



Stephen and Angelina Cowan

Location: **Tuum, KENYA**

Mission: **Church-based community development and outreach**



APRIL 2023

Unfortunately, most International Aid Projects focus on food-aid distribution while aid packages that would encourage effective long-term development planning continue to remain as elusive as ever.

The school holidays are still shortened due to continued post covid calendar modifications and 'catch up' strategies. However we do hope to run the Easter holiday youth camps towards the end of April, with the participation of both Samburu and Turkana youth.

The recently modified Kenyan education system has been implemented throughout the country. Tuum was chosen to host one of the new co-educational Junior Academy Schools. It is temporarily based within the premises of Tuum Primary School. Eligible pupils from smaller neighbouring feeder primary schools as well as former Tuum primary school pupils are now enrolled and the SAA leadership team has the opportunity to teach up to 120 students during the twice weekly bible teaching sessions (RE classes). We appreciate the freedom to share God's Good News with these young people.



Bible teaching session with new Junior Academy pupils

The persistent dry period with its seething temperatures which we've had for many months continued into the first half of March.

Rain came just before St. Patrick's Day and because the ground was baked hard, the surface run-off caused some flooding. Rain water is slow to infiltrate the hard soil and there is little growth even after 10 days. Thankfully there are still clouds over the mountain and continuous periods of rain will improve the situation.

During the dry season the purchase of hay, although expensive, has proved a worthwhile investment as our three bulls are still alive and healthy! Some local people also bought into the purchase of fodder and the benefit of this intervention is apparent to everyone as these farmers have also managed to survive the drought with several healthy cattle whereas others have lost all. Such circumstances help the people understand the need for adapting generation old practices as the impact of climate change becomes a reality.

Adult training seminars continue to attract men who increasingly realize that life is becoming tougher and that change is necessary. Herd numbers have been reduced by the savagery of drought, and restocking with similar low-grade animals would be futile. People need aid interventions that provide incentive to initiate change for a more sustainable lifestyle rather than merely as a short-term mechanism to ensure immediate survival, important as this is.

Prayer Points

- Give Give thanks for recent rain throughout most of the country.
- Continue to pray that the attitude of both local pastoralists and aid agencies would focus on long term development rather than short term intervention programmes which fail to address the real issues.
- Give thanks for the opportunity to engage with school children and pray that the gospel story would have a long lasting impact on young lives.