

## Stephen and Angelina Cowan

**NOVEMBER 2021**

Location: **Tuum, KENYA**

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



In the past month we have had many visitors, some more welcome than others!

Each evening, large numbers of army worms (caterpillars) invaded our living room, dangling down from the roof on trapeze like webs and dropping onto our shoulders or crawling under, in and through every crack and crevice available. There were too many to kill so we simply sat with our feet up! Local wisdom assured me they would all disappear in their own time. Before that happened we devised a method of attracting them to a small light placed on the floor during the night and sweeping up many before dawn.



We have enjoyed the company of some overlanders-intrepid travellers making their way from South to North Africa in a specially kitted out vehicle. Some employment was secured by a local guide who was able to lead the visitors up Mt Nyiro and others provided security on the roads. Both parties gained from the interaction and shared experiences. A group

of Spanish motor bikers zoomed into the campsite one afternoon. Their initial enquiry about possible accommodation had been through Church House in Belfast many months previously - thank you Global Mission Office! Lack of a common language limited communication but care, kindness, and welcome are universally understood and when their safari left several days later they also had experienced God's love shared by a small group of his followers in Tuum.

As we travelled the main highway north after a few days in Nairobi, we were very aware of numerous new filling stations just opened or under construction. This seemed ironic with COP-26 about to take place in Glasgow, where green energy will be promoted on a world scale.

Schools are still struggling to catch up on time lost due to Covid-19, so holidays are much shorter. It was decided to facilitate mini youth and children's camps in five different locations. These are very different from the larger and longer 'one location' gatherings in the compound which are led by external teams. Instead, many young leaders from Tuum were involved in the planning, catering and teaching. Each location had an overall leader and the theme was 'How can a young person keep their way pure?'. It was encouraging to listen to the cohesion and enthusiasm of those reporting back and to hear that many had attended each village camp.

### Prayer points

- Pray these young people will live out what they have heard and taught in their villages and schools.
- Destructive cultural bondages remain strong. Pray for freedom and wisdom which ultimately only Jesus can give.
- The area remains insecure and with poor rainfall this situation is unlikely to improve quickly. Give thanks that we experience God's protection as we travel with him.