



Stephen and Angelina Cowan

Location: **Tuum, KENYA**

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



While currently on deputation in Ireland, reports from Kenya describe extremely dry conditions and limited rain in most areas. The forecast for seasonal rain in northern Kenya was poor, and the reality seems to be much worse.

Occasional dry seasons are to be expected, but more frequent drought is an increasing challenge to pastoralist people. Many cattle have died due to lack of fodder and herds are moved vast distances across the plains in search of limited pasture. This results in families being left in far away villages with few resources. The influx of migratory herds to areas where some vegetation may be found also results in increased insecurity in the locality. It can only be hoped that the pastoralists' way of thinking will adjust to the effects that a changing climate is bringing to bear on the people of this region.

As the gospel is presented in this environment we trust that it brings hope and vision for the future. Sadly, with fuel being so expensive and due to limited funds, we were unable to commit to transporting people to the adult seminars planned for October and November and therefore made the difficult decision to cancel them.

We continue to encourage the digging of bunds (small water catchment dams) which have proved to be a huge success resulting in those involved being blessed to cultivate the surrounding land and grow various vegetables to feed their families.

The Samburu Awareness and Action team still engage in twice weekly morning devotions for those involved in the various programmes, take regular bible teaching times at the local primary school and provide many services to the wider community. The 'safe house' provides dormitory accommodation for pupils who attend primary school in the remote village of Seren. This was built to house the children who would otherwise have been exposed to the very real hazard of wild animals including groups of elephants on their daily walk to and from school. It continues to provide a positive environment for the sixty girls who reside there during the school week. Preparations are underway for the December youth camp, and the visiting team of young Christians from Nairobi are advancing well in their planning. All of these forums provide an opportunity to present the Word of God, and by living out lives of care and compassion, particularly at a time of environmental and economic stress, it is our hope that people will see the way of truth in Jesus Christ.



Regular bible teaching times with primary school pupils

Prayer Points

- Give thanks for the opportunity of education afforded by PCEA Tuum Girls' School.
- Pray for discernment in how to deal with the adverse effects of the ongoing drought.
- Pray that preparations for youth camps from 10 to 20 December would continue at pace.