**A REPORT OF OUR TRIP TO MIATHENE (22-26th November 2019)**

The weekend in Miathene was more of a blessing to me than me being a blessing to people. I was encouraged a lot by many things and all these I have tried to capture in this report.

Keith Underhill and I left Nairobi at midday to Miathene, Meru county. We had good conversations in the car and all the questions that I wanted to ask him, I was able to ask and I was greatly blessed by the words he spoke to me. Being an old man, he has seen a lot and the wisdom he gave me was priceless.

We arrived in Miathene at 6:30 pm and we were hosted by Pst Paul Kianji, of Miathene TBC

We had devotion with them every evening and morning and we thank God for giving us such an opportunity to share His word especially with the two small granddaughters, Angel and Praise who are 7 and 6 years.

Brother Martin Omondi joined us on Saturday Midday, since he was not able to travel with us that Friday because of work.

**Visitations** on Saturday

We were able to visit a sick lady called Faith. Her mother is a member of Miathene TBC. Pst Keith preached to her, and also encouraged her. She professes faith.

We visited and old couple, the family of Jeremiah who are members in Miathene. Due to old age, they are not able to walk to church. Keith brought the gospel message to them as well.

We had lunch at Florence’s place. She is an old lady in her 70s and a member of Miathene TBC. I was very much encouraged by her testimony and how much she knew the Scripture. She was among the first people to be baptized in Miathene TBC by Brother Keith. I brought God’s word to her and she was very encouraged. We went to visit her son who was lame due to a mob justice. The son professes faith. I brought God’s word to his family also.

Lastly, we visited Jerusha, a lady who is a member of the church there and I brought God’s word to her.

**Sunday Ministry**

It rained very heavily on Sunday morning, but people managed to make it to church, others were rained on and came in completely wet. The zeal to sit under the ministry of God’s word was very encouraging to me.

Pst Keith taught in the adult Sunday school and also preached in the morning worship service from John 15:1-8.

We were invited for lunch by a widow who is a member of the Church, called Esther. We ate and had a good fellowship over the food.

In the afternoon we went for the Bible study in Meru, where KeMU students usually have. There were 9 men in that Bible Study. We joined them for a two-hour study of the Bible study where we studied John 12:1-19.

On Monday we met with Pst Mucheru and Pst Kianji at Mucheru’s place. Brother Keith talked to them and encouraged them in their labors there. We were also joined by Geoffrey (a teacher in Miathene and also a member of the Church). Together with his wife Emily and Neema there one-year old daughter. Geoffrey is a zealous young man who has been very helpful in the ministry there in Miathene. I met first met him in the Expository preaching conference in Kahawa West Baptist Church where Dr. Steve Lawson was the main speaker. He was part of the lower Kabete students who were bringing reformation in the CU. It was a joy to see him there.

On our journey back we met Keith’s friend, who was his student in 1968, called Peter Mukuccia. He is a former Methodist Bishop. It was such a challenge to me to see how much they loved one another in the Lord and how being in Christ makes people united, even though he is a Methodist. I was also challenged from the conversation never to depart from the simple message, Christ and Him crucified.

**Take Home**

(i) A reminder not to be distracted by the difference we have but to focus on preaching the simple Gospel message

(ii) The value of visitation in the ministry of the Word. Members always have different needs and as a minister, I must be there for them.

(iii) The value of greeting people and forming relationships with them (Many old people in the village could recognize Keith after a long period of time and it was a joy to hear the conversation that they heard).

(iv) I must be prepared to preach the Gospel at all times, especially impromptu preaching in conversation with people.

(v) I must be patient, because ministry is not easy and things are not built in a day, it takes time, sometimes a very long period of time.

(vi) I should not be discouraged even though I may not see the fruit of my ministry.

(vii) I don’t have to spend an extra coin, but seek to save as much as I can to help the needy amongst us.

Report compiled by,

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