

FRIENDS OF MARSABIT

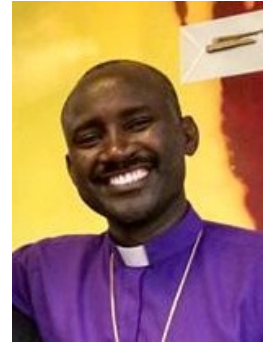
(Written by Rob and Sue)

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February 2022

Dear Friends,

Bishop Daniel Qampicha



Greetings.

Despite many blessings, things have been really tough for our brothers and sisters in Marsabit. The twin evils of insecurity and drought are taking a terrible toll. **Drought is widespread over most of that whole belt of land from Somalia across Northern Kenya and on to Northern Uganda, with 10+ million affected.** In Marsabit Diocese, Marsabit mountain had a sudden drenching for a few days, which caused many deaths of the weakened animals, but everywhere else it has been heart-breakingly dry. Bishop has sent us recent photos of dead animals lying on the ground in Anona, Dambalafachana and Golole, all villages where we have congregations and which we visited many times. Down south near Isiolo, it has also been bone-dry and rainless. There is little sign yet of Government relief, but, in election year, maybe politicians have other considerations, even though people have also died. 3 rainy seasons have now been poor – the next rains are due in March – May.



Sadly, when drought hits, insecurity surges, as desperate people are more inclined to go raiding neighbouring people groups. So, there've been murders and livestock theft. Bishop wrote an impassioned message on Facebook, bewailing the loss of life and consequent fear and grief, and pleading for an end to violence

Pray for peace and rain, that the Lord would open the heavens, and the people cooperate, not fight

Health: Covid has affected people health-wise, but not in huge numbers. Less than 6000 have died in 2 years, with known cases reaching 322,000. Clearly, testing is not as rigorous as here, but it's still encouraging. Bishop's wife, Safia, runs the ICU department in Marsabit, with 6 beds and 6 ventilators, but they haven't been overwhelmed. Bishop and Safia have both been vaccinated. Restrictions have however

caused financial hardship. **+Qampicha's back is causing great pain**, a huge handicap as he has to travel so much on bumpy roads. Physio and pain relief is helping, but it takes time. Norm Gorrie's wife, Janelle, also needs prayer for her health. And very sadly, Rev Isako's wife, Tume, died, leaving 5 children without their mother: and our Archers Post evangelist, Marete, also died – both were from non-Covid health issues. **Please pray for + Qampicha, Janelle, Isako, Marete's family and all affected by Covid.**



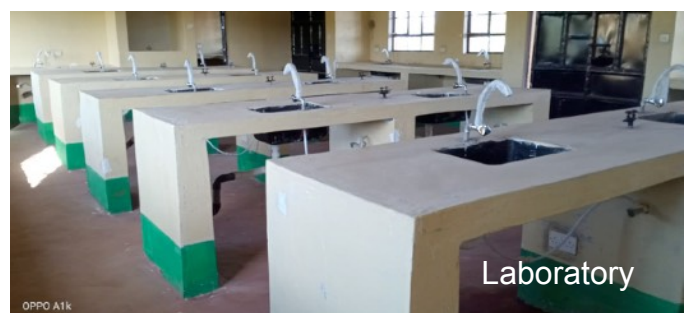
But, amidst these challenges, there has been great blessing!

Our first Boys secondary boarding school, St. Andrew's High School is due to open officially in early May, with 30 pupils. Already built are two classrooms, a dormitory for 80 boys and a laboratory. Immediate needs are fencing and a headteacher's house. But a large grant has come, to cover these buildings and others, plus spare to offer scholarships to the poorest students. This school was part

of the Church's vision before Rob became Bishop, but I was endlessly thwarted by land issues! What a joyful day it will be when it is opened.

For the first Girls' school, the problem is still identifying plots, which are safe, given the ethnic tensions. With extra funds now available, it is hoped that this longed-for project may also get underway!

Please pray both these schools may be completed and bring blessing to the community



MISSION AND TRAINING

Making Disciple Makers, who build Christ's Church in Truth and Love is the focus of the

Diocesan Strategic Plan. Evangelists are the key to ministry in the remoter parts of our Diocese, under the eye of their vicar. **Norm Gorrie**, the Diocesan Mission Officer, and his wife **Janelle** have been running training courses, together with + Qampicha and **Jomo the Youth Officer**, for the newest evangelists. They come together from their distant churches and enjoy fellowship with their colleagues and teaching – it's a huge encouragement. Norm and Jomo also teach Chronological Bible Story telling (CBS). Jomo has seen many students come to faith recently. And **Lilian**, the Children's worker is also part of their team, discipling children with Mark's gospel and



Norm and Janelle at Evangelist training

training Sunday School teachers. Janelle has been translating the Bible into Boran for children, and has recently been on specialist translation training. The new Deacons have had a workshop on Jonah, and clergy on Mark, run by Word Partners. So much is going on, thank you Lord!

Please pray for these Diocesan officers and the clergy as they build up God's people of all ages, and for the Bishop as he holds it all together



Rev Omosh on his way to Kargi

The Easter and Summer holidays are the usual time for mission. Recent missions in the Chalbi and at Walda among IDPs touched many hearts, with new congregations being planted at Tigo and Burgabo in the North, and Akili in the south. The new evangelist at Burgabo is an ex-prisoner, whom Norm befriended in prison. He made a cross and painted it red – a really vivid picture of Jesus' sacrifice for us. He's been



Burgabo Church

showing the Jesus film and the 10 commandments film in desert villages, and also used the CBS stories

A donor, Mega Voice has assisted with follow-up for the new Christians by giving solar powered audio bibles in multiple languages

This Easter, parishes are being encouraged to run Vacation Bible School for their youngsters and children. Newly ordained Rev. Omosh, has now been posted to Kargi, which hasn't had a vicar for years, though Rev Daballen, now a county health worker, has kept it alive and well. He'll be glad of a full-time vicar at last!

Please pray for all the new Christians, as they work out their faith in challenging circumstances

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