

Stephen and Angelina Cowan

JUNE 2022

Location: **Tuum, KENYA**

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



Good teamwork is essential and effective, and often quietly threads through the decades. The Samburu Awareness and Action (SAA) programme has grown slowly over many years. What began as a tent under an acacia tree has expanded exponentially to form a large central area. This area consists of the garage and workshop, the central office, the church/teaching hall and dormitories, the honey processing and bottling factory, the camel boma (enclosure), the vegetable garden and trial plots for grasses, a water tank and tower and three guest houses. This expansion has not been achieved easily or by any one individual. Many people have been involved, each gaining experience and contributing in the process, then moving on to various other roles throughout the county and country. We are grateful to each person who has played an unique part in the constantly evolving work, and for those who continue in the present leadership team.



There has also been much support and team participation from outside the area as visitors and groups help extend the boundaries of God's kingdom through physical, financial and prayerful participation. We are always working against a background of strong cultural practices and beliefs and frequently, drought. Tried and tested development methods used in other regions are often not

relevant or effective, and we constantly need to draw on God's wisdom and provision.

We continuously look to new contributors to play their part through financial commitment and spatial development. Recently a piece of land bordering the secondary school has been fenced and protected from overgrazing. 'Bunds' or 'earth smiles' have been dug by the 'tree watering and weeding team' who, through their work, fund a family member's attendance at secondary school. These half-moon water bunds have been promoted by an organisation called Justdiggit. Semi-circular pits, about 3m in diameter, are dug into rainwater run off slopes and the small mound of soil at the back of the pit help retain captured surface water. This enables seeds within the vicinity of the bund to germinate and develop vegetation cover. This 'regreening of Africa' is not going to happen quickly, but a landscape increasingly denuded by overgrazing, mismanagement and drought needs the possibility of a future.



We will be on home assignment in the autumn and doing deputation. Sundays are fully booked, but there is availability during the week. Contact Beverley in the Mission Department on mission@presbyterianireland.org to make a booking.

Prayer points

- Pray for the upcoming elections in Kenya and the aspiring politicians in this area. Many on the campaign teams have previously benefitted from and contributed to the SAA programme.
- Give thanks for those who are willing to consider and implement new ideas.
- Give thanks for the leadership team of SAA and pray they will be aware of God's leading.