



Stephen and Angelina Cowan

Location: **Tuum, KENYA**

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



MARCH 2023

Unfortunately, many of the established international donor organisations fail to understand the intrinsic value of such schemes and we are unable to avail of their development funds that would be so helpful in initiating change.

In Tuum, the PCEA girls' secondary school has recently had an intake of over seventy in form 1 with several new students joining other year groups. As the quality of teaching and academic achievement at the school continues to flourish, the future of the school is bright and there are plans to build another dorm to meet accommodation needs. However, it is evident that some of the children from the school's catchment area still struggle to meet the minimum academic standard for entry to secondary education as the opportunity for quality primary education throughout the region remains erratic.

The Literacy app is making progress and some of the people with whom I have shared the concept are very positive. People increasingly recognise their vulnerability in a changing world because of their inability to read.



The whole of northern Kenya is very hot and dry. Times are hard for all families and especially so where family planning has not been a consideration and there are many mouths to feed. The drought has resulted in the death of many cattle and it is becoming difficult to source fodder for the remaining herds. It is apparent that some communities are becoming dependent upon international aid to survive.

Worship on Sunday past was very encouraging with a lot more men in attendance than usual. It would appear that the monthly adult seminars which seek to demonstrate the relevance of Biblical truth for daily living is bearing fruit. We continue to pray for deliverance from cultural bonds that blinds so many to the reality of a changing climate no longer conducive to the pastoral lifestyle. Moses, who often assists us teach at the seminars, sold all his cattle last November, and used the proceeds to buy maize grown in an agriculturally productive region. He has been selling the cereal in Tuum and although it will take time to market the entire product, it does not lose its value as happens when cows die, but remains a tangible asset.

We have helped many children attend secondary school this year by supporting parents in various creative schemes to raise the necessary fees. We try to link such schemes with the rehabilitation of land, for example, the establishment and maintenance of 'water bunds', which will help improve the opportunity for cultivating the land to grow crops.

Prayer Points

- Pray that Gareth will have the strength and grace to continue to develop the App despite the scepticism of some.
- Pray that various education programmes would continue to run despite the difficulties of daily living brought about by the effect of the ongoing drought.
- Pray that good use of various opportunities would be made by Christian staff in the girls' secondary school to present the gospel of Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord on a daily basis