

REPORT ON TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCHES IN KARAPOKOT

Introduction

Man is called to live in appreciation of the privileges that he does enjoy from God. Though we fail to appreciate just like the Jews from the time of God's revelation to them as a nation to the time of Jesus as the prophesied Messiah, we as Trinity Baptist Church endeavour to make people forsake their sins and believe in Christ and to escape the terrible judgement of God having allowed us to have the privilege of the Gospel and the call to spread it to those whom God has also given the permission to hear it.

Terms of reference

To respond positively to the call for the growth of the Kingdom of Christ through obedience to Christ's great commission, 'Go and make disciples'.

(Mathew 28:19) being its realisation, in Christian missions.

Procedure

- a) Church services
- b) Mid- week fellowship
- c) Sunday school programmes
- d) PPI sessions in schools
- e) Devotions in secondary school
- f) Evangelism in schools
- g) Home visitations
- h) Church Unions
- i) Regional conferences
- j) Funerals
- k) Other opportunities

CONCLUSION (RESULTS)

A) Sunday preaching

- Thomas is away in school most of the times, pursuing his business management course.
- I am the one who is always present to conduct the Sundays two services that we have weekly.
- Solomon who is also my translator would lead in Bible study.
- I have since resorted to contextual preaching and I am preaching on the book of Mark.
- I am using together with the Bible, the Bible reading notes by John Blanchard titled 'Read, Mark, Learn'.
- The Sunday before yesterday I preached on (Mark 1:29-45) – A unique Saviour, I have found this work quite beneficial for it has made my preaching simple and clear. Quite a number in my congregation have appreciated especially about the follow-ups and the fact that they can read in advance the following Sundays chapter and verses and they get time, trying to think about the interpretation and the lessons from the teaching.
- We always begin with the service for the school pupils and students at 9.30 a.m to 10.45 a.m. by the time the school closes we were doing (Colossians 2:9-14) – believers are in Christ.
- I have chosen this book because since these youth come from different environment they need to be alerted over the false teaching that has invaded the churches today. They need therefore to compare the teachings in their churches with what is written in the Bible.

b) Mid- Week fellowship

Is held on Wednesdays every week. The turn up has not been very good. Sometimes many would come especially during the months of August to March. It eventually stops during the months of April to July because of farming.

- We normally suggest a passage on one prayer meeting which we would discuss when we meet next. After that we have prayer items presented and finally people to pray over them and we close.

c) Sunday school

- Is conducted between 8.00 a.m to 9.30 a.m I would conduct this programme every time. During holidays my son Clinton would assist at times under my directive.

- I am now on the Ten Commandments and we are learning about the second commandment (Ex 20:4).

d) PPI Sessions

PPI is a program that is available in the primary schools timetable in Kenya every Friday mornings between 8.00 a.m. and 9.00 a.m. each week.

- As the sponsor of the school, I normally take this time to preach to the pupils at Kamketo primary school.

- We ought to go to Kasepa primary as well but due to lack of transport, I cannot manage.

- With the pupils of Kamketo we have learnt about the Bible and the living God. We were on how many persons are there in the Godhead? (Matt 28:19,2 Cor 13:14).

e) Devotions

- In Kamketo Trinity girls secondary, with the permission of the loving principal of the school, we managed to fix time for devotion for the girls since there is no such time in the secondary school timetable.

- We have devotions every day from 6.30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

- I do lead and we are reading the Luke's gospel. I resorted to this book because it is the only gospel book that is studied in the secondary school curriculum especially in form 2.

- I would get time to read, give brief explanation and conclude by prayers.

-At the time of closing, we had reached (Lk 20:20-26).

-The principal, Mrs Mary, has been so cooperative and always ensure that all students are present in the devotion.

f) Evangelism –

My first projection in evangelism has been the near-by primary school since I would not have communication problem, and two because there is also the PPI session.

- The other targeted schools include Kapsintoi , Amura and Kotulpogh.

g) Home visitations

This has not been an easy thing. These people are not used to staying at home during the day. Men and women alike. It is easier to get them at the trading centre where they spend a lot of time talking politics or near the river bank watering the animals. I have to admit that the major problem again to me is language difference.

Opportunities arise only when for instance, a church member has built a new house.

I recall one time when I had just come to this area that such opportunity arose and we went to the home of a man whose wife is a church member. I preached from (Ps. 127:1-5). The old man was thankful. Later the wife said that he does not restrict her going to church like he used to before.

h) Church Unions

These are one of the many ways through which we ensure that our church members are in useful fellowship.

- Members from different local churches meet on a specific day at a specific local church. Different leaders from the 12 churches have the opportunity to teach and preach and lastly believers together celebrate Lord's table each time.

- Last Sunday we had a union at Kamketo TBC.

- Many people attended. Now that the schools have closed and students have returned home we could not fit in the church building and we sat outside.

- I preached from the book of (Mathew 21:33-46). The parable of the tenants. There was some kind of unrest when I challenged them that they are condemned by every sermon they hear just like the Jews but they neither have the will nor courage to acknowledge this. We had Lord's Supper together and were greatly encouraged.

i) Regional Conferences

- We have 3 major conferences held within one year in this region. These are the Youth's conference, Men's conference and Women's conference.

- This year the women's conference held at Kamketo TBC and attracted between 250 and 300 women from the TBC and other churches.

- Speakers were Samuel Waswa & Andrew Chemolok – Chepkinagh TBC, Joshua Sitet & Stephen Ongulo – Kasei TBC, Thomas Lokerisa & I, Kamketo TBC.

- I preached from Acts 9:36–43, on marriage as an illustration of Christ and the church; the duties of wives (1 Cor 11:3, 7-9, Eph 5:22-24, 33 and 1 Pet 3:1-6).

- One mother from our church was greatly challenged. 3 days after the conference she came to my house with a friend (mother) also a church member who knows Kiswahili. She asked me if I had talked to her husband about her.

- She confessed that when I preached about the duties of wives , she was really challenged. We had good time together, I, my wife and the two of them, we shared well and she promised she is going to behave differently. May God bless her.

j. Funerals

- Not many deaths have occurred during this time of my stay. It is sad that the Pokots in the Northern division where I am are really

fearful of the dead. Once a person dies, he or she is buried immediately without even a casket.

Sometimes they would even throw the dead in the bush. Sadly enough, not even the leaders have taken the opportunity of evangelism that death provides.

- One of my elderly church members, a lady, passed on in May this year. I managed to go since it was near. I managed to preach to the few who had gathered before they hurriedly buried her.

- I preached from (Ps 90:1-4 and John 11:25)

k) Other Opportunities

- There are other opportunities that provide evangelism.

- Kamketo church building is at times used by women to conduct their merry-go-round, and whenever they come, I would use such time to share with them briefly and to pray with them before they continue. My wife also mostly would pray with them as she is one of their secretaries.

- At a time like these, there are fund raisings that people organise. I would then attend and share the gospel with them as I give my contributions.

- On 12th of this month, there is going to be one. It is for our church member but many are going to attend from different denominations. I am looking forward to preaching that day, God willing.

- Due to the long holiday that has come about, last Sunday, I urged and arranged with the youths from class six to university to be meeting once in order to discuss some issues that they face and seek biblical guidance.

- The topic is:

The dangers the youths encounter in daily life, socially (home + in school) culturally, religious and political surrounding and how they are battling to overcome.

- They propose at first to be coming after lunch, but again they were of the opinion of coming early and contributing some money to enable them to have lunch at the church to enable us to have two sessions - morning and afternoon.

- Some crucial topics especially with the girls will be addressed by my wife Monicah. We shall be meeting on Thursday beginning this week.

Finally , I wish that we entrust everything to God as we endeavour to carry out his command and pray that people get saved in the name of Jesus because there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12).

O.F Patricko

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