



Bishop Daniel Qampicha

Dear Friends,

Greetings.

Here is the latest news from Marsabit:

1. **Covid hasn't proved a major problem yet**, except economically, thank the Lord! But please pray more vaccinations may be available, including for Bishops and clergy!

2. **Two critical issues for your prayers are drought and insecurity**

Drought is biting hard, and thousands are starving. Famine relief has been distributed by the World Food Programme and the Government, and the Diocese has been given small relief grants for Bubisa and Karare, but there is no major relief programme

Please pray for rain – it will soon be 18 months without normal rains... **and for famine relief.**

Insecurity has been really bad. On November 4th, there was a ghastly attack close to Marsabit town on the way to Badassa. Gunmen sprayed a Canter van (taxi), killing 6 and injuring 11. It was thought to be Gabra killers, and the victims were mainly Borana. Relationships are extremely tense between these two communities, throughout the North. Consecration of the Badassa church has had to be delayed yet again due to this insecurity.

Please pray for the elders and peacemakers, that the endless cycle of violence may cease.



3. **10th Anniversary Celebrations** finally took place on November 7th. It was a wonderful day! Under a cloudless blue sky, huge processions of brightly dressed clergy, readers, choirs, and 15 people to be made Canons, moved slowly across the Diocesan compound past the Cathedral to a dozen shady gazebos. Bishop Qampicha presided and + Joseph from Machakos was the guest speaker and leader of the Canons' retreat. The new Canons were old colleagues of ours – so we found it very moving! Sue and I watched on Facebook Live, through Sammy Durito's Facebook page (Unclesam). It was hard to break away from it, 2 ½ hours later, when it was still in full swing, but I was leading and preaching elsewhere, in a very different BCP environment!



What a joyous day!

The new Canons



The Harambee (fundraiser) at the end was toned down because of security and funds raised will now go towards St. Andrew's High School, our secondary school for boys. FoM had sent £21,000 to help buy 3 acres for a Girls' secondary School, but owing to the security situation, a suitable neutral plot is still being identified.

Please give thanks for all that's been achieved over the past 10 years, & pray for ongoing blessing.

4. **Two Microfinance projects are gathering pace.** A webinar in October with 5 Talents gave feedback on one of them. It helps over 100 women and a few men with literacy and numeracy, gets them to save and then gives loans to enable them to start small business ventures. Headed by the Mothers Union, under Rev Elema, (MU Coordinator), they meet in churches, but are open to all.

Please pray for these projects, and pray that women may be more empowered in a male-led society



Rev Elema and women in the literacy programme.

Photo courtesy of 5 talents

5. **Professor Joseph Galgalo**, originally from our desert area of Bubisa, and former Vice Chancellor of St. Paul's University, Limuru, has been appointed Provincial Secretary and been consecrated Suffragan Bishop of All Saints Cathedral Diocese, as Rob once was.

Please pray for him, as he takes up this demanding role.

Also in this letter, we wanted to account for how FoM has used your gifts in 2020.

In September, we submitted our independently examined 2020 accounts to the Charity Commissioners.

Here is the annual review we sent them:

2020 was the seventh full year for the Friends of Marsabit. The trustees met three times, twice on zoom, and Bishop Qampicha joined us for our June zoom meeting.

The database, enabling better communication with FoM supporters, is deemed to be consistent with the requirements of Data Protection Regulations.

During 2020, Kenya was on the red list of countries, so it was impossible for visits to happen between Kenya and UK. It also forced the postponement of the 2020 visit to Kenya by Marsabit supporters. But we kept in regular contact with Bishop Qampicha via FaceTime.

Particular challenges were Covid restrictions, locusts, lack of rain and insecurity.

Trustee funds raised in 2020 were used to fund a number of development projects designed to improve the livelihoods of the peoples of Marsabit, and enable the Diocese to become more self-sufficient.

We transferred funds, not just to support the general running of the Diocese, but also made a special appeal to support Diocesan workers through the pandemic, as a sort of furlough scheme. This raised £44,840. We also provided support for buying motorcycles, training of church workers, youth conferences and school fees; and to assist with the building of permanent churches across the Diocese. Our four newsletters have kept Friends informed of activities in Marsabit and aware of the challenges faced by the people in the area.

Financial review £85,560 was received during 2020 (£68,662 in 2019). We gave grants totalling £79,560. The Trust entered 2021 with £25,319 in the bank and accounts receivable of £982. We are slowly increasing the number of people giving by Standing Order.

Thank you, thank you, everyone so much for your continued prayers and support! It has helped the Diocese to flourish during 8 of the past 10 years! Please consider setting up a standing order?

What will the next 10 years bring?! **Please pray we all stay close to the Lord through it all**

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