

MUMIAS KENYA- OCTOBER 2016 PRAYER/NEWSLETTER

Many greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord and savior Jesus's Christ. It gives us great Joy to bring you news and reports from the missions front for your rejoicing and prayer partnership. The last few months have indeed been very busy at the front lines.

We rejoiced at the recovery of Peter Ndai who stayed in hospital for two straight months and had three high risk surgeries. Peter was one of our elders who was stood down for failing to meet the Biblical qualifications, a process that occasioned much strife and stress. However though this difficult time the Lord enabled much repentance and reconciliation to the glory of his name. Thank you all who gave of their money and prayers to support Peter.

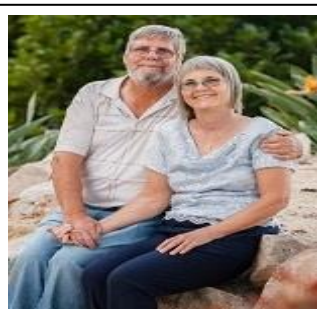


This year in July, the Lord blessed us by providing a car for our transport needs, truly a great blessing. My health has not been the best in the face of many travels and many ministry errands. We now have four separate Wisdom Training Center (WTC) training sites scattered all over, reaching them in time and efficiently in the face of our very difficult public transport system was starting to take its toll. Also the numerous ministry trips to far flung rural areas was quite a challenge. We are immensely grateful to friends and partners, and chiefly Billy and Tessa Sked and Ray and Angela Ozich for their sacrificial giving towards this milestone.

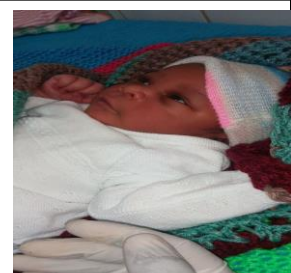


"Yet it was kind of you to share my troubles...Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again...and my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus"-

Phil 4:14, 16&19



We were blessed to have a new born child (pictured right) abandoned at our gate by an obviously desperate mother, bloodied and umbilical cord yet uncut. The medical and legal battles to save the child from a child trafficking syndicate and imminent death bore fruit and baby James is growing well and strong. Many thanks to friends and partners who through Billy and Tessa Sked have supported the daily needs of baby James.



Towards the end of August we headed down coast for the annual Reformation Conference (Mombasa chapter hosted by pastor Barnabas).Despite many travel challenges the Lord gave Grace and it was a fruitful week of intense ministry. We did have our car Engine burn out and had to replace it with a new one. This meant we arrived for the Refcon 36 hours from the start of our journey instead of the 10-13 hours it should have been. Pastor Murungi and I were speaking on the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit. This is a subject upon which most Pentecostal and Charismatics grossly err. Being the majority in attendance, it was truly a time of intense challenge (a fuller report should be with or come to you from Pastor Barnabas)

Our Gospel Missions Agency Church fraternal (a gathering of pastors affiliated with us denominationally) took place early September in a 3 days retreat and we (6 churches in western province) rejoiced to be hosted at Koyonzo Church. Here again we challenged one another to self-examination as to our standing in Christ and if we indeed had a true grasp of Christ and the Gospel. Some among us saw themselves for the first time as holding to a false assurance yet in positions of leadership, this was sad on the one hand because it is emblematic of the wide problem in the professing church where the radical nature of the new birth is understated or the necessity thereof deemphasized. However it was also joyful because coming to terms with themselves these men may finally hope in Christ for the saving of their souls.

Pastor Barnabas (above) and below; Pastor Elly addressing the 2016 REFCON



The construction of the temporary Church structure in Sabatia is now almost complete. It is expected that this coming December we shall go down to officially constitute that church which was planted about 1 year ago. Prayer is still coveted in respect of the purchase of the land on which the Church may be permanently housed. Also for the minister there pastor Noah, as he prays about moving on site with his family to care for the fledgling Church .

Few weeks ago we were privileged once again to be hosted at the Lake side city of Kisumu (western part of Kenya), for the 3rd leg of Reformation Conference. We also had opportunity to graduate two brethren (Apollo Ochieng and Charles Otieno) who had completed our WTC online certificate course in systematic theology. We were happy to be joined for a few hours by my teacher pastors Keith Underhill and Facebook friend Cliff Barton,

whom I met for the first time face to face. It is while here at Kisumu that we were shocked to hear of a famous Charismatic minister who purports to have the power to 'dish out' the gift of the Holy Spirit at a low fee of ksh 400. Sadly such stories are not isolated or far between, they are common place. All the more reason why we must keep pushing back the darkness by confronting these deadly deviations. Reformation Conferences and Wisdom Training centers aim exactly at achieving these by the Grace of the Lord.



Left: Sabatia structure. **Center:** away from Kisumu Refcon, with Keith Underhill and Cliff Barton (both from Liverpool). **Right:** a graduate of WTC-online in Kisumu

I and pastor Justus Olango left Kisumu for Osani, deep in the remote regions of South Nyanza to attend the annual Reformed Baptist Association Of Kenya (RBAK) meeting. Here we joined up with about 21 other pastors including Keith Underhill and Cliff Barton, both visiting from Liverpool in the UK. It was encouraging to see men discuss the progress of the Gospel in Kenya and how it may be given impetus. It is noteworthy that in large part the Reformed faith in Kenya has benefited tremendously from the ministry of Keith Underhill (certainly a pioneer in these regions), and so to be with him here was something of a unique blessing. I had opportunity to speak twice. First at a plenary session at the end of dinner where I exhorted the brethren to consider the particular Gospel Challenge of our times. A second time was a rare evangelistic outreach to the local dispensary where the association was invited to speak to a group of mainly HIV AIDS victims. So I sought to show that sin was the reason for all suffering in the world, that even this suffering paled in comparison to eternity away from God, the eternal torments of hell. That in the Gospel of Christ is held the only hope of salvation and securing a future in the Kingdom of God.



We arrived back in Mumias from South Nyanza late Monday evening. We were to rest on Tuesday and be off on Wednesday morning, back to south Nyanza to attend a funeral. Here we were confronted once again with the tragic loss of a life lived apart from Christ, how eternity is always stocking us like a shadow!!! How urgent must we be with the Gospel to a dying generation!

From south Nyanza, I was off the next day to Uganda, in a forlorn village, deep into Kayunga district

Whereas it could be said the name of Jesus has been 'heard' far and wide, the authentic Gospel of Salvation as is in Scripture, and as was rediscovered during the protestant Reformation has hardly reached many places. The sheer ignorance of what saving grace and faith are, the performance based assumption of Salvation concretized in a false assurance constitutes a darkness that should drive us to our knees, pleading with heaven that we may have a genuine revival of religion.



African 'Christianity' can be deceptive to a foreigner. It is externally vibrant and vivacious yet it belies an emptiness of saving knowledge. I dare say Africa and Kenya in particular does not need the so called social and humanitarian Gospel as she does the hard hitting message of the Grace of God in Salvation.

WISDOM TRAINING CENTRES



It has continued to please the Lord to have us go on with training pastors and church leaders. The physical classes now stand at 4 centers scattered around western Kenya. It's a huge responsibility yet a very gratifying experience as we see men being called out of darkness into the wonderful light of God's saving Grace. The present student population stands at 65 for both diploma and certificate classes. We are encouraged regularly to hear reports of graduates challenging the false religion and advancing the Gospel of God's grace in Christ. We are very hopeful that the seeds will sprout some day and perhaps the Lord may be pleased to use these humble times as the seeds of future revivals to this end we pray and continue to labor.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE WITH HOPE AND PRAYERFUL HEARTS

Much is ahead for us, and so we reflect upon the future of the work here as we come to the close of this year and enter another one in 2017

Please pray for our next fraternal meeting in Sabatia, several pastors have come to the agonized decision that they were not converted when they supposedly submitted to water baptism. They have consequently asked us to baptize them and based on their credible faith. These are not easy or flippant decisions but very agonized. We also constitute the Sabatia Church one year after its planting this coming December

We are once again dealing with raging waters which are flooding our church hall, due to malicious machinations of an influential politician next to us. We would be looking to undertake massive reengineering of our premises to put this problem behind us once and for all.

The whole of this year and part of last, we have been seeking to streamline our church membership, a process that has been as laborious as it is delicate. So many prayers as we look to conclude all these before the end of the year.

Later this month (October 28th and 29th- about 2 weeks away) we shall be holding our third WTC alumni retreat here at Mumias. These retreats bring together most of our students, past and present for refresher and fellowship to encourage them to continue in their faithfulness to the Lord and His Gospel. This year we are expecting to host for those two days in the tent meeting in excess of 120 students-always a great time of fellowship and catching up.

In the month of November we shall be having a massive evangelistic outreach coordinated to occur in all our sister churches at once .This will include door to door out reaches, delivery of tracts and public campaigns. Please pray that the Lord will give fruit and his name shall be glorified in the salvation of His people.

Finally I go back to Uganda late December for a 3 day public open air Gospel campaign, my time there a week ago showed me the necessity of Gospel proclamation in that forlorn village in Kayunga district.

FOR QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND HOW YOU MAY BE INVOLVED

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