

GBC-KISUMU PRAYER LETTER JUNE 2022

Dear Brethren,

We have been especially encouraged by your prayers for us last month and we are indeed thankful to the Lord for you. The Lord is answering your incessant prayers for us in so many ways. Let me kindly share with you some of them for your encouragement, continued prayers, and thanksgiving. The Apostle Paul, having exhorted the Colossians to continue steadfastly in prayer, asked them to also pray for them in prison, ***“At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.”*** (Colossians 4:3,4). May the Lord help you to pray for us in a similar manner as we continue preaching and teaching God’s word.

1] MEMBERSHIP GROWTH.



Sandwiched between us from left to right: Darius, Judy (with their daughter, Denisa), and Suzzane.

Towards the end of last year, it pleased the Lord to lead a family to our fellowship through a few providences. **Darius & Judy** (and their two children) moved to Kisumu in 2018 having studied and briefly worked in Nairobi. My wife succeeded Judy as the Christian Union secretary and they became good friends during this time. They didn’t know that by God’s providence they would later live and fellowship together in Kisumu. I didn’t have any meaningful interactions with both of them during our time at the university. Darius attended JKUAT, a neighbouring university, where he studied computer applications. After marriage, they briefly became members

of a Pentecostal/Charismatic church in Nairobi where they served in the “Praise & Worship Team” before relocating to Kisumu. During this period, Judy, who had a great passion for ministry, enrolled in some college for pastoral studies to become a pastor. In Kisumu, they joined a ‘fairly’ evangelical church (with Arminian inclinations) mostly attended by expatriates from overseas. Here is an excerpt of Judy’s testimony of conversion.

“I came to truly believe in Jesus Christ savingly towards the end of 2021 in one of the services at Grace Baptist Church Kisumu. Pastor Tony was teaching about the prodigal son. By the grace of God I truly saw His goodness, my sinfulness and my need for Jesus the Christ. I have been in church actively for as long as I can remember, but I had never received this truth. I went home that day repenting and asking Jesus to save me. I now know that I truly believe because Jesus is my only hope for salvation from God’s wrath. My attitude towards God, towards Christ and sin has changed. I now repent from my sin unto Christ because anything I considered as “good works” cannot save me. I am saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.” (The sermon she is referring to is titled **“I Once Was Lost But Now I’m Found”** and can be accessed at: https://youtu.be/EWhS-Jg_m6o).

Together with Elder Ken, we visited them, and by God’s grace, clarified the many concerns they were struggling with as they were coming to know the Lord truly and savingly. Having been persuaded that their testimony was credible, we arranged for their baptism. Suzzane, who came to know the Lord savingly during last year’s Youth Conference in Eldoret, was also received into the membership together with Darius’ family. She was baptised in December last year. Please pray for their growth and commitment in the Lord. Thank the Lord for His saving mercies towards sinners. Continue praying for the effectiveness of God’s word in Kisumu.



Left: Judy's baptism. Right: Darius' baptism.

2] MEN'S MINISTRY.



Elder Ken responding to some of the questions during the men's breakfast

Last month, I wrote to you about the efforts the ladies are putting toward growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Our men also organised a breakfast around the theme, "Biblical Homes are Run by Biblical Men." I had the opportunity to teach them from God's word, something which they greatly appreciated.

Afterward, Elder Ken and I attempted to address

some of the struggles they are experiencing as husbands and fathers as they lead their homes. It was apparent from our interactions with them that there is a great need to biblically equip them to steward their homes in a manner that glorifies the Lord. At least 10 of the invitees also turned up and we had an opportunity to interact with them around the gospel after breakfast. These discussions proved so profitable to them and our prayer is that the Lord would open more doors for their conversion. Please do pray also for the men in our fellowship that we would be greatly helped by the Lord to seek the glory of Christ in our homes. Do pray for the fruitfulness of the word proclaimed and the one-on-one interactions around the gospel.



Addressing the men from Nehemiah 8

In Christ,

Tonny Karwa | Grace Baptist Church-Kisumu