

Stephen and Angelina Cowan

JUNE 2021

Location: **Tuum, KENYA**

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



'We have sufficient resources here provided we use the wisdom and knowledge with which God has blessed us.' This is a constant theme within our monthly staff training seminars, morning briefings, veranda discussions and daily living. Like much of what is written in the Bible, the truth of this can be ignored for a while as short-term human intervention is sought from various human agencies. However, agency aid, while generally well intentioned, often exacerbates the situation and while the immediate problem may be addressed, the reason for it is not.

Staff training and monthly Bible teaching seminars aim to weave the wisdom and knowledge of God into every aspect of life. This is challenging for both the communicator and the listener, as clichés need to be 'translated' into the appropriate language. As a pastoralist people, the Samburu's main resource is their animals. To utilise this resource fully requires hard work and a thoughtful mind. Animal owners need to be persuaded that genetically upgraded but smaller herds are an advantage, provided they are cared for and brought to market at the correct time. Thankfully, there is an increasing acceptance of these facts. A newly acquired bull has been seen to upgrade livestock in a positive way and the purchase of many trailer loads of hay from a distant area continues to provide sustenance as rain has been insufficient for good grass growth. Some time ago, several new seminar participants from a village on the other side of the mountain brought seeds from here to plant in their own area. At this month's seminar one of these farmers shared how he cared for and grew an 8kg watermelon. It was delicious!

Teachers and students of Tuum Girls' Secondary School have been encouraged this year by better results from

Form 4 leavers. The headmistress has been travelling to many potential feeder primary schools in the wider area, promoting the school as a good option for new students. She was warmly received by a primary school some distance away where the young headmistress was a former student of the inaugural intake of Tuum Girls' Secondary School.

Three form 4 leavers have continued to iServe's 3-month discipleship programme in Nairobi. One of their fathers wanted to know how long the journey would take for his son to reach the training centre. He himself had never travelled that far. It is humbling to be entrusted with a new generation being released by their parents to benefit from opportunities they did not have themselves.



Photo: Farmer with his 8kg watermelon

Prayer points

- Give thanks for the support from individuals and churches in Ireland that enable many young people to complete their education and attend discipleship training courses.
- Give thanks for a deepening understanding and acceptance of the need of responsibility and utilisation of God given resources.
- Pray for wisdom and openness within the team in Tuum as we all learn to share more effectively the love and transformation that Jesus brings.