

Stephen and Angelina Cowan

JULY / AUGUST 2022

Location: **Tuum, KENYA**

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



The journey to Seren is hot and dusty, long and lonely and very tiring. Stephen recently has been going every few days. The water source had dried up, the tank was empty, the pump was broken, and 60 girls and one thirsty Boran/ Jersey bull were waiting for him to bring the water bowser. Meanwhile, a volunteer teacher in Seren primary school had fallen while playing football, had damaged his back and had managed to get an ambulance to hospital several hours away. However, as the town's electricity was down an x-ray wasn't possible. As I write I am wondering how I will send this bulletin and how I will get in contact with our daughter travelling in Uganda as our phone network is not working. Life exists between the two worlds of incredible technology, yet poor maintenance of infrastructure.

On the roads we have passed hundreds, if not thousands of animals being walked to other areas in search of grass and water. Although thin, many still are of great monetary value, but they are kept for an appearance of wealth and various ceremonies, while back in the homesteads children and families struggle for school fees and basic needs. Within Samburu Awareness and Action (SAA) programme, the leadership constantly strive to convey the importance of loan repayments and the need to keep promises and build trust. The whole area exists between the two worlds of financial planning and cultural priorities.

The monthly Bible teaching seminar is taking place. The praise and worship is vibrant, the music loud, the teaching prepared and the participants many, but connecting Christian principles with the worlds apart that are so often found outside the church door is the ongoing challenge.

Thankfully network and electricity were reconnected, some much needed rain fell across the whole area, and in Tuum the seminar participants had the opportunity

to view the 'bunds' on the nearby piece of land under reclamation. The recently dug out bunds (semi-circular hollows shaped into the sloping land) had caught the rain runoff and everyone was tasked with planting tree seedlings around their perimeter. It was a practical application of taking responsibilities and work seriously and utilising the rain God had graciously given.

A bruised reed He will not break and a smouldering wick He will not snuff out, till He has brought justice through to victory. Matthew 12:20.



Photos: (Top) Repairing water pump at Seren.
(Bottom) Planting tree seedlings around the 'bunds'.

Prayer points

- As we prepare to spend some time in Ireland in the summer, pray for wisdom and God's guidance for those continuing the work in Tuum.
- Give thanks for rain and pray it will be utilised well.