

Stephen and Angelina Cowan

Location: **Tuum, KENYA**

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



Winter in Tuum is over and the mercury is easing upwards again. However, despite the dark overcast skies of July and August, rain was almost non-existent and the land became increasingly parched. Several additional trailer loads of hay were transported from a ranch about seven hours drive away. It was bought up very quickly as people are realising the benefit of supplemental feeding.

The water system in the vicinity of Tuum is reasonable but needs to be used carefully and requires constant maintenance. A simple sprinkler was made by punching small holes in a plastic soda bottle. Even with low water pressure it was effective. The various groups that camped in the compound really appreciated the relative greenness of the campsite. Covid-caution has led to many tourist companies promoting the more sparsely populated north as an alternative destination to places of greater population. We continue with sensible precautions. 100 doses of the vaccine have just arrived in the village health centre.

Countrywide, schools have opened. Tuum Girls secondary school has 51 first year students, the highest number for many years. The headmistress and staff are very encouraged. The SAA programme has input into Sunday services, school maintenance and agricultural advice. Many of the students are enabled to attend school by a parent working with SAA and contributing part of their salary towards their own child's fees. The students attend holiday youth camps and hopefully mirror the commitment of their working family member.



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Once again, Covid limitations necessitated smaller gatherings for these camps. They were held in 4 locations and this gave the opportunity for more involvement at those villages and encouraged input from the growing team of Tuum's young leaders.

We continue to link with iServe and YWAM discipleship programmes in the Nairobi area. Three school leavers who took up this opportunity have recently completed the course. During their mid term break they were given an opportunity to help in a PCEA congregation in Nairobi and appreciated the welcome and care received from its members.

The recent monthly Bible teaching and staff training seminar saw many people attend from villages all around Nyiro and the Ndotu mountain ranges. Biblical teaching was interspersed with practical agricultural sessions. The appearance overnight of a destructive web on many small saplings provided a good opportunity to impress the need for vigilance and immediate action. The instruction is kept very hands-on with much learning through laughter and interaction.



Prayer Points

- Give thanks for good youth camps and monthly seminars.
- Pray for wisdom and energy as the secondary school staff manage a large intake, with new pupils coming from as far away as Nairobi.
- Pray that the young people who have attended discipleship courses will be able to share what they have learned in a relevant and relatable way with their friends and family.