

FRIENDS OF MARSABIT

(Written by Rob and Sue)

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Dear Friends

July 2021

Bishop Daniel Qampicha



Greetings. Well, the 10th anniversary is approaching in 3 weeks' time, but Sue and I won't be able to visit, because of the **Covid restrictions**. Kenya is still on the **red list**, despite only having 3700 official deaths and 188000 cases in 18 months, vastly less than us, but the worry for Kenyans is that not many have been vaccinated and the health system couldn't cope if the virus took hold.

However, a matter for prayer is that Safia, + Daniel's wife, has completed her training: she has started a 6 bed ICU ward in Marsabit and one patient has covid and is on oxygen. Does she have proper PPE? Has she been vaccinated?

Please pray for her safety and for +Daniel*.



But insecurity is the major cause for concern at the moment, not Covid.

In recent weeks, there have been many deaths in inter-ethnic conflict in all three archdeaconries. Is it just criminals stealing livestock and hiding behind their ethnic loyalties? Or is it fomented by politicians in pre-election struggles for influence? Is the current drought making things worse because natural resources are scarce? Whatever the cause, +Daniel and other religious leaders are in despair at the ongoing violence and loss of ethnic harmony. He wrote: "This endless heinous killing spree of innocent people in Marsabit is causing us excruciating pain and brokenness... This must stop, let us

rebuild bridges of friendship, let us meet under that acacia tree, get around that table and open our hearts to each other and say No to ethnic war..." The Government have now sent GSU special forces to "calm things" – usually brutally and indiscriminately.

***Please pray with +Daniel for peace and reconciliation and for the criminals to be brought to justice**

Another cause for concern is drought. The last two rainy seasons have been poor, so food is ever scarcer, and famine is becoming a real threat. But at least the locusts have gone, praise the Lord!

10th anniversary celebrations: these may now be delayed to early August. People are afraid to travel.

Even + Daniel had to travel back south from Sololo to Marsabit with an armed guard. He, a Boran, was crossing a "Gabra" desert. So, it makes sense to delay until there is calm. Hopefully there will be some online recording of whatever happens. On July 18th, a week before the anniversary, St. Barnabas Isiolo will be consecrated, dv, a cause of huge excitement after 15+ years of fundraising! Rev. Maganjo, a local Isiolo vicar, often records his services, so we hope the consecration will be available online. FoM recently gave £5000 to help complete this church, and Rob and Sue attended many fundraisers over the years, so there is much rejoicing! Another church at Badassa on Mt. Marsabit, is also due to be consecrated in early August.



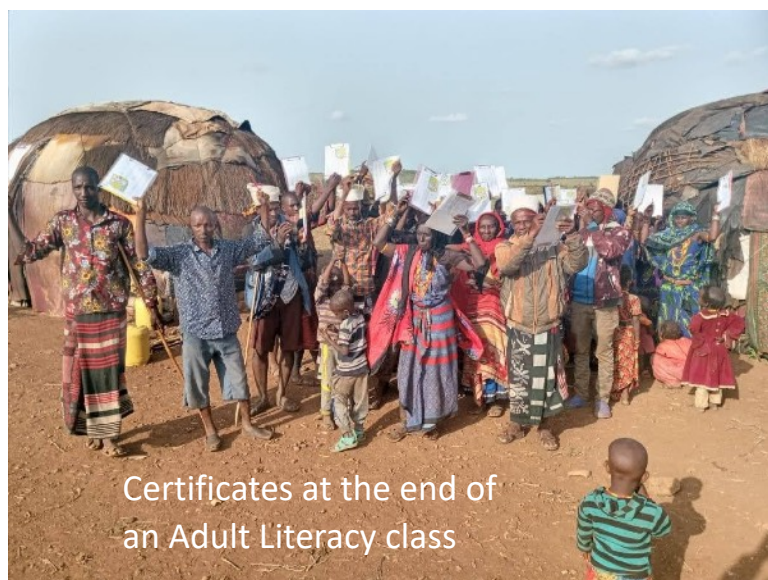
If you remember from our special May letter, the trustees of Friends of Marsabit wanted to make an anniversary gift to the Diocese to help purchase land for a new Girls High school. Because of insecurity, +Daniel hasn't yet been able to identify a suitable site. But, when I rang him last week, I told him we had raised £14000! on top of the £7000 we had already pledged, which could buy 3 acres: he was overjoyed! and said his office would redouble efforts to locate somewhere appropriate.
Thank you, Lord, and everyone who contributed to our special appeal! May that school and the Boys school be completed soon and bring much blessing to the Christian youngsters in the North.

More good news - at least 5 people have been recommended for training as ordinands! We've asked you for years to pray for people to be found, who are called to the ordained ministry. Now the challenge is to find funds to train them, either at St. Andrews Kabare or Carlile College in Nairobi. It costs about £1000 p.a. for 3 years. We've already received funds for 3 ordinands, but it would be great if some of you might be willing to fund another student for 3 years? As the Diocese grows, it desperately needs more trained clergy.
***Thank you, Lord, for new ordinands and please pray funds will be found for their training**

August is a time for organised missions. Each parish is organising something. And the Diocese is going out into the Chalbi desert, to Dukana, so remote Sue and I only reached there twice. The people mainly worship with their traditional religions. They live in fear of ayana spirits, and of displeasing their ancestors. They celebrate annual Sorio sacrifices and many keep amulets in their houses for protection. Women also suffer from FGM, early child marriage, polygamy, and the disadvantages of a totally patriarchal society. The Mothers Union struggles to change attitudes, but it's a slow process. Ultimately, it is only in Christ that light and real change will come. Mission Director Norm is training Chalbi pastors and evangelists using the Chronological Bible Story Telling course.



Pray for Norm, Elema the M.U Officer, Lilian the Sunday School worker, and all the missionaries who will scatter across the Northern deserts in August. May the light of Christ shine in the darkness



Finally, two Microfinance projects are gathering pace. Firstly, Chelmsford Diocese are working with Five Talents to support the M.U. reach out with capacity building for women, including adult literacy classes and small loans for over 300 members. Secondly, Anglican International Development are working to build the capacity of the Diocesan SACCO, Chemi Chemi, and help families climb out of poverty. Both work with a clear Christian emphasis.

Thank you, Lord, for all the good news in the Diocese, but please bring peace and protection for all

And thank you so much for all your support and prayers which has helped the Diocese to flourish for the past 10 years! What will the next 10 years bring for all of us?!

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