

## GBC-KISUMU PRAYER LETTER JANUARY 2025

Dear Brethren,

There is so much for which to thank God as I have indicated in this month's prayer letter. I would specifically love to draw your attention to the reality of one the Apostle Paul's trustworthy sayings, "**Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.**" (1 Timothy 1:15). Christ Jesus has saved some souls from amongst us here in Kisumu—Beryl, Paul, and Riziki.



*Preparing Paul, Beryl, and Riziki for baptism*

Christ Jesus must have the bride for whom He became the penal substitute. Surely this saying is deserving of full acceptance!

### 1] Jesus saved Beryl.



*Beryl's Baptism*

Beryl is a student at Maseno University. In our initial interactions at campus, she excused herself from being evangelised since she considered herself a believer. In any case, she faithfully attended a Reformed Church while at

home. So, our church soon became to her what Pastor Oliver Allmand-Smith describes as 'home-away-from-home'. It was her incoherent testimony, however, that revealed her need for Christ Jesus as narrated in the excerpt below.

*"...I attempted to justify my salvation but, as I shared my testimony, explaining myself was difficult and after I was done, he [the brother who was evangelising her at campus] said he didn't understand what I meant. I wasn't being really clear. It basically meant I counted myself saved since I had access to sound doctrine, in a reformed church while relying on a sinner's prayer where I hadn't repented my sins...We were in the car heading home that day when I asked Pastor Tony to explain what it meant to be saved? He explained the whole concept but what stood out for me was being saved from God's wrath...Suddenly, everything made sense. After He answered the me, he waited for more questions, but I was satisfied, it was all I needed to hear...I saw the sins for what they were – hideous...I now saw I deserved eternal punishment which wouldn't even be enough to pay for what I had done...how could I repay yet I was just a mere mortal...I thought of all these things at my house in tears begging for mercy from the infinitely holy God...I could never be able to save myself from His wrath, from this sin, what could I do? "Please grant me this gift of salvation, have mercy on me dear Lord", I said as I ended my prayer. I now have the assurance of salvation for the lord keeps His promises and He promised that as many as believed in Christ He gave right to become sons of God. After that prayer I felt an unexplainable peace and trusted he had accepted me into His flock. A gradual change of my ways has been happening, seeking the Lord more, to please him more and terrible pain in the struggle with sin..."*

Lord has taught us some lessons through such a conversion: (1) that one faithfully attends or is a member of a 'Reformed Church' does not necessarily mean he/she is a true believer. We will, therefore, do well to patiently seek to hear the testimony of any professing Christian. (2) evangelistic preaching must echo in our pulpits every Lord's Day.

**2] Jesus saved Paul.** Until the time of his conversion, Paul had been a regular and faithful attendee of our meetings. His commitment was because he counted himself a Christian. Everything he heard from our pulpit ran against the contours of his belief system. He wondered why we neither insisted on tongue speaking nor material blessings on our pulpit. He frowned at the former. So, I spent several weeks with him in the Book of Acts, debunking his doctrine of the Holy Spirit that I sensed had been enamelled in his belief system by the charismatic church of which he was initially part. Here is an excerpt from his testimony.

*“The first weekend when I was in form One, God directed me to the Christian Union fellowship. I prayed the sinner’s prayer and knew that I was born again. When I left high school, I joined a church which I knew would help me in my walk of faith. Years, later, through my then neighbour, I started listening to the teachings of a Baptist pastor. I left my former church and decided to join a Baptist church. When I moved to Kisumu, the Lord again directed me to Grace Baptist Church- Kisumu. Here...teachings were no longer focused on breakthroughs, promotions, and material possessions but about the love and grace of Jesus. Two sermons stood out. This was when elder Ken preached about a man, who also owned a fabrication workshop as I do, was fatally knocked down by a car, not so far away from my workshop. It hit close. Secondly, pastor Tonny has repeatedly asked this question, “Are you sure if you die today, you will spend eternity in heaven?” In May this year (2024), my life was not where I wanted and had planned it to be. When I interrogated myself, I naturally thought that it was because I wasn’t doing well financially. My health wasn’t good either. God quickly showed me that I was wrong; the question, “Where will you spend eternity if you died today?” echoed repeatedly in my mind. I wasn’t confident that I would spend it in heaven. I was in Nairobi at the time. When I came back home, I knelt down and cried to God to save me. Two days after that, as I was leaving work for home, the same question came to mind again. “Where will you spend eternity if you die?” This time, I was so confident, so sure and full of faith that I will spend eternity in heaven. I was so happy and had so much joy. I had and still have an unrelenting assurance that I am saved, and I am going to heaven. I got home, knelt beside my bed and thanked God for saving me. It was so profound to me. That after all those years of reading the bible, sometimes cover to cover, after all those prayer meetings, and bible studies, and yet I had not known God savingly. I knew that if I prayed or asked God for something, He would give it to me, as He did severally according to His will. But I did not know about salvation as Jesus taught. God does give us all these things but that’s not the reason for salvation. The reason for salvation is to spend eternity with God. God showed me my life was a mess, not because I wasn’t where I was supposed to be professionally, financially, or health-wise. My life was a mess because I was not saved. But He has saved me now. This does not mean that all my problems have been solved, it means I am going to heaven. And it gives me so much joy. This is my testimony.”*



*Baptism of Paul*

Paul’s conversion unearths the great deception that is deeply entrenched in the ‘Word of Faith Movement’ in this country. Oftentimes I consider this movement a mission field from where we ought to harvest the lost souls for Christ Jesus.

### **3] Jesus saved Riziki.**



*Riziki’s Baptism*

Riziki graduated last year from high school and was converted back in her ‘home church’ during her brief involvement with a visiting missionary team as their translator. Her parents are members of a ‘Reformed Church’ a few miles away from Kisumu. Her father has been serving as one of the deacons of the church for a number of years. Here is her testimony.

*“I was raised in a Christian family. My parents used to show me the way to Lord, they also encouraged me to go to church and do my devotions daily but that did not make a Christian. My life before I got to know Christ was in sin. I loved them and could not allow anyone to talk to me about how sinful I was. I used to*

*tell them no matter how I am I will face judgement myself whether I will go to hell or heaven, I didn't care. My parents talked to me about my sins, but it was difficult to repent. I used to pray but only when I was in trouble or in need of something. On March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, our church hosted missionaries that was TBC Siaya, the missionaries came from America. They came to do evangelism in our home area and also doing open air in the evenings since my father was a member in that church, they came to visit home, and I welcomed them and offered to walk with them around home area since they were new with the place. And we did door to door evangelism. I was the one doing the translations. Through that I heard some messages that convicted me and that was "Truly, Truly I say to you unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God" from the book of John 3:3 and another one was that "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." When I came to hear these words, that's when I realized that the only person who can carry my burden and wash away my sins is through Jesus Christ. After hearing and being the one saying these words of truth. Pastor Mike Reid spoke to me, and I saw how sinful I was. I went down on my knees and confessed my sins and asked God for forgiveness and my parents. After surrendering my life to Jesus, my life began to change many things. The things I once loved I started to hate and many things I once hated I started to love like praying every day, reading my bible and repenting my sins. I am not that perfect but a better person now. I aspire to know more about God and dwell in Him. Amen"*


#### **Prayer Requests.**

- Please pray for the preservation and perseverance of these three souls.
- Please pray for the conversion of the many of our contacts and attendants who frequently hear the gospel.
- Please pray for the Lord to provide towards our evangelistic outreach programs. We desire to evangelise more colleges and universities within Kisumu.

***In Christ,***

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