

Funyula TBC May 2019 Visit Report

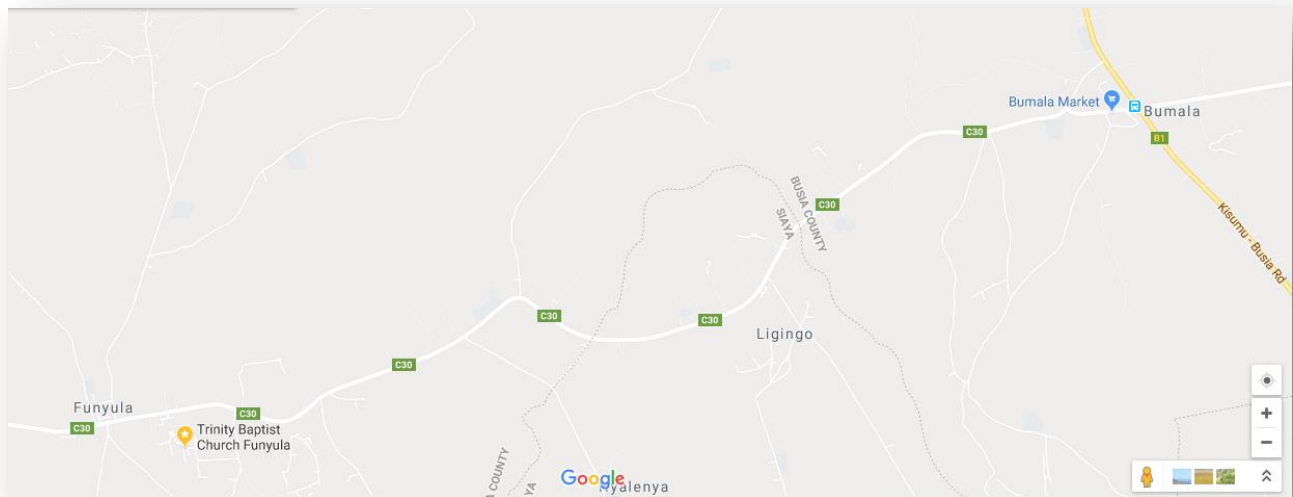
The Journey

Our trip to Funyula had been long planned and scheduled for Monday 6th May 2019. By God's grace we were able to travel that Monday night with brother Ebenezer and were seen off by Aluvisia and Diba who helped us carry the construction tools to the booking office.

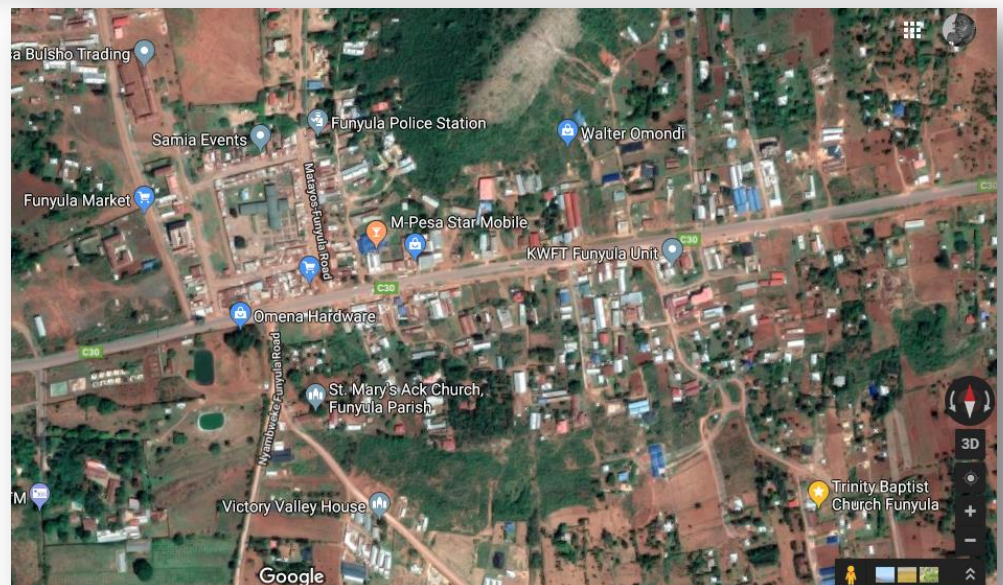
Our journey was comfortable. We arrived at Funyula on Tuesday Morning at around 6:00AM and were well received by brother Simon Ochieng and his family. The task at hand was huge, so after we had breakfast together, we set out to start looking for construction materials immediately.

The Church Location

Funyula TBC is about a kilometer off the main road at Funyula Market (which is 11 km from Bumala, along the Kisumu Busia Highway).



Funyula is a fast growing center. This was evidenced by the lack of 'fundis' at some point in our project, main reason being that almost everyone we called was working elsewhere, mostly building residential houses. Some of the





Yellow arrow indicates church location

casual workers we had on site too were new in the town.

The church is not located along the main road, but it is not far off. It was surprising however that many people do not know that there's a Baptist church in that location.

Several times, either when directing suppliers to the site, or when taking a motorbike, I had to use the

reference of a nearby mosque for them

to correctly understand where the church is located. **The church could use multiple sign boards along the roads leading to the church to guide people to the church. Consistent evangelism can also largely increase awareness among the members of the community about the existence of the church.**

By God's providence our working there gave us a rare opportunity to interact with many people, casual laborers, suppliers, curious neighbours and community members, sharing the gospel with them and inviting them to fellowship with us. The building stones we used too are not so common in that region and have greatly increased awareness in the village about the church. We pray that these small things may be used of God to draw people to hearing His word.

The Construction Project

Our main business at Funyula being the construction of the church building, we did all we could to finish the construction in the shortest time possible. Brother Simon and I spent most of the first two days looking for suppliers and materials; sand, ballast, foundation stones, hardcore, building stones and labourers too. By God's providence we found almost everything we needed with ease, this is because Simon had labored prior to our visit to find all the things we needed .

It took us a period of one and a half months, up to 17th June 2019 with a one week break to complete the project. We did the work in 2 phases:

1. **The Foundation/Sub Structure:** Involving site mobilization, setting out, foundation footing, foundation walling, backfilling and hardcore packing, up to casting the floor slab. This took us two weeks, after which I took a break and travelled back home. Ebenezer remained behind and rested at Funyula.





2. **The Super Structure:** This involved doing the rest of the building structure including walling, shuttering the edges for and casting the ring beam, installing doors and windows, plastering the walls and flooring. This took us a period of 3 weeks ending 17th June 2019 after which we travelled back to Nairobi.







Throughout the entire period, we experienced God's grace and favour in our dealing with suppliers, service providers and labourers. Most of what we needed was acquired easily. The job was good, and interesting. I enjoyed meeting new people, teaching them new skills and learning from them as well. We thank God too for a swift communication between the office and ourselves on ground and for the facilitation of the financial needs as was needful.

The project provided us with a wonderful opportunity to share the gospel to as many people as we interacted with. We made a habit of starting and concluding the day's business with prayers, which gave us a chance to interact and share the gospel, occasionally by reading a text from the Holy Scriptures and often in our prayers. As a result, four of the men we worked with accepted our persistent invitations to fellowship with us, with one (called Omondi) showing serious commitment to fellowshipping at the church. For those we did not get enough time with, we shared gospel tracts with them.

Pray for Omondi, who in my opinion seemed convicted about his sins after several interactions with the gospel which we labored to make clear. He has an Islamic background. Our interaction with him was his first close interaction with Christianity. He had never attended church before. He has been attending church consistently, and promised to continue fellowshipping at Funyula TBC even after we had left. In our last conversation with him, he mentioned that the greatest gain he had received in our working

together was the transformation of his life! As much as I had no time to follow up and know what he meant, I continue to pray for him, there's a great possibility that Christ has redeemed him!

Our Typical Day

I thank God for brother Ebenezer, who was a faithful companion during our entire stay. Our fellowship with him was needful. We shared each other's daily burdens and comforted each other at a time when we were drained, especially towards the end of the project.

Our day started at 6:30 am. We had devotions every morning which included studying through Leviticus and praying for various needs and the activities of the day. It was such an edifying time to see how the different types of Sacrifices in Leviticus all pointed to Jesus Christ. We would end our devotions at around 7:30am. Work would start at exactly 8:00am to 5:00pm with a one hour lunch break. We had family devotions at Simon's home with his family every day at 8:30pm.

We thank God for Simon's wife Mary, for ensuring that we had all our meals, always in good time even though she had her business to run. Simon's family was very kind and hospitable. We easily blended into the family and became part of it. I sure will miss them.

The Church

The church at Funyula is very small, with a frequent attendance of less than 15 people during Sunday worship Service, mostly comprised of women. There are only 3 men who consistently attend church.



Funyula TBC attendants on Sunday 23rd June

Pray for this small church! Pray that they will maintain a biblical order of worship despite the charismatic and traditional influence in that region. Pray also that the gospel and the correct doctrines of scripture will be faithfully taught in this church. The region is highly influenced by charismatic churches to an extent that anything other than what the people are used to (especially biblical teaching) is considered strange and bad.

Leadership: The church is led by Simon Ochieng, as the elder. He has been the only leader though for many years who correctly understands the doctrines of Grace. It is overwhelming for him to work alone having to lead bible study and to preach. Pray for biblical leaders to grow from the church and that the church may get another elder to help Simon with the work there. **There is a great need for someone else who is qualified to lead the church to be sent to Funyula to work alongside Simon. Even for short term periods. This would be of encouragement to him and it would help the church to make strides towards growing in the reformed faith.**



Simon Ochieng working within the church compound

Conclusion

The opportunity to serve at Funyula was both a blessing and a learning opportunity for me. I got to experience how hard it is to do missions and to appreciate the faithfulness of our own pastors. It is such a privilege to have faithful men who are able to lead the church in godliness.

I continue to pray that the Lord will be gracious to provide someone to go to Funyula to work with Pastor Simon. The need there is great!

I urge and encourage you to consistently pray for and to consider visiting this church, even for a weekend, to strengthen the brethren there.

In Christ,

Oruru Nyagaka.