

Stephen and Angelina Cowan

Location: **Tuum, KENYA**

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



All of the Land Rovers returned to the compound, springs sagging, occupants laughing, noise rising and excitement spreading. As a seemingly endless stream of little people tumbled from the open doors it was clear to see the continuing need for and value of the large, one venue, children and youth camps. Covid limitations had splintered the camps into several village locations but these restrictions had now been lifted.

The junior camp's five days of Bible teaching, games and fun was ably led by the young people from Tuum who had returned from YWAM and iServe discipleship training courses in Nairobi. Feeding 350 additional people requires a team approach and a kitchen rota was established to help prepare, cook, clean and serve the many plates of rice and beans.

The garage team was kept busy making sure the vehicles were ready for crossover day when the children were returned home and the youth were brought in for the senior camp.

The senior camp had outside input and teaching from various visitors who shared their life experiences and walk with Christ. How 'beliefs affect action' was discussed and the young people were encouraged to put effort into living out their Christian commitment.

The construction of the new classroom at the secondary school is almost complete. The two builders experienced in working with the interlocking blocks method have willingly shared their skills with the local young men. The double intake of pupils in the secondary sector, the result of the new competency based curriculum format, will

take place in January 2023, although it is already running alongside the older system in the primary schools. 'Covid catch up' requires that three years of school are being squeezed into two calendar years. This means that parents have to find an extra set of school fees and for staff and pupils it creates much stress as they are already dealing with 'two' curriculums.

A massive crack of thunder awoke us to the storm over Tuum. Although rainfall is barely sporadic, in faith grass seed is planted and vegetable gardens prepared. This is not a natural concept for a pastoralist people whose focus tends to be on the present moment. We are grateful for some Samburu Awareness and Action programme farmers who are leading by example. As we travelled towards Nairobi a few days ago, we saw the more agriculturally inclined areas already well prepared for the anticipated rain. We also continue to see long queues at filling stations. Kenya's countrywide fuel crisis is not over yet.



Children travelling to the April Youth Camp in Tuum

Prayer points

- Give thanks that Stephen was eventually able to source the 1100 litres of diesel necessary to run the youth camps and all other work during the last month.
- Give thanks youth camps resumed in Tuum and for the healthy interaction between villages, including a Turkana village. Pray this natural peace building process will spread out to many communities.
- Pray for wisdom at every level of the country's educational reforms programme.