

Dear brethren. Thank you for standing with us in prayer for all these years without losing heart. May the Lord richly multiply His blessings to you. Kindly continue praying for my son, Levin, to continue knowing God's grace as he recuperates. He was hospitalised for several days with a life-threatening pneumonia and had to be on oxygen and nebulizer for some time. Yet we must continue to serve the Lord in and out of season, only by the grace and strength the Lord immensely supplies!



Levin receiving treatment last month.

The Jerusalem Church has in so many ways set precedence for us in the 21st century in the day-to-day practical church life, not to mention their unwavering doctrinal convictions. Whereas we struggle with church fellowship and unity today, in their case we read that “the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul...” (Acts 4:32). And while we struggle with giving today, we read that “they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need...” (Acts 2:45). This does not, however, mean that they were a perfect church, for the likes of Ananias and Sapphira were in their midst (Acts 5:1ff). But can we emulate some of their practices that God bountifully blessed?

1] THEY BROKE BREAD IN THEIR HOMES (ACTS 2:46).

One of the most illustrious descriptions of the early church is that they were devoted to “breaking bread in their homes” (Acts 2:46). We see a church that

deliberately created opportunities for communion. It is with such conviction that the framers of the 1689 Baptist Confession affirmed that, “Saints by profession are bound to maintain an holy fellowship and communion in the worship of God, and in performing such other spiritual services as tend to their mutual edification...” (Chapter 27: Of the Communion of Saints). Every fortnight, we gather in the homes of our brethren to break bread together as we study a collection of articles titled “Self-Examination” (a publication of Chapel Library). Our aim has been to ask such questions—soberly and solemnly—as, “Are you truly in the faith?” “Can you see marks of grace as evidence of salvation?” “Are these marks of grace abounding in increasing measure in your life?” Since these forums are quite interactive, we can, in some small way, closely keep pace with the spiritual growth of the flock even for better shepherding.



The town side fellowship breaking bread after reflection.



The group across town breaking bread after reflection

The presence of the children in our midst has been a great blessing and has served to remind us to always illustrate these truths pictorially.

- Please plead with the Lord to use such opportunities to edify His saints in Kisumu.
- Cry to the merciful Lord to save those we invite to such fellowships.

In Christ,

Tonny Karwa | Grace Baptist Church-Kisumu

2] THEY DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO THE PRAYERS (ACTS 2:42).

Prayer and preaching are like the two wheels of a bicycle. They must be in tandem (Acts 6:4). Unfortunately, little emphasis is placed on prayer in our modern churches. We want to preach but we do not want to pray! We want to see fruit, but we do not want to plead for the fruit! Yet we read that “Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.” (Psalm 126:5-6). It is little wonder then that the early church devoted themselves to the prayers, and it pleased the Lord to add to their number day by day those who were being saved (Acts 2:47). What an indictment!



The first prayer meeting at the beginning of this year was well attended.

Our brethren meet every fortnight to pray together. We alternate prayers with home fellowships. Clearly, there is growth amongst us as seen in the increasing number of those who turn up for prayers and their readiness to participate. We share the prayer guide beforehand in order not to waste time when we gather.

- Pray that we would be a weeping church for the gospel fruit.
- Pray also for the Lord to reap some gospel fruit from among those to whom we speak His word.