

Stephen and Angelina Cowan

Location: **Tuum, KENYA**

DECEMBER 2021/ JANUARY 2022

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



'Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care... So don't be afraid, you are worth more than many sparrows.'
Matthew 10 v 29, 31.

Tuum's 'sparrow' was a skeletal cow that had collapsed on the road along which Stephen was driving to one of the villages at the northern end of Mt Nyiro. It had been left to die, too thin and exhausted to continue the day's walk to water. After the monthly seminar participants from that village had been safely brought to Tuum, Stephen and some others returned with a trailer to rescue the animal. The seminar and staff training were well planned, integrating Biblical common sense, dry land agricultural methods and 'Q and A' sessions, but the most effective teaching aid lay on the trailer floor, surrounded by hay, a bucket of water and curious but not uncaring onlookers. It was a relatable and familiar situation for many, and another opportunity to exhibit God's unfathomable, reaching out love and care for us and all his creation. In an area where the effects of climate change are visible and vicious, much also needs to change locally in attitude and lifestyle. It is encouraging that more men are attending the seminars. There is increasing interest in finding ways of getting animals to market and of looking economically rather than culturally at herd size.

In the last month there has been a flurry of maintenance work and upgrading of guest accommodation and outside spaces. The large recce team for a reality TV adventure race was appreciative of all the effort and they plan to return shortly with the full filming crew and competitors. They will have activities in four communities in the wider area requiring local security, translators, and guides.

The December youth camps are not possible as Kenya has reduced the long school holidays to one week in an attempt to catch up on the educational year. However, a small team from Nairobi plan to lead an extra seminar for adults. Some have been before and can build on their previous experience and connections.

We hope to be together as a family of five over Christmas. December and January promise to be very busy months!



Photo: Buttercup

Prayer points

- Pray for safety and logistics in all upcoming travel, both local and international.
- Praise God for the increased attendance at the monthly seminars and pray that the truths being taught will be applied and impact everyday life.
- Give thanks that 'Buttercup' is walking, grazing and even chewing her cud!