

FRIENDS OF MARSABIT

(Written by Rob and Sue)

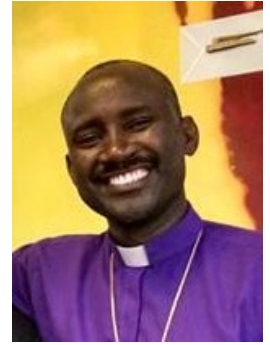
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December 2023

Dear Friends,
Greetings.

The latest Voice of Hope, VoH, which we sent out in November, was so encouraging, wasn't it, as it shared all the great things happening in the Diocese despite all the challenges they face? Thank you so much for your prayers and support over this past year. One of the best answers to prayer has been the good rains Kenya has enjoyed, twice, so people now have crops growing and the expectation of food. Security has been so much better, probably as a result. Hope is in the air! **Thank you, Lord**

Bishop Daniel Qampicha



MU Conference

This week (Dec. 4-8th) the MU are having their first ever Diocesan conference: Bishop has said: "It has brought women, (over 350!), from across their ethnic diversity gathered together as one family of faith under the Lordship of Jesus Christ – it's impactful and life transforming". FoM, in their recent transfer of funds, sent £1000 to help fund this new venture. Now they are planning a Men's conference! What vision!



MU Conference

Youth: There won't be the usual December Youth conference this year, but they had a great Youth Workers Summit in August, with 54 youngsters coming for an intensive workshop in faithful Bible handling. Jomo is the Diocesan Youth Officer, who is masterminding the youth programme – our previous DYO, Daniel Odhiambo, has just been appointed Chaplain to the Port of Rotterdam!



Confirmation at
Karare

Marsabit has been blessed by first class Kenyan missionaries.

Mission: In August/September, Norm and Janelle Gorrie retired back to Australia. Before he left, Norm, together with Jomo, led the August missions in Badassa on Mt. Marsabit, Balesa out in the Chalbi desert and finally Sololo, the centre of our Northern Archdeaconry – all very challenging, given the resistance of other faith communities, but very fruitful. Many of those coming to faith have been confirmed, so the Bishop has been busy in the last few months: 22 were confirmed in Hula Hula, 38 in Sololo, 63 in Barambate, 55 in

Maikona, 62 in Uran, 102 in Karare – wow! In several cases, the church wasn't big enough, so the services were outside. 50 lay evangelists were commissioned too! 5 deacons were priested in July and 4 were ordained deacon in September: 4 ordinands remain in training.

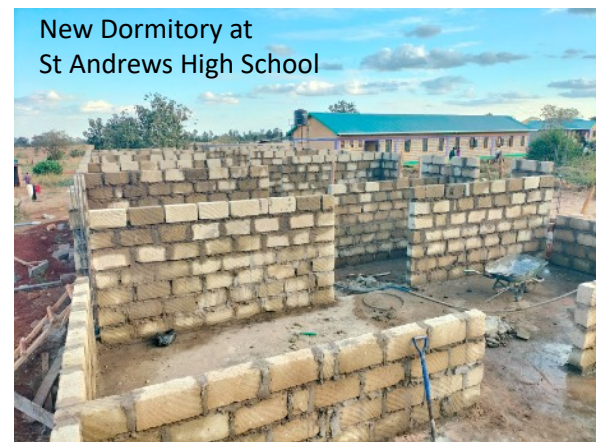
Please pray for all these new believers and for those newly ordained or commissioned

Sue and I met up with Norm and Janelle in Sydney, where they are now making their new home near their daughter and her family. They will be dearly missed, but they have built up a great network of clergy and other trainers, who are continuing the various programmes of discipleship building: Chronological Bible Storytelling, Come Follow Me and Liberty to the Captives, in the local languages. Jomo is taking over as Diocesan Mission Coordinator, while the Diocese looks for someone full time. Jomo already has a full job!

The Schools' programme is really expanding. VoH told us of the first ever Diocesan Education Day in July, bringing together Head teachers, teachers, clergy, and pupils from across the Diocese. Alongside our 11 sponsored schools, we have our own 6 private academies, where the church pays and appoints the teachers, and ensures a Christian ethos is maintained. These academies are doing really well in exams. Now they are growing Junior High Schools, which may morph into full High Schools as the years pass. For High schools (Secondary), we have St. Andrews for boys, about to start their 3rd year, and two for girls are planned, one in Karare, to open in January and one in Sololo, to open in 2025. Building is going full steam ahead. The Education Officer is Michael Araru, who was Vicar of Moyale and Archdeacon for the far North.



With all this growth, many buildings are rising up. In a recent WhatsApp, the Bishop told me of the following: new churches being built in Kampi Zebra and Tigo, a vicarage in Walda, Children's Ministry rental houses in Marsabit to help fund the Children's program, as well as the new school buildings. We pray the Diocesan team can keep up with all this activity! It's only possible because of support from so many donors, and the well-run Diocesan Office.



To encourage the Diocesan team, FoM sent out £2000 to give all the staff a Christmas bonus, as well as £3000 general grant and £6270 to upgrade the water bowser, thanks to Chelmsford Diocese. In our next letter, we will give you feedback of FoM's grants in 2023, all thanks to your generosity.

And Rob is off to Kenya in January for a brief visit, so will bring back the latest news.

Thank you so much for your partnership, and we pray you find joy and peace this Christmas, and are richly blessed in 2024

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