

## Stephen and Angelina Cowan

Location: **Tuum, KENYA**

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

**JULY/AUGUST 2023**



I was somewhat surprised as, late one afternoon, the tourists climbed out of their safari vehicles and promptly bowed to me. It was our first group of Japanese guests, eight in all, and it was interesting to watch my name rapidly transcribed into Japanese characters. With little common language between us communication was limited, but the next day smiles were generous and hopefully all comments were complimentary!

Each church gathering, seminar teaching or outreach event requires two people working together - the speaker and the translator. Often the languages used are Ki Swahili and Ki Samburu. Everyone is most appreciative of the work involved in this partnership. However, we are ever conscious that another 'translator', the Holy Spirit, is essential to help us understand and interpret God's transformational message.

Cory, an American student, together with Kiragu, a Kenyan student, are part of FOCUS, (Fellowship of Christian Unions) and have spent the last 16 days in the villages of Seren, Wuaso Rongei and, during the monthly teaching seminar, in Tuum. Cory shares his experience; 'We have preached several times in churches, schools and local communities, and have gone homestead to homestead sharing the Word of God. I am so thankful for the people who have welcomed us with great hospitality. I have been pleasantly

surprised to see so many people be open to hearing the Word of God and show genuine curiosity to it. But I have become aware of the conflict believers have in this community, to engage in some cultural traditions that are inherently sinful, or to surrender their previous world view and follow Christ with all their hearts. It saddens me to see so many choose the former.'

A different type of translation was attempted by Peter, a certified administrative secretary with many years of professional experience in various countries worldwide. Over several days he met with the SAA leadership team to discuss and review the practical and integral complexity of administration, accountability and continuity, and the importance of this as a Christian witness to local and international observers.



### Prayer Points:

- For the youth camps in August and for the group of young musicians and word artists from Nairobi who will creatively relate and translate God's truth to the children and young people.
- Give thanks for the Tuum young people who have returned from discipleship programmes; as Judy and Melina seek to 'translate' their head and heart knowledge in a practical way, they are helping with the care and homework supervision of the 60 young girls who live in the safe house in Seren.