

9 October 2021

Brothers and Sisters at the Kalispell church of Christ,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. This allows our service to him to be very fruitful on both sides of the world! I dearly appreciate your brotherhood and partnership.

**Corona Virus situation in Mathare slum:** To control the spread of coronavirus, Kenya Ministry of Health Covid 19 task force implemented initial prevention and mitigation measures. These included encouraging the public to wash and sanitize their hands, wear face masks, social distance, and stay at home. But not everyone here in Mathare has been able to adhere to all these guidelines, because they rely on a daily wage and cannot afford to stay home. Mathare slum is one of low-income settlements in Nairobi which is very overcrowded and where sanitation and social distancing measures are nearly impossible to maintain! Covid-19 would spread rapidly under these conditions, but the Lord has been so faithful with his people in this slum, and covid 19 positivity rate is amazingly low!

The challenge is that people are struggling because of the high cost of living, many are missing meals and have lost jobs! This pandemic continues to insert a negative impact on people's health and economic and social status. Getting the covid-19 vaccine is also a dream in our country. Kenya doesn't have enough doses. The few in the government's custody are given at a cost, but only to a selected group, e.g., civil servants.

**What the Baraka Rd Church community is doing about this:** We continue to clarify that everyone can be infected with Covid 19 and pass on the virus to others, even if they themselves are not at high risk from severe illness. We will continue observing covid-19 prevention measures.

Also, given the high rates of people foregoing food and experiencing a complete or partial loss of income, assistance must be provided so as to avoid a secondary humanitarian crisis. In light of this, *the Baraka Rd Church of Christ has come up with a **Mercy Fund Project**. The goal is to help the needy and the poor in our congregation. We encourage members who are able to buy at least a packet of sugar and washing soaps to bring their gifts to church every last Sunday of the month. Some members have gone further and given away their unused shoes and clothes. We are planning to distribute them to the needy among us. We would appreciate and thank God if you could join us in this noble mission as you all at the Kalispell church of Christ and brother Don Smith from 4<sup>th</sup> Stewart Street church of Christ did last year. The Baraka Rd Church of Christ congregation was greatly refreshed by your gifts!*

*The government has lifted the ban on public gatherings. We are now able to meet for Sunday worship, Sunday school, Bible study, and Saturday fellowships. A good number of our congregation are back to church. We continue to grow in our knowledge, service and love for God and Jesus. I currently have 6 new unchurched people in my*

*redemption Bible study class: Daniel, Carolyne, Jane, John, Eunice, and Philip. Please remember them in your prayers that they may be able to welcome Jesus in their hearts and be baptized in him for the remission of their sins.*

**Newborns:** The Lord has blessed three families in our congregation with new born babies, we equally thank the Lord for adding three more young souls into his church.

**My Mom's health report:** My Mother's health is progressing well. She is still on medication. She was very happy to hear that you sent her a gift of Ksh 25,000 for her medical needs. She dearly appreciated you so much!!

**My six children Academic reports:** Mark Mishael F3, Joy Akoth F2, Lucy Patience G8, Emmanuel Odhiambo G3, Sarah Wanda Girl- B-Class will resume learning on **12<sup>th</sup> Monday October 2021** for their second school term. I thank you and the two families who added an extra gift of \$700. This enabled me to clear their school fee balances of the previous term.

**Godwill's Egerton Campus Admission Report:**

I thank God that the sale of our family land was successful. I was able to admit Godwill into Egerton University where he's earning his Bachelor degree in Media and Communication.

If the Higher Education loan board approves Godwill's request, then he is likely to get a loan of **Ksh 49,500**. This would care for his tuition for 4 years of learning. This will be a great achievement for him. Please uplift this need in your prayers.

Thank you so much for your continued support, prayers and encouragement. These have kept me going strong despite my family and ministry challenges!

Greet all God's people in Christ Jesus. The brothers and sisters who are with me send greetings. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Your brother, James.