugandan border on Monday, and have at least 6 sessions with the various men Elly has been training.
- Thursday to Monday 11th. to 15th. To Kisumu to be with brother Tonny Karwa of the Grace Baptist Church. I will be in contact with various brethren in the area and preach on Sunday.
- Monday 15th. Afternoon flight to Nairobi, and then overnight to Manchester, arriving early Tuesday morning.

You may be aware that there have been some tensions with the Nairobi leaders and we thank the Lord that a well-respected brother from outside Kenya has stepped in to seek to bring mutual understanding. May the Lord facilitate his efforts.

Book Publication

The book on the history of Trinity Baptist Church, Nairobi and its ministries, titled 'Planted by the Providence of God,' is set for publication in the next few weeks. Please go to the website of *Broken Wharfe* at <https://brokenwharfe.com> for details. May it be an encouragement for those of you who have followed its development, and may it be helpful for those who seek to plant churches wherever in the world.

Ministry in UK (May & June)

As you will see, there are opportunities to preach every Sunday.

30/4 Grace Baptist, Southport (morning), continuing through Luke 24, this Sunday on vv. 44-49 and the Great Commission. See PL 2023/2.

[7/5 Gospel Missions Agency, Mumias, Kenya]

[14/5 Grace Baptist Church, Kisumu, Kenya]

21/5 Trinity Grace, Ramsbottom (evening), Oliver's 25th. Oliver Allmand-Smith will have been 25 years in the ministry here, and I have been asked to say something about my relationship with him over the past two decades, and to preach in the evening service. Oliver is one of the trustees of TRAIN(Kenya) and has been much involved in the work in Kenya, especially annual visits to Nairobi to teach in the TPC. [[Homepage - Trinity Grace Church](#)]

28/5 Kingston Evangelical, Hull (morning & evening). I have visited this church annually and they have shown much interest in the work of Trinity Baptist Church in Kenya. The pastor, Dennis Hill, retired at the end of April, and like so many churches in UK they are now looking for a new man. Interestingly, where the church is located, is now surrounded by those of Muslim faith. [[KEC - Index \(kingstonevangelicalchurch.co.uk\)](#)]

4/6 Stanley Park (morning & evening). This church is located in north Liverpool, between the Everton and Liverpool football grounds. There is a large blasphemous poster nearby showing the 'holy trinity' – 3 footballers. The church has seen much growth in the last three years now with about 40 in attendance. This is partly due to the fact that they remained open during the pandemic. [[Stanley Park Church Liverpool. - Evangelical Christian Church \(business.site\)](#)]

4,11 & 18/6 Warrington (afternoon). See PL 2023/2.

25/6 Pains Hill Chapel. This small assembly of God's people is located south of London, so quite a distance from Liverpool. I have also been preaching here annually. There has been much support for the work in Kenya as the leaders both have a background from Aberystwyth. John was amongst the first trustees of TRAIN(Kenya). [[Pains Hill Chapel](#)]

Banner of Truth Conference

I had the privilege of attending the Ministers' Conference, 17th-20th. April. One of the blessings is meeting a number of brethren, those one has known for decades, and others from different parts of the world. There was a brother from an Anglican Church in Morogoro, Tanzania, present for the first time. You can imagine what a delight that was for me! It was encouraging to hear of gospel work in other parts of the world. There were a number of brethren from India present labouring under much opposition. There are those seeking to bring the gospel to unreached people of the Comoro Islands, and in Guinea in west Africa.

The ministry of the Word was of very great encouragement and challenge, focusing on the Church and its Worship. There was the centrality of the church in the purpose of Christ's coming from Matthew 16:18, and 18:17. There was the priority of public worship over private worship, based on an old Puritan sermon of Jeremy Clarkson. There was an

illuminating exposition of the anointing of Jesus by Mary and pointing out that it is not so much the sacrifice she made but how much worth she believed our Lord to have, compared with the objections of the disciples and the price of a slave as valued by the religious leaders.

Pokot

(1) Church building. Sadly no progress has been made with the roof structure, although all the materials have been bought. The builder went home to Uganda to see his family and, despite promises to return, has not done so. The brethren are about to decide to hire another builder to complete this work. Please pray for the brethren there in Chepkinagh, with their pastor, Andrew Chemolok, as they are perplexed and discouraged.

(2) Support of teachers. About 20 extra teachers have been hired for the government registered schools to help them reach the required number of teachers for the smooth running of a school. We hope there will be reports from the schools for the months of March and April and that we can include something in the next prayer letter.

Rendille

This is the message I received from Stephen Silamo, one of leaders of the church in Korr. I give the content as he wrote it, hoping you will enjoy the parable.

We are always grateful to the Lord for His continued mercies and providences. It's a great pleasure and a joy to have you and other brethren pray for us and the ministry among the Rendille people. What an encouragement and a blessing! Here's an African Parable - most good African Parables involve animals. So there's a story here about an Ant and an Elephant. Now the Ant is on a journey and comes to a raging river and he couldn't get across. He doesn't know what to do. And then the Elephant comes along and he says, Hey will you take me across? And the Elephant says no problem, so the Ant crawled up, got on top of the back of the Elephant. The Elephant plunged into the raging river, the Ant got scared. He's afraid that even the splashes will take him off as the Elephant powered right through undeterred by the river because of his great strength and they got over the other side. The Ant yelled in jubilation - we did it! We did it together! The point of the parable is that God is the Elephant and we are the Ant . The Elephant is at the centre of the story and the Ant is along for the ride.

We're grateful for many things that the Sovereign Lord is doing among these least reached, marginalized and forgotten people in the north of Kenya. We want the gospel where it's never been. God is on the move. His transformational work through the gospel of Christ is reaching these villages and among families. We have the full confidence in what the Lord God is doing through Church Planting Ministry and still fall into discouragement or distractions when we take our eyes off of Him (Christ) for even a moment. Makes me remember when Peter took his first steps onto the water, eyes on the Saviour with faith to believe he couldn't drown. Imagine the panic that he must have got in as he shifted his focus from Jesus to his circumstances and began to quickly sink - Lord Jesus draw near us! We, too, can fall into discouragement and panic within the work God has given us to do - all it takes is a brief shift away from Christ to the water all around us. Our prayer is that He who called us will keep us faithful till the end for His glory. Pray that many Rendille people would come to Him - the Saviour of the world.

As I have shared in my previous texts, the Rendille people have experienced chronic hunger and threat of famine. Recurring droughts made it difficult for herders to feed livestock. The elderly and children were the worst affected, with their health and development drastically impacted. Hundreds of families struggled to get daily food and meet their basic needs. Most people lost their livelihood - camels, goats and sheep. The good news is that it has rained after couple of years! But even after heavy rains, many animals died from fever and pneumonia! But, now there's hope for the animals left after the drought. To God be the glory. Ogom and I just got back from two days and one night evangelistic trip in Ilaut - goob Maago (Ongeli village). There's great need for a church plant here. Trusting God for many such opportunities to preach the gospel in these villages. Pray for fruit.

In Christ's service,

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Websites

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