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2023 WATCHWORD



PSALMS 23 IN 23



What Would Jesus Write?

This morning I woke up to thoughts of the atrocities that have been carried out between Israel and the Palestinian people before and since October 7 this year. I also thought about the rising cost of living in Kenya; about the unemployment rate; about the many who are struggling with dire health conditions; about those whose lives have been devastated by flooding in many parts of Kenya; about trusting retirees or youth who have invested life-savings into schemes that turned out to be con. And I wondered, if Jesus were sitting here in my place, ready to type an editorial to a newsletter, what in the world would he choose to write about? What single encouraging message is there to share with all kinds of people in whatever situation?

Then I remembered that some people had come to Jesus one day and reported some ghastly things that had just taken place. For some reason, the fifth governor of Judaea, a Roman colonist, had made a horrifying decision over the lives of some Jews who had gone to the temple in Jerusalem to make sacrifices. It is probable that the men, being Galilean, were political agitators. Pilate ordered that they be killed in a most cruel manner, and that their blood be mingled with their sacrifices, an insult to their religion and God on top of the heinous act of cutting their life short.

In fact, when Jesus heard this depressing news, he added a story of His own, in which people with disease and who had gone to seek healing at the pool of Siloam met their sudden death when a nearby tower collapsed on them (Luke 13).

But it was in the very response of the merciful Jesus to these events that one could garner utter hopelessness if not careful. The men who reported this breaking news with the hope of finding sympathy in Jesus, or at least a resolve in the Messiah to act on Roman occupation... or whatever other hopeful thing... heard these words: 'Unless you repent, you will perish in a similar manner'. Really!

I will dare put a summary to the whole philosophy of Jesus encapsulated in that statement: Life can be brutal... suddenly or

slowly and agonizingly. Good and evil will happen to all men and women and children alike, including those seeking to do the right thing before God in their own eyes. Pain and suffering in this body is not the worst possible thing to the human person. The thing that is worse than facing sickness, poverty, oppression, war, insult, abandonment or any other form of human sorrow is to come to the end of physical life without having experienced peace with God that comes only from repentance. Because of that stand, Jesus did not train a militia like some other Galilean Jews had done with the aim of attacking their oppressive masters. He did not opt for a Hamas. He did not make it his enterprise to feed all the hungry and heal all sick persons though he did feed and heal some along with his core mission. Jesus committed his three-and-a-half years of earthly service to preaching repentance and the rule of God's government in the human soul. He considered this the greatest treasure in this mortal life.

A young man once listened to John Mwangi and me narrate from Scripture the kind of a person that Jesus Christ was. When I asked the young man whether Jesus was the kind of Saviour that he could follow and believe in for salvation, he said no. Jesus was answering people badly, he said. That young man proceeded to stab a calf to death a few weeks later. He was a very angry person. Some of his colleagues though found peace in Christ and His forgiveness that same week we preached repentance.

What would Jesus write about on this page? I don't know. But whatever it would be, it would point to repentance for the Kingdom of God is still at hand. And in the rest of this issue of TF Tidings, our staff share how many young people have been finding the peace of God in these turbulent times. May you be inspired to share Christ with a world that is increasingly saying that Jesus is not good enough.

Mbugua P. Gitu

Editor/General Secretary – Trinity Fellowship



Two camps are scheduled this holiday in Western and Nyanza regions, and indeed the first is underway at Otieno Oyoo School. These camps are life-changing, transformational times as students are ministered to in this residential setting. Over the past six decades of Trinity Fellowship's ministry countless students have been well taught of the Lord and ministered to by the Lord. Many have come into a personal relationship with the Lord. They have come out of darkness into light. Many have been set free from bondages and set on the path of righteousness. They have come out of sorrow into joy and from despair into hope. Many, many young people have had their lives turned around at these camps for eternity – and we are thankful to the Lord for where He has taken and used these young people in furthering His kingdom rule and reign. We are thankful for those who

partner alongside our TF staff and pour out their lives in the camps to minister to these youngsters. The impact of this ministry is greater than we will ever know – so we treasure your prayers and partnership. And we look forward to the testimonies of God at work to save, heal, deliver and transform youngsters for His glory.

With school ministry halted, due to end of the year examinations taking place and then the long school holiday, team members in Western and Nyanza, engage in a variety of other ministry engagements: equipping ministers from Bondo using the TF Maseno Students' Centre as a venue, to equipping young people with life-skills. There are mentorship sessions of young people. Preparations and running of the camps, open air meetings and door-to-door witnessing are taking place.

HOME VISITS BEAR DIVIDENDS

Mark shares that during the long holiday period, he engages in home visits to follow up on some students he has ministered to at school. This gives the opportunity to meet the student's parents, and thus get to know the family and their situations better. He has found this to be very positive.

A number of parents have appreciated the ministry, sharing of positive changes that are being witnessed in their child's behaviour. It has also resulted in parents giving permission for their child to attend a camp, for further spiritual nourishment. Ten young people are attending this end-of-year camp for the very first time, following a home visit.





helpful tool in their Bible Study sessions. As teachers of the Word they are careful not to make any assumptions, thus they start with the very basics, laying the foundation stone by stone, concept by concept. It is a delight to see a great hunger for God's Word.

Munguti has recently started a new Consistent Bible Reading class – this being the 4th cohort. It is mainly attended by CU members and some of their friends. It is quite unique in that they are primarily 1st-year students, with 35 in attendance. Pray with Munguti and Isaac that the students will stay till the end, fall in love with God's Word and be life-long readers and doers – transformed by His Word.

Munguti and Isaac run two small group discipleship meetings a week at Murang'a University, on Thursdays and Fridays. These are well and consistently attended with a total of 30 students on a weekly basis. The students are growing in their walk with the Lord. One in particular, has consistently attended from her first year. Now in her 3rd year, she continues to show great growth and transformation in her faith and insights in her walk with the Lord. This is evident as she shares on what the Lord is teaching and ministering to her through her daily Quiet Times (Bible reading, meditation and prayer). How encouraging! She has now been elected as the Vice Chair in the Christian Union. Praise God and pray for her as she helps to steer this body of believers.

Ministry Tools: The Wheel Illustration has been a most

Munguti ministers to the youth at his church. He is now running the 6th cohort of a Discipleship Class. Having started with ten students, only two remain. However, he is not discouraged, he persists with passion and is reaping the rewards. One, a lady who joined in 2019 and quite quickly dropped out, not being a believer at that time, has rejoined following her salvation in January of this year. She then realized the benefits of being in a discipleship class in order to be nurtured in her new faith – and she has been growing by leaps and bounds, in understanding and appreciation of the scriptures. She has completed reading the New Testament and is starting on the Old Testament. She expressed her wish that all new believers would have this opportunity. The joy is shared by the teacher and the student.

HEALING OF HEARTS AND HURTS

On 1st October, Team TF held a Teachers' Breakfast at Kenyatta University, a mobilization forum towards Teacher Discipleship and High School ministry, particularly for 1st-year students. This is an opportunity for us to encourage and challenge those taking Bachelors of Education, through the scriptures, on the great ministry opportunities they will have upon graduation within the schools to which they will be posted, and to help them process the disappointment that many of them have encountered, as teaching was not their first choice.

Caleb Njoroge, a former intern, disciplined in Nairobi, is doing a great job at Mt. Kenya University where he is in his last year as a student. He is also engaged in discipling students in the Christian Union, passing on what he has learnt. Ten students attended a one-day training on 13th November at our Nairobi centre, where Nato shared on *Healing from Fatherhood Wounds*, a much needed ministry for so many. The students shared that their discipleship journey led by Caleb has been of great help to them. The Christian Union, like many others in the country, has faced challenges in the area of doctrinal teaching. Pray that Caleb will continue to be used of the Lord as he stands for and shares the Truth and exposes the lies of the enemy.





Damaris Nato attended a forum for high school students who are nursing mothers in a certain school. There have been increased cases of pregnancy and a desire to reach out to these young mothers with compassion. Ladies from Trinity Fellowship together with church members are committing to help these young girls, with encouragement and support, so that they will continue with their schooling. Ministry has continued at Garden Estate Primary School, a school for less privileged students. A number of TF staff spent time with Class 8 students who are shortly to transit to secondary school. This took place on 7th October at a Kenya Assemblies of God Church, a church within the vicinity

of the school. Members of neighbouring churches were part of this joint ministry. Various speakers spoke on life issues and opportunities for the students beyond school. In smaller forums, the students opened up, asking questions on matters of importance and concern to themselves. This gave the opportunity to discuss matters that they cannot talk to their parents or teachers about. One student responded that he had never had such an opportunity in his life... of being listened to and counselled! Around 20 students gave their lives to Christ. It was evident that this was a very impactful time of ministry – of listening, advising and caring – and one that we trust will continue.

The Nairobi team hosted 10 students from NOVA High School for a Discipleship cum Leadership Training from 29th October to 1st November. Most of the students were Form 1s who had been inducted into the Christian Union leadership. Young and inexperienced as they were, they needed much training, and will require follow-up. However, they soaked up the training and showed a great deal of curiosity, asking relevant questions. The CU patron and chaplain (who have themselves been spiritually nurtured through Trinity Fellowship) have been most supportive in helping them steer the CU in the right direction.

TF MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP OFFICIAL

invited as a ministry, by the Campus CU, to run a discipleship programme. This registered their regard for the ministry that Trinity Fellowship is engaged in, and their readiness to have us partner with them in ministry to the students. We praise God for this long-awaited breakthrough. Following this first discipleship training, the CU leadership requested that we engage further with any programme that we deem suitable. Prayerful consideration is underway on how best to roll out some of our programmes. The team is rejoicing for this opportunity to serve teacher trainees at Kikuyu Campus.

Mr. Mwiti, an alumnus of now Machakos University, led a delegation of TF staff to the University a few months back, to introduce the ministry of Trinity Fellowship in the hopes that they would allow us entrance to minister to the students. The official reply has just been received. Official permission is granted! This is good news indeed. Now Team TF have the joyful task of starting up ministry in a new campus – where there is a young but vibrant CU, much in need of ministry oversight. Do rejoice with us and pray for the logistics of rolling this out.

John and Carol Mwangi, stationed in Kericho, are currently going through a disappointing scenario in the main campus of Kabianga University, where students are training for the teaching profession. There seems to be a lack of enthusiasm, and an apathy for discipleship. Do join us and them in prayer for a total turn around and breakthrough. Meanwhile, they are excited for the ministry opportunities that are opening up amongst the youth particularly in churches in the area.

James and Henry, who are engaged in ministry in Kikuyu, are especially thankful for what the Lord is doing in the Kikuyu Campus of Nairobi University. After years of prayer, discipleship of students and patient waiting on the Lord to open ministry doors for Trinity Fellowship, He has, in His own good time, done just this. Their diligent and faithful work has been rewarded. At the start of this semester, Trinity Fellowship was given official recognition to partner with the Kikuyu Campus Christian Union. To date, the CU has been interacting with the individual staff, James and Henry, and those whom they recommended from Trinity Fellowship. Thus it was a joy to be



Trinity Fellowship's North Rift Team have a vibrant one-year discipleship program at the University of Eldoret once a week on Wednesdays from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. This discipleship program called 'Mizizi' endeavours to root members of the Christian Union in their faith in Jesus Christ and helps address and give biblical responses to issues affecting them as campus students. The classes started in September of 2023 and will continue until April of 2024. We praise God that there has been an increase in attendance with an average of 150 students attending the sessions each Wednesday.

TREE PLANTING WITH A DIFFERENCE

Florence Emali, who is stationed in Eldoret, together with her husband, Paul, and who minister to the students in University of Eldoret, shared on a recent ministry to the female students. On Monday 13th November, a holiday was announced quite abruptly for a tree planting exercise across the country. This gave Florence a ministry opportunity which she seized. She organized a one-day Ladies' Conference at her home, enlisting the aid of three young ladies whom she had counselled and discipled with regards to relationships, marriage and more, while they were at university. Now they are wives and mothers. Florence was quite astonished when 70 female students turned up – for exams were just a few days away. They spent a great deal of time sharing God's way of relating with the opposite sex, courtship, marriage, family life, versus the world's way. There were powerful testimonies, honest interactions during question and answer time but most wonderfully, the prayer time was the most powerful time. There was inner healing as repentance was made. Forgiveness flowed. Hope was restored. Single mothers were freed from disgrace and despair. The Lord

Some of the topics covered include:

The Gospel, Repentance, Water baptism, Quiet Time, Foundations for godly relationships, The Great Commission, Spiritual gifts amongst others. The TF staff meet regularly with those attending the discipleship classes for small group discipleship on various days of the week to offer accountability and help as they apply the truths taught. A total of 26 have been born again through these sessions and 34 have made a declaration of faith through baptism in water. How encouraging for the ministers.



was at work. Pray with us that these young women will draw ever closer to Him, walking in obedience to Him so that they will be "...called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified." Is. 61:3

THE JOYFUL REWARDS OF MENTORSHIP



Martin feels like a proud father – for the best reason. When Martin first obeyed the call of the Lord to take the Gospel to Losidan in Marsabit in 2016, a young boy, Richard, befriended him immediately. Richard became Martin's shadow, following him wherever he went, even when Martin went to a solitary place to pray, so hungry was he to hear the Good News. He drank in the message of God's love and sacrifice and gave his heart to the Lord towards the end of his second school year. He has continued to be a dear friend to Martin, and vice versa, and has continued to grow in the knowledge and love of the Lord. Richard occasionally preaches at Losidan Baptist Church on a Sundays, young as he is. Martin is delighted that this youngster loves God so wholeheartedly. Richard loves to read the scriptures from his three Bibles: English, Kiswahili and Samburu versions. That's what makes Martin's heart proud! And the icing on the cake is that Richard has just scored 360 marks in his K.C.P.E. – exams taken on completion of primary education. Praise God for this great accomplishment! That makes Martin jump for joy!



STUDENTS STUDY THE WALK OF FAITH

The North Rift team, along with their Interns, have consistently carried out weekly Bible study sessions in three high schools. These are discipleship forums to help the students understand their faith and walk with God. They are normally carried out for one hour once a week on various days allocated by the school administrations.

The team is thankful to God for these opportunities and excited about more open doors. Moi Girls High School, Nangili, has invited the North Rift Trinity Fellowship team to carry out weekly discipleship studies in their schools every Saturday beginning from January 2024.

The Emalis join in the joyful occasion, as the TF Eldoret Interns graduate from the University of Eldoret on 30th November 2023.

TF VISION & MISSION

Trinity Fellowship is about Evangelism, Discipleship and Mercy Ministries. Through our teams we *Pray and Work for the Revival of New Testament Christianity in Kenya.*

Our Mission is *to send forth the full Gospel of Salvation, Healing and Deliverance to all who are oppressed of the Devil especially the rising generation in the schools and colleges in Kenya.*

DONATIONS

You can offer your financial support through the following:

M-PESA — Paybill 511800, Trinity Fellowship

Alternatively, please contact us if you would like to channel funding through any other means.



Joy To You This Christmas & New Year



THANK YOU FOR GIVING SO THAT WE CAN KEEP ON GOING

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to each and every one of you who **give, pray and stand with us** in a multitude of ways to see "His kingdom come..." here in Kenya and beyond; as we – Team TF together with you – "lay up treasures in heaven" where nothing will destroy... all for the glory of the Lord. As you have invested in the lives of countless, through your partnership, may you hear the Lord say, "Well done thou good and faithful servant." Thank you for caring and sharing and investing for an eternal reward – with sons and daughters ushered into the family of God, saved, healed and delivered from the bondage of darkness into the glorious light and love of Christ.

Would you like to partner with us and be MORE involved? You may do so in 3 specific ways. Pray for us, minister alongside us in camps and outreach and support us financially or in kind. We have 2 Priority Areas of need that you could give to: 1. Translation and publishing of The Misingi Story into 2 new languages; 2. Support for camps and Internship Programmes. God is faithful !



TF TIDINGS

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