

GBC-KISUMU PRAYER LETTER OCTOBER 2023

Dear brethren, we continue to draw much comfort in your remembrance of us in prayer and are thankful to God. Kindly remember Elder Ken and my wife, Sally, in your intercession. They are struggling with persistent health problems. Sally has had persistent migraines for close to three years now. Despite the numerous tests run so far, no underlying cause has been established. Consequently, she is getting anxious. We are trusting God for further medical intervention, according to His gracious provision. Yet amidst all these, there are great opportunities for the gospel the Lord has granted to us this month for which to pray with thankful hearts as follows; -

1] OPPORTUNITY AT THE ANNUAL COUPLES' DINNER.

Early this month, we held our second edition of the annual couples' dinner. The turnout was evidently encouraging, something for which to thank God. I preached from Ephesians 5:22-31, seeking to build on the foundation I laid last year from Genesis 2:24.



A section of the diners listening to the preaching of God's word.

There is a sense in which the so-called celebrities and social media influencers of our day have a strong grip on our populace in moral, relational, and marital matters, including a number of those who profess faith. They set the standards of morality in almost every area of life. They become the point of reference in ethical issues on what is 'good' and 'acceptable' in the society. For instance, they proliferate the notion that if marriage

doesn't reward you with tangible happiness and the much-needed freedom, then there's no point staying in a marital relationship. In other words, it is okay to seek divorce if you don't 'feel happy and satisfied' in your marriage. The biblical standards of marriage, they argue, are slavish and antiquated, and are thus, repugnant to one living in the 21st century. It is against this backdrop that we seek to rethink marriage the biblical way annually even as we seek to deal with these emerging trends bolstered by social media. We invited our friends, outreach contacts, and family members who are not necessarily Christians to not only point them to God's design of marriage but most importantly point them to Christ unto salvation. Such a platform also aids those engaged and are seriously planning to get married amongst us to appreciate God's view of marriage in a preparatory way.



Speaking at the couples' dinner.

- Please pray for marriages in our fellowship to experience growth and the refreshing grace of Christ.
- Please plead that the word preached would be used by God to bring our guests to the saving knowledge of Christ.

2] OPPORTUNITY AT MASENO UNIVERSITY CU.

Last week, I had an opportunity to preach to hundreds of Maseno University Christian Union students. They had requested us to address them on the subject,

“Contending for the Faith.”



With a section of the students during 'praise and worship' time.

I considered this a great opportunity to do a brief exposition of Jude, focusing my application on the false teaching that continues to plague us here in Kenya. Sadly, most of the preachers they frequently invite to speak to them are the same characters who package and peddle false teaching. The Word of Faith movement, in her incursive approach, has so deeply entrenched her tentacles that they have become the 'face' of Christianity in Kenya. They come as those who understand and can relate with the intricacies of Africa's indigenous struggles—of disease, superstition, and poverty—so well and have mastered the art of leveraging them to their worldly gain. I think they have not only reincarnated but also perfected the medieval practice of simony.



Preaching God's word to hundreds of the university students.

- Please pray for the effectiveness and fruitfulness of the word preached.
- Please pray for God's help to have mercy on those who doubt, save others by snatching them out of the fire, and show mercy to others with

fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

In Christ,

Tonny Karwa | GBC-Kisumu.