

# Prayer Letter from the Underhills

## 2024/1, 2<sup>nd</sup>. January

Dear Brethren,

### Proposed Visit to Kenya, 15-25 January, 2024

Oliver Allmand-Smith and I will be going as trustees of TRAIN(Kenya). The specific purpose is to look on the ground at what the charity has been doing with donors' money in Pokot – a church building in Chepkinagh, the support of church leaders, and support for extra teachers in primary schools.

We depart late Monday 15<sup>th</sup>. January, fly overnight to Nairobi via Dubai, then it is a short flight to Kisumu where we will be met by Elly Achok and be taken to his place of ministry in Mumias. On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>. we drive with Elly to Pokot arriving late in the afternoon. In the 6 full days we will have four places where we stay. We are three in the team and it will enable us to be constantly ministering the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(1) We start with **Kamketo**, where Thomas Lokerisa is the Pastor. As in each place we will seek to minister to the church, preach in the schools. Here, we will have an all-day meeting with the leaders in the Pokot region.

(2) Then up to nearby **Kasei**, where Joshua Sitet is the Pastor. Here, we will also want to talk about the proposal for a Bible School so there can be training on a more local level.

(3) On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>. we go the few hours to **Chepkinagh**, although it is geographically near there is a long ridge of hills we need to circumvent. Andrew Chemolok is the Pastor here. This is where we will spend our Sunday with a number of the churches around which are under Andrew's oversight also in attendance.

(4) Finally on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>. we go to **Wasat**, where Peter Nalunyit is the pastor. In terms of growth by conversion from nothing 15 years ago this has been the most encouraging place. [You can find each of these on Google Earth, the place followed by Trinity Baptist Church.]

Wednesday we travel back all the way to Kisumu to spend the night with Tonny Karwa and family, before flying to Nairobi and then out of Kenya. Maybe we will have the opportunity to be visited by a few of the Nairobi brethren as we have a few hours stopover in the airport. We both go to Dubai, where I will spend the long weekend with Alan & Kez Kimunguyi and the brethren there, and Oliver will continue back home.

Please pray for us.

1. It is a tightly packed schedule as we look to the Lord to accomplish much for his kingdom.
2. We want to be of especial encouragement to the leaders that they may be faithful preachers of the gospel of our Lord.
3. TRAIN(Kenya) now sends support directly to the brethren in Pokot.. We want to find out the situation on the ground, to make sure the money we sent is being used properly, and to encourage evangelism in the schools, both primary and secondary.

With perhaps more than half of the children of the area at these schools it is a wonderful opportunity and there is freedom at the present time to do this.

4. We want to assess the genuine needs so that we can report back to donors.



One item of news from the Pokot ministry is that was a Youth Camp for the area at Chepkinagh where about 130 attended for the few days. The theme was, What is the Church? More than half the budgeted expenses were covered by the campers / churches, with one-third a gift from TRAIN(Kenya), so that the total expense was almost covered.

### Ministry in UK 2023

The Lord has been so kind during the year enabling me to fulfil an almost weekly ministry. Apart from 2 visits to Kenya, most weekends were taken up preaching at different churches. A number of churches have no full-time pastor, and they are either searching, or they are too small to support such a man. Many of them have had a long-time commitment to us and the work in Kenya. One is a church plant near Liverpool (Warrington).

Forthcoming schedule of ministry (so far):

January 7<sup>th</sup>. – Warrington Reformed Fellowship (afternoon)

January 15<sup>th</sup>. – 29<sup>th</sup>. – Pokot (Kenya) and Dubai Reformed Baptist Church

February 4<sup>th</sup>. – Warrington Reformed Fellowship (afternoon)

March 3<sup>rd</sup>. – Warrington Reformed Fellowship (afternoon)

March 10<sup>th</sup>. Trinity Baptist Church, Charlesworth (morning and afternoon)

March 24<sup>th</sup>. West Park, Wolverhampton (all day)

When not out preaching, we have been fully involved in the local Belvidere Road Church! The Young Adults group takes place almost every two weeks and continues to be encouraging as we see them committed and growing in spiritual maturity. We have covered many subjects but the most challenging was probably, How To Control Speech. I found a small book by Simo Ralević, *The Tongue – Our Measure*, very helpful.

My book on the background to and history of our church planting in Kenya was published earlier in the year. *Planted by the Providence of God* is published by Broken Wharfe and you can obtain a copy in both UK and USA from their website. Many have found the 22 Biblical Foundation sections special and helpful as they give the Biblical rationale for doing things the way we did. There have been two 'book launches'.

## Thanks for your fellowship in the gospel

Priscilla and I are so thankful for your continuing fellowship. We have heard of many who return from their field of labour who then feel forgotten. I suppose it has helped that we still have much to do with Kenya and we are able to report from first-hand knowledge. You are aware that there has been tension with Nairobi and this continues to be a matter of prayer and discussion. We long to see a resolution and, in a way we just cannot see at present, that it works for good as the Lord has assured us. Please continue to pray for developing unity amongst the churches in Kenya and for the continuing spread of the gospel. Trinity Baptist Church has continued to grow in size. There are at least 10 Calvinistic Churches in the Nairobi that are seeking closer ties so they can encourage each other.



I don't often put pictures of ourselves but here we are at our family Christmas get together at son Matthew's house. He and his partner hosted us, and Deborah and grandson Tomas were also with us. Carys, Deborah's daughter is with cousins (children of son Jonathan) in the States (Ohio). She has professed faith and, God willing, will be baptized with a few other young people here in Liverpool on 13<sup>th</sup>. January, for which we are very thankful to the Lord.

Healthwise we are ageing with common problems. We are both on blood-pressure medicines, but we are able to lead fairly active and normal lives. We have mercifully been kept from the very common colds and flus that so often put people down here. I (Keith) have a swollen thyroid and am scheduled to have a thyroidectomy on February 12<sup>th</sup>. We are wearing out! The day of Christ's return, or our departure from this world is getting nearer and nearer. We see brethren and friends around us departing, or suffering far worse than

we presently are, and pray that we might be faithful by God's grace and be a witness to Him by our joyful response in all our trials.

In Christ's service,

Keith & Priscilla

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TRAIN(Kenya) – [www.trainkenya.com](http://www.trainkenya.com)