

Truth B-P Church
Report of Missions Trip to Kenya (21 Nov to 11 Dec 2018)
by Carol Lee

“From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the LORD’s name is to be praised” (Ps 113:3). How I praise and thank God for this year’s missions trip to Kenya! Our faithful Lord once again watched over me, granted me safety, good health and strength, and provided for all my needs. Truly, the LORD’s name is to be praised!

Again through the kind invitation of, and arrangement by, Rev Michael Koech (Chairman of the East Africa Christian Association, Vice-Bishop of the Africa Gospel Unity Church, Principal of Bomet Bible Institute and Pastor of Kapkwan AGUC), I taught a 16-hour Vacation Bible Course on “Jesus the Master Teacher” at the Bomet Bible Institute (BBI) from 26 to 29 Nov (Mon to Thur). It was attended by 22 students. This course was also to be offered at the Kisumu Bible School (KBS) the following week, but it did not materialise due to a lack of students. The retired Archbishop of the Holy Trinity Church of Africa (HTCA), Rev Job Were, had gone home to glory recently and, as such, the Church and KBS had been busy with the home-going services.



The BBI students sat for their examination on 30 Nov (Fri). The following day (1 Dec, Sat) was the BBI Graduation Service, and the AGUC Anniversary Service was held on the Lord's Day (2 Dec).

This year I was able to visit the AGUC missions station in Popich (in East Pokot). Upon arrival at the Nairobi International Airport on 21 Nov (Wed), I took a domestic flight and reached Eldoret in under an hour. There I was met by Rev Michael, Rev Anthony Koech and Vincent Langat (the driver); and we headed for East Pokot, in a car carrying 60 litres of water, enough food ration for a day, a portable gas stove, a pot, plates and spoons, cups, etc. The projected two-hour drive took four hours because we were off course for two hours! But thank God we arrived at Kapenguria before 7pm and, by the hospitable arrangement of Rev Nathaniel Kandagor, we spent the night at the Bible Christian Faith Church College of the Bible.

At 5.30 the following morning (22 Nov, Thur), we continued our journey, meeting up with Philemon, a Christian motorbike-taxi rider, who led us to the church site in Popich. We arrived at our destination at about 12pm. Along the way, we noticed that the vegetation got drier and soon we saw only the thorny acacia trees, as they were hardy enough to survive the hot climate. We came across a few dried-up rivers, and thus were able to drive across them on their river beds. While a couple of rivers had some water, our car was able to "wade" across them. At one point, our Nissan Serena (an auto MPV) could not make it up a stony slope! With us out of the car, the driver was able to manoeuvre it up. And then suddenly the front left tyre got stuck in sand and could not get enough traction to move forward. By God's providence, we had a rope in the car and there was a taxi motorcyclist with his four passengers just behind our car. With these God-prepared resources, the car was pulled out of its predicament!

When we arrived at the Popich church site, we were pleasantly surprised to be greeted by a traditional Pokot rousing welcome! An estimated seventy local villagers, dressed in their traditional colourful garb, complete with head gear, had gathered at the church site. Having arrived in Popich much earlier, Mrs Evaline Tanui (a Kenyan widow of a pastor who introduced this Pokot ministry to Rev Michael) had planned the day's programme. Her nephew Elisha and another Christian brother (Robert) were also there already. After a simple lunch, we gathered in the open space outside the church structure (as it was too small to accommodate the large crowd). Led by Mrs Tanui, the children presented a



Rev Michael speaking to the crowd

song item. After a round of introduction, the village elder and several local villagers made their welcome speeches in the Pokot dialect, and shared about their lives in Popich. In response, Rev Michael, Rev Anthony and I took turns to share with them about the new life we have in the Lord: the gospel message, to seek first the kingdom of God, to obey God, etc. Several villagers raised their hands to indicate their interest.

The Pokot missions field is indeed ripe for harvest but where are the labourers? While the AGUC arranges the missions trips there (they are planning three trips for 2019), there is no one stationed there to do the follow-up work. *“Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest”* (Matt 9:38). Surely He will provide.

Without electricity or piped water, Rev Michael prepared dinner that evening. He cooked a pot of rice using the water and gas stove he brought along, while Mrs Tanui cooked a dish of cabbages over wood fire. We also had fresh mangoes and hot milk tea. After dinner, Rev Michael further shared the gospel with the village elder (with Mrs Tanui translating between the Pokot dialect and Swahili), but he was not ready to receive Jesus. We pray for God’s mercy to be upon him to save him, even as He has already saved his son Daniel.

Sleeping quarters for the night were two tents (which Mrs Tanui and Elisha had pitched for us) and the car! She also had a makeshift toilet (about 100m away) prepared.



After-dinner evangelistic session: Rev Michael (in white cap) sharing with the village elder (right), with Mrs Tanui translating

By 7 the following morning (23 Nov, Fri), we were ready to return to Bomet. Philemon (with Robert and Elisha riding pillion on his motorbike) led the way. Now and then, when there are plants obstructing our car's way, they would stop to clear the vegetation (with the help of their "parang" and a huge wooden "fork") to make way for our car. Taking only one break at 3pm for lunch and toilet, we reached Bomet at 8pm.

During my stay in Bomet, I also attended a fellowship meeting at Longisa AGUC on 29 Nov (Thur) and a home fellowship of Kapkwen AGUC on 30 Nov (Fri). There was also a wedding on 7 Dec (Fri) in Bomet AGUC. The couple was Pstr Alfred (a BBI graduate) and Euvise. Thank God also for opportunities to fellowship with Rev Jonathan Langat, Rev Nelson Were, Rev Daniel Yaban, Pstr Benard Too and Charles Sang (all alumni of FEBC). Do pray for Pstr Benard and his fiancée Karen as they wed on 19 Dec.

Elisha (left) and Robert (right) clearing the way for our car



After Kapkwen Home Fellowship, with the children and Pstr Abraham (far right)



My time in Kenya quickly came to an end and I took the four-hour car journey from Bomet to Nairobi Airport, with much thanksgiving to God and many prayer items in my heart for our Kenyan brethren as they continue to labour tirelessly for our Lord.

Once again, Rev Michael invited me to return in 2019. He asked, "Will you visit Pokot again?" When I replied "Yes!" without any hesitation, he said he may plan a two-night Pokot trip next year! Will you pray about joining me next year?

(More photos are available for viewing at www.truthbpc.com.)