

FRIENDS OF MARSABIT

(Written by Rob and Sue)

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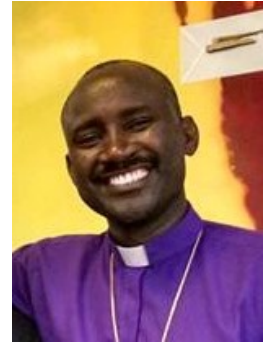
Dear Friends,
Greetings.

Last Sunday (July 24th) was a wonderful joyous day, despite the really tough security situation and the ongoing drought and famine. Bishop Qampicha has made some major changes to clergy deployment, even of the Archdeacons. So, on Sunday, new Archdeacons John Maganjo, Joseph Kesho and Diid Borisso, were

licensed, and the new Provost, Kennedy

Akhongo, was installed. Ven Abraham has moved to Maralal Diocese, Ven Kargi has become the new Administrative Secretary and Ven Michael has become the new Education Secretary. As well as those huge changes, 6 deacons were priested, and 5 rural deans licensed. That's a pretty major shake-up! But it's a consequence of a church that is growing, with new clergy, new congregations, new Christians. If you go on the Facebook pages for +Qampicha or the Diocese of Marsabit, you can see the life, joy colour and energy that radiates from the scene!

Please pray for all the clergy as they settle in, as nearly 75% have moved to new parishes.



Bishop Daniel Qampicha



The Voice of Hope, the Diocesan magazine we sent out recently, tells of other areas of growth.

It told of mission work in the Chalbi, and among the Rendille Morans (warriors). One of the team spearheading these missions is Norm Gorrie, an Australian CMS mission partner, who works with his local colleagues. He has recently been back home for medical reasons, but has just flown back to Marsabit, to join the mission team, with his wife Janelle who's been involved in translating a children's version of the Bible into Boran. Norm will re-join Jomo Nderitu, a Kenyan missionary from down south, who focusses on youth ministry; Elema John the MU Secretary who is overseeing a large increase in MU members, and two microfinance projects; Lilian Lule, the Children's worker; the new Provost, Kennedy Akhongo, who is passionate about Church Brigade; and those responsible for KAMA, the men's equivalent to the MU. Norm is back for August, which is always a mission month, as energetic students from Uni or school join the mission teams

Please pray for all those sharing the gospel, and for a positive response from their neighbours



The very first students at St Andrew's High School

Another cause for huge joy is the opening of the new St. Andrews High School for Boys. The school actually opened on May 9th with 27 boys, but the formal opening was on July 17th. That was at the newly consecrated church at Badassa, Church of the Good Shepherd. It was attended by representatives from USA, whose charity, KCEP, has funded an amazing primary

school in Sololo, called Tumaini (hope). ACK Wings, our primary school at Karare, funded by Cargo Human

Care, an offshoot of Lufthansa (hence the lovely name!), has finally reached Class 6, and its 16 graduates did their exams in March. 5 boys from Wings joined the new high school. St Andrews is starting as a Junior High, class 7-9, with its first classrooms, dormitory and laboratory. Classes 10-12 will be added thereafter to complete the school.

Please pray for the new School, and the Education challenges faced by pupils amidst violence and drought

The dream of a new Girls' school is also getting closer to realisation.

Last year, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Diocese, Friends of Marsabit sent a large gift to help buy a plot of land. However, because of the ongoing insecurity in Marsabit, the Bishop has not yet identified a plot, which is safe and ethnically neutral. Thanks to another donor, we have sent a further gift, and pray the situation will quieten down enough for a plot to be bought, so the school can finally begin. But for now, the 11 girls from ACK Wings have nowhere in Marsabit to go, except for Roman Catholic schools which ask for a baptism certificate, so they will go down country, far from family, for their further education. That would apply also to girls from Tumaini and our other schools. But... God willing, not for much longer, once land has been found!

Please pray that a suitable plot can be found, so that such a vital ministry can begin

Behind so many of the problems faced by the Diocese and all the inhabitants of N. Kenya is insecurity. It's a nightmare, affecting everyone. The stealing and killing were even happening in Marsabit town itself - it became so bad the Government imposed a curfew and sent in the dreaded GSU, the most brutal of Government law enforcers. That will continue until at least mid - August. The violence is driven primarily by politics and drought. As a result, +Qampicha decided it was too unsafe to come to Lambeth

A key factor is the Kenya General Election on August 9th. Some politicians, striving to be elected, mobilise their own people, encouraging attacks on rival groups. In 2007/8, violence following the elections almost caused civil war, and it took Kofi Annan to broker peace. It's a similar situation again, particularly in our area, as the Gabra and Boran vie with each other. Bishop Qampicha and other religious and community leaders, work to bring peace, but then another attack shatters the calm. Being a peacemaker, though ultimately rewarding, can be very dispiriting, demanding endless patience and resilience.

Please pray for peaceful elections, for peacemakers and for reconciliation between the peoples

The other pressure on the Northern communities is the ongoing drought and resultant famine. All across Northern East Africa, from Kenya and Ethiopia through to Somalia, the rains have failed 4 times. Animals have died, farms withered away, boreholes dried up, and many people are starving. The nomadic lifestyle becomes ever harder to maintain. Some famine relief has been distributed, but not nearly enough, and nothing can rebuild people's herds or make up for their lost wealth and dreams. Rain is desperately needed. Please pray for it, and for people to have enough food to survive. We shared this in our last newsletter in February, when we wrote:

Please pray for rain, that the Lord would open the heavens, and the people work together, not fight each other

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St Andrew's High School:
In pursuit of knowledge and virtue



Is there any
water left ?