

25th. November 2024

[These reports are taken from my regular Newsletters]

Pokot Ministry

(1) Two of the trustees of the charity will visit the Pokot brethren late January 2025, Oliver and myself. We will want to encourage the brethren, and see how the funds we have been sending for churches and schools have been used for the furtherance of the gospel. In six days, God willing, we shall do much visiting, speaking and consultation! Once again, the visit is being facilitated by brother Elly Achok of Mumias who will be with us with his vehicle.

(2) Youth Conference in December 4-7, at the Kamketo Church. This is a photo from the



August Ladies' Camp at Kasei, when there was an attendance of about 150. This time they are expecting at least 200 youth to attend for these few days. We have helped them with half the budgeted amount for the food and trust this Camp will be a great blessing to these young ones.

(3) Bible Light College, Kasei. There has been a long-standing plan to start a local church leaders' training programme. It was 20 years ago that the three present leaders completed the studies in Nairobi (TPC). Since that time a few others have started studies, but none have completed. Rooms for accommodation and teaching are half completed and there have been many applications from brethren in the churches to begin the studies (20?). The teaching materials to be used are from the Wisdom



Training Centre in Mumias. They have now questioned the proposed starting date of January 2025 because of the failure to complete the buildings. But we have encouraged them to start and to use the existing facilities (a large church building) and to have fewer students at the beginning. We have been very impressed by their planning and trust they will not be discouraged when things don't go exactly as they plan.

(4) Leaders. Brother Muketi from Kamketo has now completed two years at the TPC in Nairobi. In addition a brother from outside the Pokot community is considering helping in the ministry there. There is a such a need for well-trained leadership as there are 14 churches and only 4 men specifically set aside for the work of ministry.

(5) Chepkinagh church building. Much has been done on this permanent building so that it is now useable. There remains some plastering of walls, painting, widow glasses and doors. They were hoping to have it completed for our visit in January, but this has not proved possible. This photo was taken in July 2024. There are now 3 permanent church buildings in the 3 centres. The one at Kamketo is 20 years old and now too small!



(6) Baptisms. We thank the Lord that there have been reports of a number of baptisms. The photo is one of 13 who have professed faith in Kamketo and Kasei Churches and who were baptized during the Ladies' Camp in August. There were also baptisms in the Chepkinagh region when there was a joint service in September and another 13 were immersed. The Lord is at work and we are looking forward to going there soon and rejoicing.

15th. August 2024

Weekend Challenges

These were held simultaneously in the three secondary schools sponsored by the church, Kasei Boys, Kamketo Girls, and Chelopoy Boys. The following is by Thomas Lokerisa, Pastor at Kamketo.



'It was helpful for our weekend challenge when the three pastors plus the other assistants met on 12th June before the day of presentation. We were able to interact and share the views contributed from each of us concerning the context of the texts. We managed also to simplify the whole work for the fact that it may be easily understood by the students.

Come 14th June at 10 a.m. the school was ready to welcome us, and we found the entire school were much glad for they were providentially having enough water in the school, and they requested us to assembled with them to give thanks to God, since this is the 10th year for their starvation without water. We planned to have four presentations, two on the first day, and two on the second day. The first lesson was about the Person of Christ, His work on the cross and the resurrection. Then later, Geoffrey taught about how to be a Christian – by grace alone, in Jesus Christ alone, and not by works of the law. In addition, the total number of students together with their four teachers who sat under these lectures were one hundred plus.

On 15th, Geoffrey started to lecture, where he was to conclude the way to salvation, that it is by true repentance and putting faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Then still in that morning, I did the summary of the whole lectures. Gladly, even after when we had done with teachings, we realized that they had collected a number helpful questions. After lunch we met to interact with them in answering them. Imperatively, we left them as we have hope that there may be seen many of them coming to true repentance, just because of their activeness and the interest of salvation through their questions. We also gave them the copies of those materials that we used to teach them.'

Kasei Bible School

The building for the students is yet to be completed. The one year syllabus of systematic theology is being borrowed from the Wisdom Training Centre in Mumias (see 4/2024). We are seeking to equip the school with the needed study materials and furniture both for study and accommodation. One further project is to produce a Pokot hymn book which was prepared many years ago.

Men's Retreat

We received the following reports. "God has graciously blessed us though the turn up was small. There were around 40 people and what they say about those who did not come was financial difficulties. Many went to mine gold down beyond those hills towards Turkana." (Andrew)

"We were so much encouraged for the retreat, the team were above 40 men who attended, we 3 of us managed to teach/facilitate. Theme - Christian discipleship"

1. Cost of discipleship and it's marks
2. Aims of discipleship and
3. Benefits of discipleship .

Let God use the word to save His people." (Thomas)



Marriage Counselling

Joshua Sitet recently had three consecutive daily sessions on marriage at the main centres of Kasei, Kamketo and Chepkinagh. He used a book by Sala, *God's Family Plan*. A total of 50 young couples attended, a few being polygamous, such an endemic problem among the Pokot. In God's providence this spells out hope for the future of the church and its leadership. This is part of Joshua's report.

Andrew opened it with the message from Rm. 3:19--31 on Salvation in Christ alone. Then I took them through a brief on God's Family Blueprint being in illustrated by a house. A biblical family/house has what it takes for a real house to exist:

1. Foundation = Faith in Christ.
2. Four walls = Commitment, Communication, Love and Forgiveness
3. Roof = The Grace of God.

Three units were successfully covered, i.e.

1. Family Devotion
2. Family Finance (10 Rules of staying out of Debt)
3. Marriage and Sex.

All really appreciated and proposed for the remaining units to be covered next year God willing. The final comment was, "It was really fun. Making them sit as couples per desk was not easy"!!



For Prayer

Ladies Camp at Kasei 21-23 August, and 200 are expected.

Baptisms will take place at Kapkoghun in September, Lord willing.

The completion of the church building in Chepkinagh – plastering, painting and window glasses.

24th. May 2024

Bible Light School Kasei



The church has begun building rooms for the Bible School. [The church building is in the background.] The leaders went to Reformation Conference in Mumias in April to talk about using their Wisdom Training Centre (WTC) materials in the School. We are looking forward to the establishment of this school so that men who are not so proficient in English can prepare for church

Kamketo Church



‘We had great Sunday (May 5th.), though it was outside the church building because we had 165 in number attending and the building became small. Muketi Geoffrey was the preacher (his text was Col.1:21-23). Let us leave the results to God.’ [Thomas Lokerisa, pastor] It is encouraging to see the way the brethren are working hard to make the word of God known.

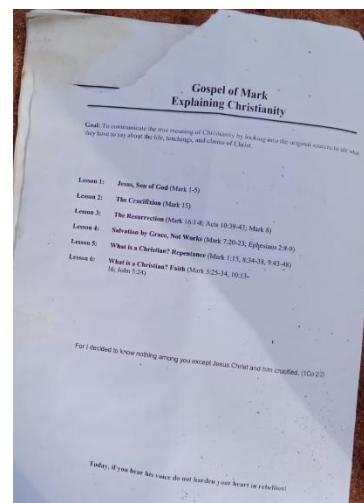
Youth Retreat Report

The camp was well attended and by the evening of Friday there were 85 participants, and the total got to 103 on Saturday. A few churches were not represented, that is Wasat, Apur, Kapkewa, Kapyomot and Tarakit.

Thomas taught from Romans 12 on ‘Fighting against Pride’ and took them through parts of Proverbs and from 2 Peter 1:5-11 on ‘The Sinfulness of Sloth/Laziness’. John Longoris of Kasepa and Geoffrey Ngolee also encouraged the youths to stand firm and to obey their parents. May God be pleased to bless his work.

Weekend Challenges

Recent severe nation-wide flooding delayed the opening of schools after the Easter break. In each of the three secondary schools sponsored by the church a 'weekend challenge' is planned. Friday through Sunday ministry of the word by the Pokot brethren will take place. They intend to use the 6 lessons on the Gospel of Mark to explain what Christianity is. They want all the students, who number more than 200 to get a copy of the papers. This is a wonderful opportunity to make the gospel known (I am sorry I cannot give you the exact weekend).



6th. April 2024

Subsequent to the visit in January TRAIN(Kenya) has had a closer involvement in the ministry of the brethren in Pokot North. The increased support to enable them to function fulltime seems to have helped them to give themselves afresh to the work. Three infrastructure projects have been supported:

- Plastering of the walls of the Chepkinagh church building.



Plastering of the newly constructed Chepkinagh church building

- Repair of the roof of the dormitory for the Kamketo school that was damaged by a strong gust of wind, something common here.



[Kamketo school dormitory before and after]

- Construction of rooms for the Bible School for the region in Kasei (see below).

Greetings in Christ our Lord and Saviour. We are doing well by His grace hope you are all well too. The month has been very busy and full of favours after the 24/2/24 Great Day in our church calendar of events.

The Book 'PLANTED BY THE GRACE OF GOD' by my teacher Keith is a timely gift in establishing my approach to church planting work. (A privilege of standing on the shoulders of a giant!)

The following are a few Items for PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING:

1. Glory to God for the special donation towards the **Kasei Bible College**. Pray for God to enable us complete the now started construction work of this long awaited Bible School. Materials for construction of the 4 rooms of the Bible School are on the way. It is our prayer that we will be able to complete the work up to the ring beam soon amid this rainy season. Pray for serious students and a workable syllabus.

2. **TRINITY SCHOOLS WEEKEND CHALLENGE 2024**. During our meeting with Thomas and Andrew Wednesday 20/3 we agreed to take the message of the book of Ecclesiastes using a modified flow from a booklet by Peter Masters. We want to provide the 200 students with copies. We also want to involve William, Peter and Muketi to take part in the teaching so that the activity is done one weekend in all our 3 secondary schools simultaneously. We also welcome your suggestions because in all this there is cost to be incurred to make all these events successful.

3. Praise God for the new people joining our Sunday services in **Kasei**. 4 are requesting for membership and 2 joined our membership on 17/3/24. Now our membership is 45. Though sadly one of our members is to undergo church discipline after adding a second wife. The Gospel of Luke, which I am preaching through and now on Lk. 10:1-24, is marching well with The URGENCY OF THE GOSPEL. No business is as sweet as being part of the Church Militant. As to the progress of the use of the funds raised on 24/2 we have done some purchases last week and now we have a printer, a laptop and PA system in the church. We are mounting the two speakers on the walls to discourage movement of the equipment outside the church hall.

4. Praise God for the renewed spirit of fellowship at the **Kapterema** church. Those four who joined membership last month are becoming of much encouragement to the church. Sadly the leader is most of the Sundays away and Dominic Ripis, a teacher at the school, is left struggling. Two youths from this church have requested for membership and interviews will be done this holiday when they will be at home.

5. For God to grant us the **registration** of the church with the Government and to provide for more elders and supportive members who put 1st. things 1st. amid the busyness of life.

6. In all these may the Lord's will be done and may all our activities bring glory to God.

Joshua Sitet

[edited report from Joshua Sitet, Pastor of Kasei Trinity Baptist Church

We believe that such projects ultimately help to advance the gospel by showing the communities that the churches are there to stay, by showing that sponsorship is taken seriously, and by expressing fellowship in the needs of these relatively poor churches. It is up to the preachers to grab hold of the opportunities. Please pray for them. There are reports of baptisms upon profession of faith in Christ. There are the following special opportunities:

1. The annual Youth Retreat for the churches at Kasei, 19-20/4/24.
2. The Challenge Weekend in the 3 secondary schools in June, an opportunity we have because of church sponsorship of the schools (see below).
3. The development of the Bible School in Kasei, which has long been needed.

In addition:

4. Please also pray for the two men doing the TPC studies in Nairobi every 2 months, William Siwanyang' and Geoffrey Muketi. May they be much used of the Lord amongst these churches!
5. Pray against the influence of polygamy even in the churches, as the following report references a member who has had to be disciplined for taking another wife.
6. The pastors hope to attend the Reformation Conference in Mumias at the end of April, where we pray they will be encouraged and challenged. Remember that Elly Achok visited Pokot with us in January. {Elly Achok Olare's Facebook page for 5th. February}

10th. February 2024

Oliver Allmand-Smith and I visited West Pokot County in our capacity as trustees of the U.K. charity TRAIN(Kenya). Oliver has had an interest in the work of the gospel here for almost 20 years, and it was his third visit to Pokot. He is a pastor of Trinity Grace Church, Ramsbottom, near Manchester. Elly Achok, pastor of the Gospel Missions Agency in Mumias, Kenya, also accompanied us, and kindly drove us there in his car. It was his first time to visit 'Kenya B', as we came to call it, a far cry from the more developed Kenya A. In the last year TRAIN(Kenya) has been using donations in three ways in order to encourage the work. The charity tasked us to find out the benefits of this expenditure and to know whether we should continue to give such support and to see what further needs there might be.

(1) The three long-standing **church leaders** have received limited monthly support. Joshua



Sitet (Kasei), Thomas Lokerisa (Kamketo), and Andrew Chemolok (Chepkinagh), have been in the work for more than 20 years. Over those years there has been much growth in terms of planting of new churches and starting schools associated with each church. There are now 14, with one even being started over the border in Uganda where the Pokot also live and take their cattle to graze. During this time there have been the usual problems – an influx of other

churches especially of the Pentecostal/Charismatic variety, and others bringing in lots of

money, the influence of politics, the legacy of a strong culture and in particular the practice of polygamy. There was a time when the Full Gospel swept the area. The Lutherans came in with development projects. People in the churches have taken opposing sides in the vying for prestigious political office. As regards polygamy, these three men have been faithful to their spouses, but many others have succumbed to the demands of the culture and have been excommunicated. There has only ever been one church wedding (which I performed in 2014) and there are rumours that this may have turned polygamous. You might ask why is it a rumour? The man works away from the area and this gives the opportunity to have one wife at home, and another elsewhere. We were even told that the older men in the church are so aware of the power of polygamy that they do not encourage their sons to marry in church lest they later turn to become polygamous. Where are future church leaders going to come from in such a situation?

We spent much of one day talking with these three men seeking to understand them and to encourage them in the work of the gospel. These were some of the things we shared together: support for teachers in schools, the best way to promote the gospel in the schools, the need for a missionary to help with the work, the establishment of a Bible school in the area, moving the churches towards self-sufficiency and encouraging them to progress with government registration. We felt these men are weary with so much responsibility and that they need an 'infusion' of encouragement of various things. They have been faithful even as they have struggled with family demands as a result of school fees and drought.

(2) A permanent **church building** in Chepkinagh has been almost completed. The Sunday we were there was the very first time it was used! The floor was not concreted, the walls were not plastered, and the window glasses were not in place. Prior to this they had been using one of the school classrooms which was too small for the many attendees. Now they have ample space and we trust it will be used to the full.

Chepkinagh church



(3) Monthly support is given for the employment of extra teachers in the **schools** sponsored by the church. 10 of them are registered with the government but the government does not provide anything like the full quota of teachers required for the proper running of the school. TRAIN(Kenya) provides funds to support more than 20 extra teachers, who must have been trained according to government standards. Where possible we want them to be church members, or at least attendees. We are particularly concerned for the Friday morning PPI (= Programme for Pastoral Instruction) where a church representative can teach the doctrine of the church. What an opportunity this can be for the gospel to come to many hundreds of children! To aid this we provided material from Rafiki on the Gospel of Matthew (<https://rafikifoundation.org/>).



Kamketo Comprehensive School

We were able to visit quite a number of the primary schools – at Kamketo, Kasei, Nakoretee, Chepkinagh, Apur, and Wasat, as well as the secondary schools at Kamketo (girls) and Kasei (boys). We sought to meet with the head teachers and staff to find out how the school is progressing. Two of the primary schools were very encouraging with well organized leaders and a very supportive staff. We wish that could be said of every school! This area of West Pokot is remote and many teachers not from the area who are posted here would regard it as a punishment. There is a lot of absenteeism among teachers, one of the excuses being that education offices, banks and shopping are a day's journey away in Kapenguria. As serious was the low enrolment in the schools. Covid restrictions took many children out of the educational system for good. January is the beginning of the school year and many children were still seeking fees and others were still with parents in Uganda where they had gone for grazing their animals. Education is still not seen as vitally important by many. Much patience is needed with this community as they come out of a cattle-raiding culture into the modern era. But without the provision of education from where can we expect future church leaders to come?



Elly at Kasei Comprehensive School



Keith at Kamketo Trinity Girls

We were able to preach everywhere. Oliver wrote a daily diary and took many photos, and you can very soon access this at Trinity Grace Church. [<https://trinitygracechurch.net/kenya>]

Please Pray

1. Wisdom for TRAIN(Kenya) to know how best to encourage the work of the gospel by its giving.
2. That the 3 leaders – Andrew, Joshua and Thomas – may be faithful to the gospel, and that the Lord would use them in the preaching of the gospel in the community and schools.
3. For the 2 young men currently training in the TPC in Nairobi – William and Geoffrey, and that the Lord would be pleased to raise up other such men.
4. Those who teach the weekly PPI lessons in the schools on Friday mornings using the material on the Gospel of Matthew.

2nd. January 2024

Proposed Visit to Kenya, 15-25 January, 2024

Oliver Allmand-Smith and I will be going as trustees of TRAIN(Kenya). The specific purpose is to look on the ground at what the charity has been doing with donors' money in Pokot – a church building in Chepkinagh, the support of church leaders, and support for extra teachers in primary schools.

We depart late Monday 15th. January, fly overnight to Nairobi via Dubai, then it is a short flight to Kisumu where we will be met by Elly Achok and be taken to his place of ministry in Mumias. On Wednesday 17th. we drive with Elly to Pokot arriving late in the afternoon. In the 6 full days we will have four places where we stay. We are three in the team and it will enable us to be constantly ministering the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(1) We start with **Kamketo**, where Thomas Lokerisa is the Pastor. As in each place we will seek to minister to the church, preach in the schools. Here, we will have an all-day meeting with the leaders in the Pokot region.

(2) Then up to nearby **Kasei**, where Joshua Sitet is the Pastor. Here, we will also want to talk about the proposal for a Bible School so there can be training on a more local level.

(3) On Saturday 20th. we go the few hours to **Chepkinagh**, although it is geographically near there is a long ridge of hills we need to circumvent. Andrew Chemolok is the Pastor here. This is where we will spend our Sunday with a number of the churches around which are under Andrew's oversight also in attendance.

(4) Finally on Monday 22nd. we go to **Wasat**, where Peter Nalunyit is the pastor. In terms of growth by conversion from nothing 15 years ago this has been the most encouraging place. [You can find each of these on Google Earth, the place followed by Trinity Baptist Church.]

Wednesday we travel back all the way to Kisumu to spend the night with Tonny Karwa and family, before flying to Nairobi and then out of Kenya. Maybe we will have the opportunity to be visited by a few of the Nairobi brethren as we have a few hours stopover in the airport. We both go to Dubai, where I will spend the long weekend with Alan & Kez Kimunguyi and the brethren there, and Oliver will continue back home.

Please pray for us.

1. It is a tightly packed schedule as we look to the Lord to accomplish much for his kingdom.
2. We want to be of especial encouragement to the leaders that they may be faithful preachers of the gospel of our Lord.
3. TRAIN(Kenya) now sends support directly to the brethren in Pokot.. We want to find out the situation on the ground, to make sure the money we sent is being used properly, and to encourage evangelism in the schools, both primary and secondary. With perhaps more than half of the children of the area at these schools it is a wonderful opportunity and there is freedom at the present time to do this.
4. We want to assess the genuine needs so that we can report back to donors.



One item of news from the Pokot ministry is that was a Youth Camp for the area at Chepkinagh where about 130 attended for the few days. The theme was, What is the Church? More than half the budgeted expenses were covered by the campers / churches, with one-third a gift from TRAIN(Kenya), so that the total expense was almost covered.