

FRIENDS OF MARSABIT

(Written by Rob and Sue)

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April 2023

Bishop Daniel Qampicha
and Safia



Dear Friends,
Greetings.

Firstly, we pray you all have had a very Happy Easter, and are rejoicing in the joy of the risen Lord!

The longed for visit by Bishop Qampicha and his wife Safia is going ahead in June!!! They have been interviewed by the British High Commission, and wait to hear if their visas have been granted. If so, they will arrive on June 1st. Then:-

June 2nd – 7th, they will be based in Frome, visiting Frome, Wells, Bath and Malvern;

June 8th - 18th they will be based in Chelmsford Diocese, meeting Bishop Guli, and attending the Synod, the Cathedral, various parishes and hopefully a hospital (for Safia);

June 19th – 22nd they will be in the London area.

Please pray their visas are granted, and do please let us know if you'd like to meet them in June!



Famine and drought: The famine has been terrible.

There was a fascinating but tragic article in the Saturday Times magazine (March 18th) about the effects of the famine in Marsabit. We knew the places they quoted, have churches there and visited them often in better times: Rawana, Funanqumbi, Elle Borr, Turbi. We even knew some of the people named. It broke our heart to think of the depth of their suffering. People have lost almost all their livestock, over 90%. In our last letter, we asked if you would help, and we were able to send out £9000!

Thanks so much for these contributions, they will make a big difference.

But now a new problem – rain has come at last, hallelujah! However, it's been so heavy that there have been severe floods up near Sololo, 800 families have lost their homes, and many of the surviving, weak animals have perished. The ground is hard and



parched, and the water may not sink deep. The suffering continues, and yet... These rains will fill up the aquifers and for those who have planted, food will come in a few months. So, hunger continues for now, and the floods have caused huge damage, but there is real hope that maybe the drought is over

Please pray the rains continue, crops grow, livestock are replenished, people have food and water

The other challenge associated with the famine is insecurity, but - Hallelujah, it seems that, following peaceful elections and faced with the general suffering, violence has reduced and people are struggling together. It will always be volatile, and there are sporadic incidents, but for now, peace.



There is however so much positive news: On Easter Day, a new church was consecrated at Laisamis, St. Matthews. It was a great occasion for everyone, Rendille, Samburu and visitors alike. Wonderfully, 10 people came to faith at the consecration service, an Easter miracle!



Consecration of St Andrew's Church of the Cross, Archers Post

Funds had been provided by an extremely generous church in S. Carolina, Christ Church, Mt. Pleasant, which Rob visited several times in 2010s. Other churches consecrated this year have been St. Andrew's Church of the Cross at Archers Post, and ACK Filadelfia, Bori. Brilliant!

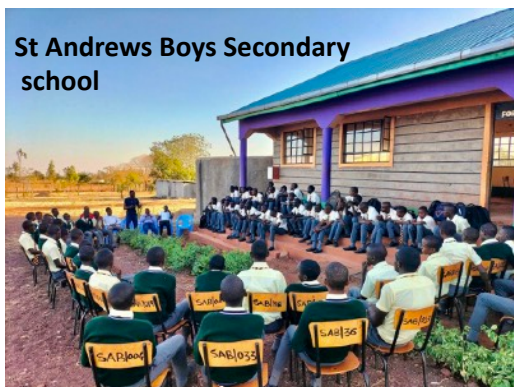
Our Laisamis church compound also has a primary school, funded by Compassion.



Consecration of St Matthew's Laisamis

reached Standard 6, and so a new Junior High school is being built. In fact, we have three other Junior High schools being built – at Wings Academy in Karare, Tumaini at Sololo and St. Paul's in Moyale. Also, land

has been bought for the girls' high school at Wings with funds we sent out for the 10th anniversary of the Diocese 2 years ago. Wings itself has just celebrated its 10th anniversary, and we thank Cargo Human Care for their huge ongoing support. The Lord has been so gracious!



St Andrews Boys Secondary school

St. Andrews, our Boys High School, now has over 80 pupils – it is growing fast! Thanks to our overseas friends, ARDF from the USA, they have just finished building two more classrooms, 4 teachers' houses and a 150,000-litre masonry water tank. Rev Jomo, our Youth Secretary, visits there on Tuesdays and Sundays. What a blessing this school, our first High School, is

proving to be – our education footprint is growing all the time! Ven Michael Araru, our Education Secretary, has his work cut out!

Other news: Youth: Last December we sent out a £2000 grant to help fund a Youth conference, Imarika. – its theme "Rooted in Christ 24/7". It was a great success - over 300 youngsters came together for a week from all over the Diocese. This is such a crucial ministry in helping break down ethnic barriers

Mothers Union (MU): The Cathedral MU is building a new MU Plaza on the Marsabit compound to earn money to fund future MU ministry. It held a big Harambee a few weeks ago and raised over £10,000!

KAMA is the Men's equivalent of the MU: they now have branches in at least 7 parishes

The Communications Department, under Daniel Huqa, has just produced the latest edition of Voice of Hope, and we will forward it soon. They are also opening a bookshop and creating a Diocesan website

Thanks so much for your prayers: pray that Bishop Qampicha and Safia's visit happens and brings great joy!



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