

Highlights concerning TBC Olgumi

Trinity Baptist Church, Olgumi is a church-plant of Trinity Baptist Nairobi that was established more than 10 years ago under the eldership of Pastor Stephen Kakoiya. It is located in Suswa, Kajiado County, 15 kms. from Mai-Mahiu enroute to Narok. A few years back, Pastor Kakoiya suffered a stroke which affected his speech. As such, he has not been able to fully perform his pastoral duties, particularly that of preaching. It was on this regard that in 2016, the elders of TBC Nairobi requested a few brethren from the church to seek ways of being of encouragement to the Olgumi church which included prayers and monthly visits where we would take up preaching responsibilities in the church every third Sunday of the month.

Below is a highlight of the ministry in Olgumi and a few action points both for our prayers and actions.

Areas to thank God For:

- 1. The church has not forsaken the habit of meeting together:** Although we haven't been faithful to fulfilling our vows to God about visiting the church every third Sunday of the month, the Lord has been gracious to continually keep and build His church in Olgumi. Through many tribulations and challenges, the church has continued to meet every Sunday with a noticeable desire to please the Lord both in service and worship. We can thank the Lord for this as well as pray that the members will also find it helpful to have home fellowships, bible studies and prayers within the week.
- 2. There has been noticeable increase in the number of attendants to the Sunday services** - While numbers may not be indicative of growth in faith, it is one of the things to thank the Lord for, that He has not allowed His house to be rendered empty, and that there are people he has availed to hear his word. This is an encouragement to us to keep on preaching. There are close to 20 children and about 15 adults attending every Sunday. The Lord has kept them, and even increased their numbers. Let us pray for these members to grow in their love and knowledge of the LORD. Let us specifically pray for the children/young people that they may grow in grace and come to believe in Christ even as they grow physically.
- 3. Continued harmony:** The church is still peaceful. There is a lot of respect and honour towards Pastor Kakoiya. His limitations notwithstanding, he is clearly providing leadership to the church. It is clear that the 'members' hold him with great honour and respect, and no decision is taken without his guidance and knowledge;
- 4. Men that can teach:** There are two men who can teach. Although their attendance to church is not assured for every Sunday, we have noted their increased commitment to being present in the church on most Sundays that we have visited. Every time I have listened to their teaching, I have been convinced that they took time to at least read and think through the text prior to their standing before the congregation. This is very encouraging to us!

Areas to pray for (challenges facing the Olgumi church):

1. **There has been an encroachment of charismatic tendencies in the church:** Early last year (2018), the church procured a Public Address system, which included a piano/keyboard. This has greatly influenced their mode of singing and prayer, a tendency that is characterized with lots of un-orderly shouting in prayer and singing. We have raised these concerns with the church and I am happy to report their willingness and openness to do what is right. For instance, during our visit on 17th Feb 2019, we agreed that when they meet, they will share prayer needs and one person(s) would pray, there will be no calling forward of visitors to greet the church. On that day, they put these two into action. One man prayed, and visitors were not given a chance to come forward to greet the congregation. This was a good mark of people who are willing to be obedient. Let us pray for them to know and walk in the Truth. Also pray for us that we may be clear, gentle and firm in our teaching and encouragements to them;
2. **Lack of formal membership:** There is no criteria for becoming a member in this church. Consequently it is not easy to keep the attendants accountable and practise discipline etc. It is our prayer that this church arrives at full self and biblical governance and membership. Let us pray for them in this regard. Let us think how we can be of help and encouragement to them too;
3. **Lack of Enjoyment of all the means of Grace:** The church has not enjoyed the benefits of the Lords supper and baptism; at least for the period we have been visiting them;
4. **Lack of a shepherd:** The church is still in need of an additional elder(s). TBC Nairobi has been in prayer concerning this and we can be sure the Lord has been at work. Let us not cease from praying. It is the Lords will to have an elder(s) for every local church!

Suggested Action Points and way forward:

1. **Setting apart of additional Elder(s):** as mentioned above, there are two men (**Moses and John**) in the church that have a gift of teaching/preaching. We have also observed their conduct and consistency in service and while our observations from a distant may not be fully correct, it is possible that with encouragement and support both from the church (in Olgumi) and ourselves, the Lord could open the hearts of these men to take up the responsibility to lead the church. From our brief discussions with Pst Kakoiya on 17th February 2019, he was in agreement concerning the gifts and God's grace upon the two men. We agreed to have a meeting on March 17th for further discussions on the way forward on the possibility of setting-apart one or both of these two men into eldership. This is an appeal to the church to keep this process in prayer, even more fervently;
2. **A teaching through the whole month of April:** A team of brethren from TBC-N have been in discussions to teach in Sunday school for various groups AND preach and conduct services in Olgumi through the four Sundays of April

2019. We are putting together a team to rollout this program. Our desire is to model out bible studies/Sunday school, Sunday service program and preaching.

To this end we need more volunteers, and additional logistical support as we are looking at having a bigger team of between 5 - 10 travelling every Sunday. Part of the programme will also entail holding congregational and prayer meetings (in the afternoons etc)

If the Lord wills, our prayer and desire is that this program will culminate into 1) beginning a process for setting apart an elder(s) for this church, 2) restructuring the Sunday service programs, 3) kick-start conversations on how the church would begin enjoying all the means of grace e.g. church membership/Lord's Supper/church discipline etc.

This brief update is ideally a request for prayers and more prayers!