

Stephen and Angelina Cowan

FEBRUARY 2022

Location: **Tuum, KENYA**

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



An early morning wind encircled Nairobi international airport as we met our two sleepy passengers from Heathrow. We avoided the long traffic queues back into the city centre by swinging onto the bypass and immediately commenced our long journey north. The day began to warm up and it was like watching cats unfurl and stretch contentedly in the sun as Caragh and Jason removed their many travel layers and settled into their first visit home for several years.

En route we were given ten crocodile eggs complete with their own travelling documents, two bottles of maple syrup and two jars of peanut butter. Seven trays of chicken eggs arrived later. Thankfully the crocodile eggs were not for pancakes, but part of a survival challenge for the stars of the reality TV film group that had already arrived and set up camp in Tuum. Allowing for 'creative chaos,' all seemed to be going well. The revenue generated by hosting forty-five people for ten days was sufficient to enable six families to pay for their children's secondary education by ensuring the parents' employment within the Samburu Awareness and Action programme.

Due to insecurity issues the next group of visitors were unable to travel to Tuum to lead the December monthly seminar, but a young Samburu graduate lawyer stepped in and led some excellent discussions on land use, land rights and world view from a biblical perspective. His Christian clarity and focus were both encouraging and informative for all who attended.

The January seminar and staff training was mostly led by the leadership team in Tuum. Additional input was from another young Kenyan graduate who has been staying

with us for a few weeks, and a Samburu pastor and farmer who often comes to teach and share his life experiences.

December is often a difficult month with many cultural ceremonies occurring. Their associated financial burden and spiritual confusion spreads through the community. Sadly, mixed messaging associated with Christmas also creates overspending and the excesses are felt well into the new year. This coupled with continuing poor rainfall and little forward planning magnifies the misery. Animals are moved far from homes in search of grass, and milk is in short supply for the families left behind.



Looking at the sunset overlooking Tuum

Prayer points

- Pray for those moving from the student world to the workplace. It is difficult in both UK and Kenya.
- Continue to pray for those who advise and educate the need for change in lifestyle and attitude in an increasingly fragmented desert land.
- Give thanks for safe travel for Caragh and Jason, despite many Covid hoops and restrictions.