

Stephen and Angelina Cowan

Location: **Tuum, KENYA**

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

December/January 2024



'It never rains but it pours' is a phrase that literally, and proverbially, has once again proven true in most areas of a parched country. El Nino has brought much flooding and land, roads, livestock, property, and people all suffer. Wide sandy dry riverbeds transform to dangerous torrents that effortlessly sweep away vehicles that attempt to cross. Additional time needs to be factored in when journey planning for inevitable riverbank halts while waiting for levels to drop, or to engage in rebuilding sections of damaged roads. Deluge on top of desert brings destruction. Deluge comes suddenly. Desert changes slowly. The creation of 'earth smiles' or 'bunds' (semi-circular pits that capture rainwater), during the past few years has encouraged the unperceptive establishment of a grass root network that protects the soil from the initial fierce water run-off. As the earth softens, the rain goes deeper and more grass grows, thick and lush, and suddenly we are witnessing 'showers of blessing'; perhaps the proverb in reverse! The effect of fencing and restricted grazing on this protected 15-acre area is now beginning to be seen, understood, and appreciated.



Thirty years of encouraging freedom within God's boundaries is slowly creating a community of Jesus followers. The upcoming December youth camps will be led by two teams of young Christians from Nairobi. Over three hundred children and young people from neighbouring villages will attend where they will be challenged to examine their current lifestyle as the Word of God is presented during daily teaching sessions. Alternative events - political, sporting and cultural - running at the same time as the youth camps will vie for precedence and attraction. Pray that the young people will choose wisely.

Choices have also to be made at the end of their primary school years, and children often have limited options for secondary education. Pray that Stephen and the leadership team will be of assistance as families and students seek guidance for their futures.



Prayer Points:

- Give thanks for the helpful and encouraging visit of the moderator and his wife. Sam and Karen were able to be involved in the monthly teaching time and the Sunday church service. They visited Seren and Wuaso Rongai and spoke to many people, encouraging change through the gospel, vision, prayer and action. They also helped rebuild parts of the rain destroyed roads! (see photo above)
- Pray that the preparation by the Nairobi teams will progress well and that during the December camps many young people will desire to go deeper in their relationship with Jesus.