



Stephen and Angelina Cowan

Location: **Tuum, KENYA**

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



Throughout Kenya, harvest ranges from bountiful to meagre. Crops in those areas in which the rains came are looking very good while areas that have suffered prolonged drought have produced little. In some of the pastoralist areas animals die on a regular basis for lack of grass and livestock is often moved long distances in search of adequate pasture. And in addition to environmental pressures, rustling continues to be a problem.

Towards the end of September, the newly elected President Ruto watched an aid convoy setting off from Nairobi heading for north eastern Kenya, an area particularly affected by drought and famine conditions. In his address he recognised the current need but expressed his hope that, with properly directed long term planning, the need for aid convoys would become a thing of the past.

With the new government there is at least a desire for change, but it will require the support of many partner organisations to help fulfil this vision rather than relying on constant short term interventions.

Participation at the September adult seminar was encouraging and it is evident that participants can visualize the opportunities and benefits that change in agricultural work practice can bring. The gospel is received by faith, but people do need to see change to continue the journey.

As well as seminar teaching sessions, we go on to the land to look at soil degradation and practical ways of dealing with issues and planning for improvement. It is encouraging to see a positive approach and the hard work by the women of the area has yielded excellent results with soil conservation ridges still producing grass despite a complete lack of rain since July. People see that change is possible and that they do not need to be dependent on others for everything.

During September, schools took a short holiday as term 2 ended and term 3 began. Although the time was insufficient for a youth camp it was good to see some of the students planning their own mini programme as they desire to fellowship with others and encourage one another in their faith. May they grow and mature.



*Part of the dry northern landscape near Seren village.

Prayer Points

- Give thanks that people are noticing that planning for change brings results
- Give thanks for continued involvement of people from vulnerable villages in the Samburu Awareness and Action Programme.
- Pray that people would see the futility of cattle rustling which often leads to tit-for-tat shootings and that the supply of illegal guns would end.