

Pokot Trip – January 2025

Report 1

Monday 20th to Tuesday 21st:

Travel was without difficulty. I was able to get some good sermon preparation done on the first overnight flight to Dubai. It is remarkable to see how many parallels there are between Israel's experience in Egypt and our own situation, both culturally and in our churches. May the Lord enable us to manifest the persevering faith of those like the midwives and Moses' family, even as we face great challenges to our faith.

I met up with Keith after the second flight in Nairobi. He was in good spirits having spent Tuesday morning with some friends there. I got him a cup of "chai" from the cafe, which he enjoyed greatly. Chai is tea "Kenyan style", made with around one third hot milk added before the tea leaves are put in and everything is simmered together. Often they add herbs and spices as well. Keith felt like he had "arrived home". I had a strong coffee, Italian-American style -- a travesty in

After the short flight to Kisumu, we were met by our brother Tonny Karwa, who is the pastor of Grace Baptist Church here. He is a solid brother, very gifted and thoroughly confessional! It was my privilege to teach him at the Pastors College in Nairobi some years back. He is pressing on in the ministry. I took him about 15 books that he had asked for, as well as some Broken Wharfe titles -- it was Christmas all over again for him! He is married to Olivia and they have two small boys, Junior and Levin.

Elly Achok, minister in Mumias, came to collect us. He is a tall Luo (the tribe of Western Kenya associated with lake Victoria) with a deep voice and much personality! We travelled up to Mumias with him and enjoyed a lovely meal on arrival. He is a big fan of "ugali", which is a moist savoury cake made out of maize meal, which is taken with the meat and meat juices and greatly enjoyed. Elly is a very big fan and can't conceive of enjoying any meal without ugali.

We rested well overnight.



Wednesday 22nd:

We took breakfast at Elly's place in Mumias, loaded the car and were on our way before 9:30am. We drove north through Kitale and Kapenguria, before heading north west through Pokot. I did about three hours of the driving, and had a bad experience when I failed to see one of the many speed humps that they place in the middle of main roads without marking them! We hit it at about 50mph and the car literally flew through the air. It was a worrying moment, and I do hope no lasting damage has been done to the vehicle. Entering Pokot North through Kapenguria, we had great



views of the mountainous region before us, rising up to 10,000 feet. Most of the road was tarmac, with the last hour being dirt track. We made good progress and arrived before 4pm.



Thomas Lokerisa (one of the three leaders) greeted us in Kamketo and we enjoyed sweet fellowship together over tea, then a meal of goat stew. We shared together in the Lord's kind providence and wondered at the possibility even of making such a journey. The Lord is gracious.

We had a late evening time of worship and devotion when I was asked to speak on the subject of "Christian prayer." We went through the Lord's Prayer, emphasising that Christians do not pray to get things from God, but to manifest their love for God, faith in him and desire for his glory. Even all the things we ask for, such as our daily bread, are only so that we can love and serve him better. They listened well in the dark!



As we sat together I became aware of the starry sky

above, and walked away from the few lights shining around the property to see the amazing starscape. It was staggering to see the number of stars sparkling in the sky! How wonderful is our God, that he could not only fling those stars into space by the power of his word, but even conceive of such a thing. Truly "The heavens declare the glory of God." Amen!



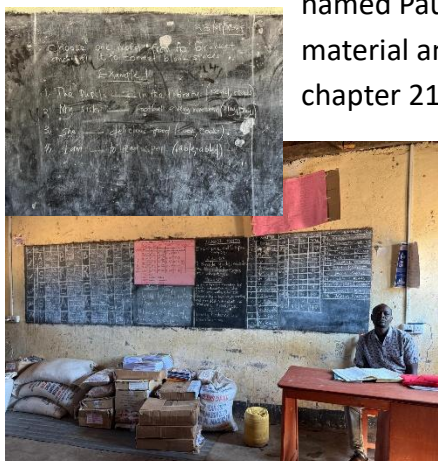
Thursday 23rd.

We began the day with Pokot pancakes and wild honey — a real treat! Then we travelled the short distance to Kasepa to visit the school there (nursery to Y9). Last time we visited, the head teacher was not present, most of the children and teachers were not present, and it was a very discouraging start! This time the contrast was significant: with a new head teacher, all except one of the 12 teachers were present and about half of the children were there. The atmosphere was very positive with formal greetings and expressions of thanks, along with the expected requests for further help.



Of the 142 children enrolled, still only 60 were present. Many children are kept home by parents to care for animals and work in the home. Often the brighter children are not in school because they are of more use in the home. The lack of provision from the World Food Programme also means that children are not sent to school. Two out of the 12 teachers are sponsored by the church and one of them, a young man

named Paul Kiboro, teaches the PPI (Pastoral Instruction). They are using Rafiki material and teaching through Matthew every Friday morning — he has reached chapter 21.



We listened to the children sing before greeting them, and then Elly spoke. These are the words to their two songs:

Call on the name of the Lord and believe in it, for he is the living God. In whatever you do, he can make it happen.



We should always be ready for the Lord, because he is coming. Take care of your heart, for it is the only place where all kinds of temptations fall in.

Keith was encouraged to meet William Lopet, the boy he took to Nairobi for treatment of his cleft lip / palate when he was a small child in Kasepa up to 20 years ago. He helps in the school and hopes to study further with help from the head. It was a lovely moment.





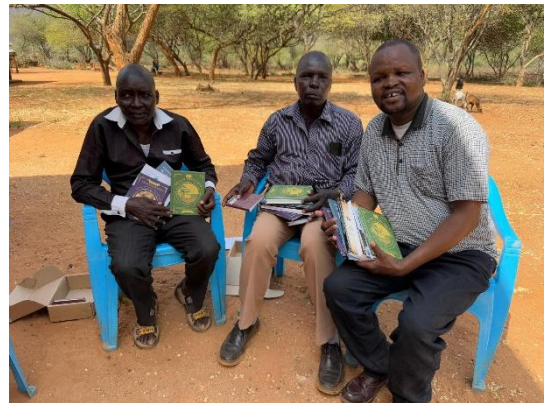
Elly then spoke to a small group from the Kasepa church under a tree in the school grounds. It was a clear call to repent and trust in Christ, because all have sinned.

After lunch we met with the three leaders, Andrew Chemolok (Chepkinagh), Thomas Lokerisa (Kamketo) and Joshua Sitet (Kasei). They were delighted to receive

packages full of Broken Wharfe books. We spoke at length about many issues and sought to encourage them. It is a delight that they held the first sessions of the Bible Light College this month, teaching 9 men the doctrine of Scripture.



In the evening we met Reuben Kapel, student at the Bible Light College. He is from the church in Kamketo. He completed school when 21 years of age due to the reluctance / ability of this father to pay fees. He is now 31 years, teaching at the school in Kamketo as a church sponsored teacher. He was married in 2015 to one wife and has remained faithful. His father did not want him to continue with further education, so he pressured him into marriage. He said to his father that he already had a fiancée (a Christian girl from another church), so the father agreed to the marriage, but not for it to take place in the church. The father was strongly against church, and he found it hard to stand against this. They are now both members of the church here and he wants to be faithful to his wife. The story shows the challenges faced by young Christians here, but also that there are some who have been faithful. What a joy that he is now doing the studies!



Elly spoke to the small group from the church from Luke 18 around 10pm in the dark. It was a great blessing to conclude the day in such a way!

Friday 24th.

Thomas got things going early telling us that we were on a "tight programme". Even as he spoke to his colleagues in Pokot, I could hear the English words "tight programme" as he spoke. I discussed this with Elly later and he suggested that there were no such words in Pokot, no way of expressing such an idea, since it is so alien to the culture.

But Thomas was right -- we had a very busy morning! So we were off after morning ablutions and breakfast, making the first visit of the day to Kamketo Primary / Comprehensive. We met the same deputy head as last year, Fred Masai, who was still full of enthusiasm for his work. Elly spoke to the children, and it was a joy to hear them

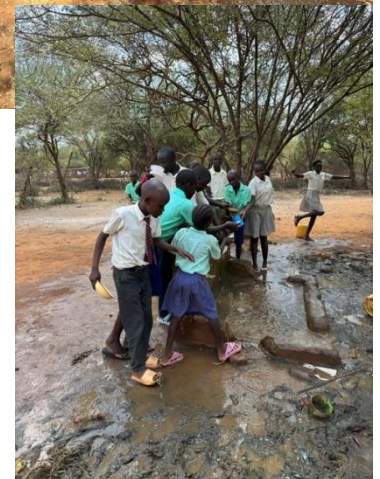


sing "Read your Bible, pray every day" with so much gusto. The enrolment at the school is a massive 521 (321 girls and 200 boys), with most of them in school on that day. It's worth remembering that these Primary / Comprehensive schools cover nursery, primary and Y7-9 of secondary. They have 15 teachers (7 govt, 6 BOM and 2 church sponsored). Fred requested help in paying the wages for their matron, who is a faithful member of the church and does the work at present for no salary. They also need assistance with



renovation of the boys dormitory, which we went to see -- it is in poor repair and woefully inadequate for the 30 boarders at the school.

When I asked why they were able to have so many, when the school in Kasepa has so few, I was informed that they have food from the govt (which is a big attraction), an excellent reputation built up over many years and full support from the community. They also shared the wonderful news that a water bore hole had been drilled on site, providing safe access to water for both schools (the girls' secondary is next door) -- it was wonderful to see the children splashing in the water!



One of the church sponsored teachers is Reuben Kapel (refer to yesterday's report), and he teaches the PPI lessons on Fridays. It was good to spend more time with him and have the opportunity to interview him about his work and studies -- look out for this video, along with others, when I get back!



We then walked over to the girls' secondary school, where enrolment has grown to 80 (covering Y10-13). Most of them are boarders, and the facilities are good -- govt and agencies have funded excellent dormitories for them. We were asked to assist with planting some trees in the school grounds as part of a scheme to improve the school environment. We "pretended" we were royalty, which was fun. I then spoke to the girls, who had been assembled under the shade of a couple of large trees, about the dangers of this life, and the fact that the greatest of all dangers, sin itself, lurks in our own hearts -- Christ alone can save us! He alone is reliable and faithful and powerful and trustworthy (Hebrews 13:5-8). They listened very attentively.

We then made our way to the Kamketo church building where about 20 folk were assembled to hear Keith preach on the fact that Christ calls us to take up our cross daily in following him. This means that we have to be willing even to be their "enemies" for the sake of Christ. It was a challenging exhortation to put Christ

first in all of life.

After lunch and final greetings / farewells, we made our way up the hill by car to Kasei. On arrival, we went



to the Primary / Comprehensive and were met by Mark Mario, the headteacher, and his team. Here there are 259 pupils enrolled, with 9 govt teachers, 5 BOM and 2 church sponsored. The children were very engaged as Elly spoke to them about the most important "subject" they needed to study -- how to be saved from their sins!

One of the church sponsored teachers here is a young man, Geoffrey Ngole. He also

attended the first sessions of the Bible Light College. We spoke at length with him about his Christian life, his marriage and his aspirations to teach God's word. His story of marriage was again most revealing, since he felt compelled to marry a lady in light of her profound distress and personal / family difficulties (for example, her brothers were abusive drunkards). His own family situation had been very challenging as well, with both his older brothers dying of illness, his mother suffering a nervous breakdown and his father losing all the family's animals to disease. The hardships of these folk are devastating! However, despite all these trials, he is married to one Christian wife and seeking to be faithful to her. It is very encouraging.



This led to further discussions with Joshua and Andrew about the need to bring marriages into the church and provide help and support to the young people. With the challenges they face from family trials and opposition, there is a great need for support. There are plans in place for a service of commemoration / thanksgiving for the marriages that have taken place, in order to make a public stand / statement about the priority of Christian marriages. Pray this will take place with Elly's help and significant progress will be made.

After dinner we had a late-evening devotional where I spoke on the need to make church the highest priority in the lives of God's people, because Christ loves the church and shed his blood for her, because the Father gave the church to his Son as his most treasured gift and because the church is the place where we meet with the Lord in this life, being "heaven on earth."

Elly leaves us early tomorrow morning needing to return in time for his church services on Sunday, and then a visa interview on Monday. We will miss him!

Saturday 25th.

Elly left us very early in the morning. This is what he texted later about his journey:

I got home safely at around 2:30pm. Keeping in mind I woke up before 3am, boarded and left Kasei at exactly 3:45am, this has been a journey of more than 10 hours. The fun part was that we boarded a Toyota probox (very small car), and then it was jam packed with passengers such that I sat alongside another passenger with the driver. The man betwixt me and the driver had the gear lever between his thighs. Yet the man drove so fast in that rough terrain and he seemed to be rather comfortable doing it. But you can imagine it was not comfortable. It took us about 3 hours to get to Makutano (Kapenguria). It is here we had to wait for close to three hours before the next matatu left. Anyways I have been reminded of how merciful God has been to me. It is very long since I used public transport of any kind...let alone a trying one like this ...so now I have been reminded of how easy my life has been and how hard people out there experience life.



After breakfast, we walked over to the boys' secondary school. There are only 46 attending. Many are not coming due to financial and family constraints. Low numbers means that govt provides fewer resources. 6 govt teachers and 3 BOM (no sponsored teachers in the secondaries). There is no PPI in the secondary schools, so influence depends upon the principal and the teachers. The principal here, though a good man, is an RC, and none of the teachers are

from the church. Influence is therefore limited. The best way forwards is to have a chaplain from the church. We need to discern what is necessary for this in terms of training and qualifications.

Keith spoke to the boys about the need to train ourselves to godliness; bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is great gain! He called the boys to repent and trust in Christ, so that they might receive the power of the Spirit unto godliness.



He then witnessed to the principal about his need to be saved and left him with an "Ultimate Questions".

We returned to the church compound and spoke with the small group, mainly women, bringing greetings from our churches and reminding them of last night's ministry on the vital importance of the church.

Over lunch we met a young man, Richard Poghio, who was converted in Kapenguria in 2005, when he was 13 years old. He married in 2017 and has remained faithful to his wife. He is a member of the church here and is seeking to be faithful. Although not married in the church (in his case





because they were together before marriage), he is happy to join the group that are going to have a ceremony of blessing in Kasei. These younger married couples who are seeking to be faithful are vital for the future of the church. We must pray for them!

The journey to Chepkinagh took just over three hours, and I drove most of the way on the very rough “road”. Thankfully there were no mishaps along the way and we arrived in good form. This is the most rural and picturesque of the locations. We were welcomed with handshakes and tea.

At 7pm Keith, Andrew and myself joined the IRBS missions prayer meeting run by Benedict (over Zoom). It was a tremendous encouragement to be with those few folk praying for the work of mission. We were moved particularly in praying for persecuted believers. I encourage you to join this monthly prayer meeting.

After supper I led an evening devotion on Genesis 50:15-21. We were blessed to see how God works for good in the lives of his people, even when wicked men and Satan are seeking to do evil.

Sleep beckons after another full day!

Sunday 26th Chepkinagh

It’s a familiar start to the day with washing, waiting and breakfasting. More tasty pancakes with Pokot honey! We head over to the church building at about 10:30am, the time we are due to start, but very few are present. Some more begin to arrive and we start just after 11am. The commencement is very low key and the worship seems to lack structure. Perhaps some fresh teaching for the leaders concerning the nature of worship and the essential elements, following the regulative principle.



There is a Swahili hymn sung by few, then a couple of Pokot choruses sung with gusto by everybody! There is a need for a

hymn book in Pokot so that they can learn a full range of hymns in their own language. The translation work for this has been done, but it is not yet printed.



The service proceeded with two sermons, first from Keith on the glory of God from Isaiah 6, then from myself on the priority of the church (Andrew requested the same message I had given in Kasei). There was much freedom and fluency for both of us. After the service we had the Pokot handshake and semicircle formed, where each person greets all the others. I counted 120, many of whom were children.

We then chatted with another young man called Nicholas. He is one of the nine men who has commenced



the Bible Light College. He is married to Millicent and they have two children. Unusually, he pointed her out and we were able to greet them together. I asked him if he had been married in the church, and he said “no.” I asked “why?” He said that his fiancée was pregnant before they were married, necessitating a quick wedding. He also indicated that there had been no “connection” made at the time between marriage and the church. These are reasons we have heard repeated many times. However, it was most encouraging to hear him

say that he has been faithful to his wife for the sake of Christ, and wanted to remain faithful for life, by God’s grace. They are both members of the church now. He is also keen to be involved in the service of blessing that is planned — very keen indeed! I was able to



interview him on camera about these things, with his wife alongside!



It’s worth reminding readers that men and women remain separate in this culture, sitting in separate groups both in church services and in all social contexts. You would not know who was married to whom! It’s an aspect of the Pokot way of life that works against biblical family life. Even as the couple stood together, it was evident that Millicent in particular was

uncomfortable with the situation! It shows how hard cultural transformation is and how long it takes.

We also spoke with David Chemolok, Andrew’s son, who travels to Nakorettee every Sunday to preach. That is the small church plant where chairs have been provided for them. He ministers to about 20 who gather each Sunday. He shared with us what he had been preaching from Mark 3, and it was encouraging to see how carefully he is thinking about his ministry. He is another of the BLC students. I was amazed to find that he was 34 years old! He looks 10 years younger. He was married five years ago, but again not in the church, and he rushed to marriage for various reasons. Again, he has been faithful, his wife professes faith, and there is much hope for the future!



After lunch we were presented with lovely gifts of belts and wrist bands in an elaborate ceremony. It was very moving. I then preached to a smaller group from the parable of the Rich Fool in Luke 12, encouraging them to lay up treasures in heaven rather than upon earth.

We headed back to Andrew’s place and had a couple of hours rest / reading. It was good to get a break! The sunset was



particularly stunning and I got a couple of snaps. Being near the equator, the sun goes down almost vertically, so disappears very quickly at the end! We then chatted with Andrew further about many of the needs and challenges. We sought to encourage him. After supper, Keith spoke a word of evening devotion to about 20 people from 1 Corinthians 12 on the need to serve the whole church body, as God directs.

Before bed there were some startling flashes of lightning in the distance. Maybe there will be rain overnight!



Monday 27th

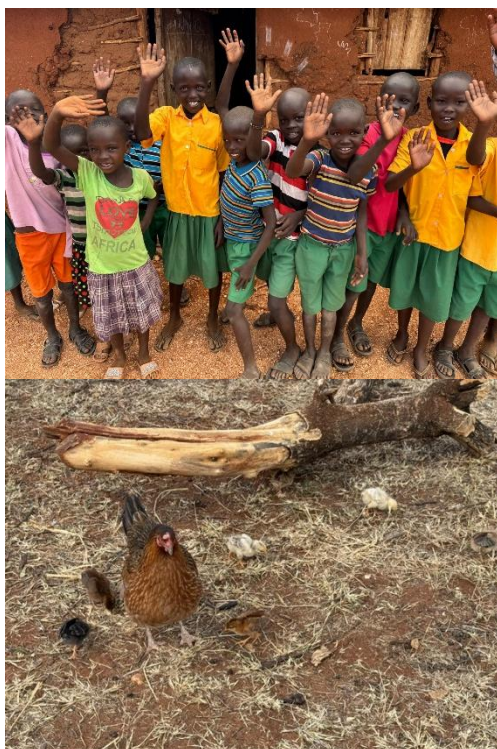
It was an early start as we sought to cover two schools in the morning before heading to Apur in the afternoon.



It is a short walk from Andrew's home to Chepkinagh Primary. A new classroom for Y9 has been erected. There were 275 children present with 366 enrolled. Teachers: 8 govt, 2 BOM and 4 church sponsored. There are fewer BOM (parent sponsored) here because there is more poverty in the "interior" (more rural) area, and there is less support from the parents who are not so committed to education. The church here has a big role in the school — the headteacher wondered if the school could continue without church support. A request

was made for another teacher to help with junior secondary (Y7-9). PPI continues every Friday, taught by teachers who are church members, prioritising spiritual needs.

The head (Benjamin Birgen) attends the church and is encouraged that the church is growing through influence from the school. They are longing for a bore hole — big problems with obtaining water by digging in the sand — no running water anywhere nearby. They have no govt food because they are not



registered as a low-cost school — registration is difficult because of corruption / bribery etc. They are continuing to try!

I spoke to the children about creation, the fall and salvation in Christ alone. They listened attentively. We then had time to listen to greetings and requests from all the teachers. It was good to hear of several who were attending the church (perhaps 6 of them), and a strong influence of the gospel in the school. A most encouraging visit!



The walk to the Secondary School only took three minutes. The Principal has been here for 5 years (Joseph Waswa). There are 25 boys enrolled, comprising only 3 classes with 5 teachers (one church-sponsored). Because the children are boarding in the secondaries, they are sent to the schools with the best results, and the competition is tough. Few will travel to such a remote place as Chepkinagh, with no water access, for schooling.



Keith spoke to about 15 of the boys about the true message of Christianity, salvation by faith in Christ alone. It was not an easy group, with a lack of feedback and response.



We said our “goodbyes” to Andrew’s family, and it was good to meet David Chemolok’s wife Susan — I got a lovely picture of them! I drove us to Apur, and it took about 45 minutes. Three messages were given: I spoke to

the children first about God our great creator, against whom we have sinned and our need of Christ; then I spoke on the parable of the Rich Fool (at Andrew’s request — the same message as yesterday afternoon); and finally Keith spoke the same message he gave at Kamketo on the need to be willing to “hate” father and mother etc. for the sake of Christ. They listened well and responded warmly. They gave us gifts of wristbands after the handshake routine!

The church in Apur is thriving. They have around 70 adults and around 90 children. Julius loitaserei leads the church. He is 31 years and married to one wife. He is a teacher in the school, but has no training in the ministry. He hopes to attend the BLC next year.

There were also some from Tarakit at the meeting — one man remembered the message I gave when I visited there in 2008!! He had been much encouraged and was very earnest. The great need in Tarakit is for a trained man to lead them. They have a young man who is doing some preaching, but he has little teaching beyond school — he hopes to join the BLC next year. The former leader, Isaac, took a second wife and left the church. Other men, who have leadership ability, were polygamous before they became Christians. They are also short of space in their building with up to 100 (including the many children) on a Sunday — they can’t fit in!

Others from the church in Kapkoghun also came. Schools are supported and they are thankful. They have a man who is willing to join BLC next year, if the Lord enables. Again, the building is small for their needs.



They have around 150! Praise God for these numbers. They have 3 church sponsored teachers in the school, and they are requesting a fourth, but we told them we are not able to sponsor any more!

The drive to Wasat took about 45 minutes, all downhill. We arrived as it was going dark. There is little / no ‘phone signal here, which makes it one of the few REALLY remote places remaining. We chatted, ate and I was ready to give the nighttime devotion on Isaiah 43:1-7 to encourage the believers, when I was told (without any notice) that there

were a number of unbelievers present, so would I please speak a message to them. I spoke on John 3:16, and I hope it was of some profit!

Tuesday 28th

Wasat is the most remote of the places. We sleep in a classroom, which is arranged with mattresses on the floor at about 11pm. We manage to sort everything and settle down to sleep just before midnight. In the morning, washing facilities are limited and school children gather to stare as you try to wash teeth and hair with a little dignity. Not a place for our ladies to visit!



The church building here is being erected with great alacrity. Last year there was just a foundation slab, and now the full external structure is complete. They have done this without any financial support from us! It's a great encouragement, although I did correct Peter Nalunyit when he referred to it as "the church" — NO! It is only a building. The church is the gathered people of God and was here long before the building. A building is of great use, but it is most emphatically not

the church.

The church in Wasat raised 1.3m KES (around £8000 GBP) by agreeing that each man gives a cow (30,000 to 50,000 KES) and each lady a goat (5000 KES), and on behalf of each child perhaps a chicken (100 KES). This is the first time such a substantial amount has been raised and a building erected without any help from us. The other churches contributed a further 200,000 KES, bringing the total sum to 1.5m KES.



There were 230 timbers collected from the bush by the men, prepared with a power saw — all the 4x2 and 3x2. The timber here is very hard. Larger ones (6x2) and fascia boards (8x1) bought from Kapenguria — very expensive. Stones were purchased and transported from Thika.

They need a further 900,000 KES to finish the building. They are going to present the amounts needed for each aspect required.

The gospel first came to Pokot in the 1950s through a man called Kendagor (a Kenyan man). He led a movement called POM (Pokot Outreach Ministries) that reached nearby to Wasat in the 1970s. Peter was converted in the late 1990s at school there through the influence of POM. He met with Andrew when asked to help establishing a nursery school in Wasat in 2009. He then met Keith and Cliff, and so the work developed!

The relationship with the Primary School here is not good, with an RC head and deputy. They are not co-operative. Enrolment is about 160. They have 3 church sponsored teachers here. They lack dormitory space for the junior secondary. Many in the



church cannot afford school fees for their children; in many cases the women are convinced of the need for schooling, but (unbelieving) husbands are not supportive, so they have a problem.

I spoke to the children about the power, “cleverness” and purity of God, how we are none of those things, and how Christ alone can save us. They were very engaged.

We walked the short distance to the “centre” and met the wazee (the old men). We spoke with them and Keith had an excellent conversation with one of the oldest men who had become blind. He asked the man if

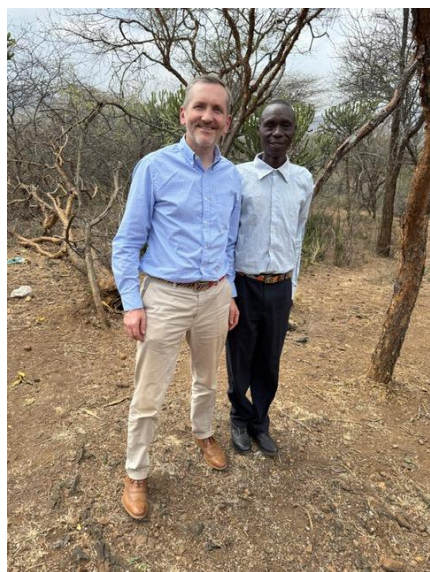


he remembered meeting Keith on his first visit to Wasat in 2008. He did! Keith then asked if he remembered what he had preached. He didn't! It had been about the Lord Jesus as Saviour of sinners. There followed a remarkable conversation! When the mzee agreed that he would soon die, he was convinced that he would attain what he called “The good life.” Keith challenged him how he could be sure. He said that it was

because God had created the world — what an answer! Straight from Psalm 19 and Romans 1 using the light of general revelation. Keith then challenged him about his sins, and he agreed he was a sinner. This led to a discussion of Christ's atoning work and substitutionary sacrifice, using the illustration of a friend agreeing to pay a debt (with animals) so that the thief could go free. It was a wonderful opportunity, and what grace of the Lord to come back to this old man 17 years after he had heard and forgotten the gospel. Pray of his salvation!

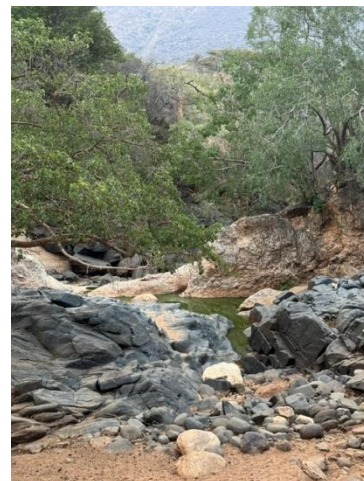


We then met William Korsich from Kwirir, who came over to Wasat for the day. He has been the leader of the church since 2012. He is married to one wife and remains faithful to her. Around 40 people come on Sundays. It is not independent, still under the oversight of the church in Wasat. He started the BLC this



month. He learned about general and special revelation, and the authority of Scripture — as Pokot people, “We must follow what the Bible says”. He is very zealous and has started the studies ready for March classes. In the past, he felt that he was “leading the Bible”, making Scripture fit with what he wanted, rather than the Bible leading him, which he now knows is how Christians must live.

He made known some of the needs in Kwirir. They have one church sponsored teacher for their nursery school. They teach to grade 1, and would like to develop to grade 2. The church building is in a bad state of repair due to





termite damage. They agree to prioritise the building in Wasat first, but their own need is great. They also need to build a toilet — corrugated sheets needed.

We had a meeting in the building around 3:30pm. It was the first meeting in the new building! Greetings were shared from Cliff Barton



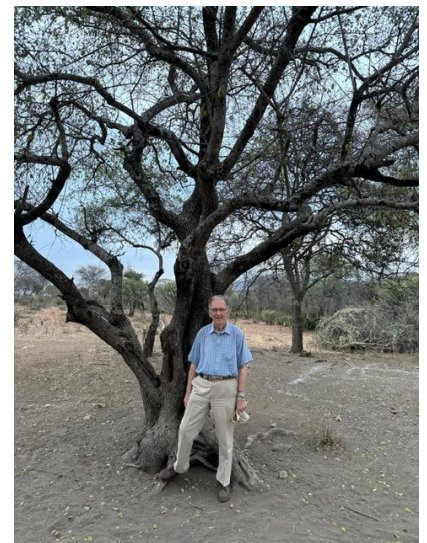
especially (he first visited with Keith in 2008 and has a profound affection for the church), and several stood to return their warm thanks. Keith spoke on Galatians 3:10-13 and the wonder of Christ's readiness to be made a curse for us; I spoke from Hebrews 6:10-12 on the blessing of giving to the Lord and serving faithfully (as they have done in relation to the building) — God is faithful to bless us when we



serve him in love, just as Christ did. The congregation (especially the women) were the most responsive of any in the region!

We then took a short walk to the location of the first church services (under a large tree, pictures with

Keith), and also where they conduct baptisms amongst the rocks where there is water.



On our return we had tea and chatted with some older members. Keith gave a devotional on Grace at 9pm to a few present. We ate afterwards and made our way to bed for the final night in Pokot.

Wednesday 29th to Thursday 30th

It was the best night's sleep of the trip for me on Tuesday — the cooler air in Wasat was refreshing. We were up in good time and after packing took a hearty breakfast of tea and pancakes. After prayer we headed off at 8:30am. I had noticed that while the Pokot are very effusive with their welcome, goodbye seems to lack lustre! I asked Andrew how to say goodbye in Pokot, and discovered that they have no such word. How interesting language is, and how fascinating that they are so reluctant to let you go that they don't have a word for it!

Our first stop was to collect Andrew on the way to Kapenguria, which we did after about an hour of driving. We then drove another 2 1/2 hours, watching carefully for those hidden speed bumps that caught me out on the way in!

Just before getting to the town, we stopped briefly to chat with Salome, one of Domoo's daughters (the mzee from Kasei, the first Pokot man Keith ever met). She was attending an interview for a potential promotion. Inevitably the conversation covered the almost-certain bribe that would be sought, and the call of the believer to



refuse any such corruption, even if it means losing out personally. It was good to hear that she is pressing on in the faith and seemed to be thriving. Keith has so many of these relationships across Kenya that are deeply moving. We prayed and drove to town.

Here we took some refreshment and parted from the men (Joshua had also made his way there). We exhorted them to manifest persistent faith and to overcome discouragement in the work, being faithful in their ministry. After prayer we began the second leg of the journey to Mumias. It was a long drive, eventually arriving around 4:30pm. Driving on Kenyan roads is an experience not for the faint-of-heart! It required a level of concentration that is quite challenging. So thankful to get passenger and car back to Mumias, sound and well.

We were greeted by Elly and after a welcome shower took some rest before supper. Keith was not feeling 100%, so he missed out on the beef dinner, which was very tasty. We chatted freely about many things, especially the state of our nations and the need for the gospel!

In the morning we breakfasted and were on our way by 8:30am, arriving in Kisumu around 10am. It was lovely to see Tony and Olivia again, and the conversation followed once more. Before 11am Nickson Teka joined us. He had recently moved from Kitale to Siaya because the work in Kitale had stalled and there was an urgent need in



Siaya. We spoke of many things, especially our doctrine of the church, and how we need to put it into practice by means of patient reformation in our churches. He is a faithful brother and I trust we were an encouragement to him and his family.



Tonny drove me to the airport just before 1:30pm. He is a very dear brother and is becoming a good friend. It was a joy to leave him with so many good books, and on this occasion I remembered to get a picture of him looking so delighted with a few of them on his lap. We said our farewells and the first flight to Nairobi proceeded without difficulty. There was a long wait of about 6 hours for the next flight, and I was so thankful to be able to find two good places to get some hefty sermon preparation done. May the Lord do us good as we study those early verses of Exodus 2 on Sunday — there are so many practical lessons to be learned.

The final two flights, although tiring, went without incident. As I write this, we will soon be landing in Manchester. Thank you for all your prayers! God has answered abundantly. The fullness of the fruit will only be known in eternity.

