

GBC-KISUMU PRAYER LETTER AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2023

Dear Brethren,

I am so sorry that you did not hear from us last month. The Lord has dealt very mercifully and graciously with the brethren in Kisumu. He continues to shepherd us through Paul's Epistle to the church at Philippi. This coming Lord's Day, we hope to learn how to glorify God in our afflictions like the apostle Paul (Philippians 1:12-14). Kindly pray that these studies will be especially practical and Christ-honouring. Additionally, pray for us with much gratitude in these areas; -

1] That we may Contend for the Faith.

"Contending for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude vv. 3,4) is a timeless truth across church history. Lately, the Lord has used the 'excesses' of the cultic groups in Kenya to awaken in us the need to rethink this passage. For a few months now, hundreds of decomposing bodies of those who succumbed to the cultic beliefs and practices of a 'Christian' religious movement have been retrieved and exhumed in what has now popularly been termed "the Shakaola Massacre."



Government agencies retrieving decomposing bodies from the Shakaola forest.

Historically, the church has responded to these cultic and heretical tendencies by being unashamedly creedal, confessional, and catechetical. For a few weeks now, we have found chapter 21 of the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith especially helpful (Of Christian Liberty & Liberty of Conscience). Amos, one of our deacons, has been facilitating these studies. I buttressed these studies with two applicatory lessons—a diagnosis of religious bondage and the dangers of religious bondage. I can't agree more with J.I. Packer when he describes our modern-day attitude that does not appreciate the historical nature of the Christian faith—what C.S. Lewis

termed "chronological snobbery." The spirit of the age, Packer remarks, holds that, "the newer is truer, only what is recent is descent, every shift of ground is a step forward."

- Pray for opportunities to proclaim the gospel of Christ Jesus that those lost in these cultic groups would be snatched out of the fire.
- Plead for the Lord to keep us from stumbling, and that we will firmly hold the historical faith as passed down to us.
- Plead with the Lord to grant His church in Kenya the grace and wisdom to navigate the new regulatory measures imposed by the government on churches following these incidents.

2] That the Children's VBS may be impactful.

About 35 children had a great opportunity to see the riches of Christ in His parables during their brief school break.



VBS children with their teachers.

Bony, one of our deacons, is gifted in working with and amongst children. The Lord specially enables him to coordinate these programs. My task has always been to train and equip the teachers for increased faithfulness. Many of the teachers have tremendously grown, both in their Christian walk and their ability to delineate the biblical truths.

- Praise the Lord for the faithfulness of the teachers.
- Pray earnestly for fruit, especially of salvation.
- Plead with the Lord for more Sunday School teachers.

In Christ,

Tonny Karwa | GBC-Kisumu