

Stephen and Angelina Cowan

Location: **Tuum, KENYA**

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



We are presently enduring the hottest time of the year and vegetation is mostly wilting. However, it is remarkable that green growth still does exist in places, especially on the land that is being intentionally rehabilitated where the newly introduced grass seed puts out deeper roots.

Recently we enjoyed the company of two master's degree students from the University of Copenhagen who stayed with us while using Tuum as their base. They travelled out to the surrounding villages to conduct research into the various factors that contribute to instability and uncertainty in northern Kenya. We hope that the scenario-based discussions had with the local respondents encouraged many to think further about cooperation and trust, especially between different ethnic groups.

Despite very limited financial resources, Gareth continues to develop and refine the iteach literacy and knowledge transfer app. Many adults in Tuum have downloaded it on their phones and are learning to read at a non-threatening pace at a time and place of their choosing. Comments are enlightening and humbling; 'when I started my learning using the iteach app I got a desire of knowing to read and write.... it has opened my mind to know the importance of education and I am working hard to educate my children because I see how the world is changing.... it has helped me recognise different syllables.... I am able to identify some contacts in my phone without help.'

Most form 1 secondary school pupils have now joined their year group. The process of obtaining the required fees is long and wearisome for families. ...

The Samburu Awareness and Action (SAA) programme is often the first to be asked and difficult conversations often ensue explaining why this is not always possible or necessary. Most families, with some creative thinking and encouragement, can at least fund a proportion of the fees. On other occasions, the need is such that, SAA is prepared to meet the full fee. During the monthly bible teaching seminar, two wazee (older men) from Seren approached Stephen. Despite their own meagre resources, they recognised that a young lady from their village who had been widowed when she was only 17 had even more need than they. Their request for SAA to enable her 15-year-old son to begin secondary education was honoured.

Give thanks for the compassion shown to others by some in the community and pray that regular Christian teaching will continue to transform thoughts and lifestyles.

Pray that students who have begun their secondary education will focus on their studies with a view to improving their opportunities in the years ahead. Pray that they will respect the financial cost incurred by their families and SAA programme.



Prayer Points:

- Give thanks for those in Ireland and other places who have faithfully contributed over the years in support of student fees.
- Pray that the vision and potential of the iteach app would be recognised by interested parties in the commercial world who would be prepared to help fund the project.
- Give thanks for the literacy opportunities already realised by those using the app at this early stage.