

FRIENDS OF MARSABIT

(Written by Rob and Sue)

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Dear Friends,

Bishop Daniel Qampicha



Greetings. The latest **Voice of Hope** magazines produced by the Diocese have now arrived, with tales of joy and sorrow, advances and setbacks: and, of course, the continual drive to train and equip Christians across all groups.



Youth training: In April there was a **Youth Worker summit**. About 70 youth workers gathered in Marsabit for their annual summit. Gerald and Louise Mwangi, Crosslinks workers based in Nairobi, came to lead the training, together with input from the Bishop, the Provost and Jomo, the Diocesan Youth Officer. Teaching focussed on 1 Peter, with training on preparing gospel centred and discipleship lessons for teens and young adults. A few days later, over 100 young people gathered in Isiolo, for a Transformative Weekend, titled: Empowering Youth through leadership and discipleship. Finally in April, over 60 Sunday school teachers were trained at the Cathedral in Marsabit. It is so exciting to think of all these youngsters being trained, going back into parishes, set within mainly non-Christian environments.

Please pray for them as they integrate their learning into their lives, and impact their communities

Mission and more training: In August, the **Diocesan mission will be centred in Kargi**, out in the Chalbi desert, amongst the Rendile communities. Jomo led a 2-day training session for the missionaries, and a 3-day pre-mission visit. Kargi is a tough, hot place, way off the beaten (tarmac) track, and the people are steeped in their old traditions, including FGM, early marriage and sacrifices to the spirits. I had a Range Rover to travel in, but the youngsters going on mission will have to walk from the main base in Kargi town under the scorching sun to reach the scattered communities nearby.

Earlier in February, the Bishop confirmed 58 people, so the people are open to the gospel.

Further north, in Sololo Parish up near the border with Ethiopia, there was also mission, going out to the more remote centres, showing the Jesus film, going into schools, and having Open Air fellowships, despite hostility from the mainly Muslim population. After the recent rains, many roads are impassable, and security is always an issue

Please pray for all going on mission, for protection and sensitivity, and for many to come into the Kingdom



Mothers Union (MU): MU has also been very active. MU Sunday was March 10th. Across all 3 Archdeaconries, there were training sessions and couples conferences. In every congregation, MU was celebrated and prayed for, recognising the vital role of mothers, especially within such a male-dominated society. ACK Marsabit Women Empowerment Program, AMWEP, is a major MU led project, funded by Five Talents, tackling illiteracy, gender empowerment and microfinance, as well as offering Christian teaching and input. In March, 20 new adult literacy facilitators were trained – there are now 47 adult literacy circles and 21 Savings groups. Rev. Elema is the Diocesan MU Officer, and the AMWEP project is led by Joseph Humbe.

Please pray for Elema and Joseph, and for all the facilitators; and for practices, harmful to women, to cease



Churches: A new permanent church in Isiolo Archdeaconry, was consecrated, St. Paul's Manyatta Zebra. And a semi-permanent church was dedicated, ACK Amazing Grace Kupi Adamma, in Sagante Parish, not far from Marsabit town. At the same time, many were confirmed and new MU members enrolled. But at the same time...

In Adadi, 60 km from Sololo town, a centre devastated by the 3 year drought, sudden rainfall and strong winds blew off the church roof and damaged the walls.



Given the impassability of the roads, it has been difficult to access and support the village and congregation. "The Lord gives and the Lord takes away, blessed be the name of the Lord"

The Bishop also commends to our prayers new congregations at Murub and Kambinyu in Karare, Aria in Sololo and Mata Arba in Sagante. The Diocese had 64 congregations – now I don't know! The church is growing, hallelujah!
Please pray for these churches, for depth of discipleship, comfort in adversity, and joy in service

Overseas Visitors: John McClernon, General Secretary of Crosslinks, visited the Bishop and Diocese for several days. Crosslinks has funded Jomo, the DYO, and given bursaries for ordinands and further theological education. Tyler Prescott from the USA, an old friend of the Bishop, (and me), whose church funded St. Paul's Walda in the North, joined the Clergy Chapter and visited Walda and other churches. A team from Cargo Human Care, based near Stuttgart, who support Elazar Girls' High School visited for its official opening in April.
We give thanks for these and many other visitors, and the prayer and support that many bring



Finally, finance! Thanks to everyone, who has prayed and given during 2023. Our figures have now been audited and during 2023, we received £51,640 (£52,321 in 2022). We sent out £56,902 to Marsabit, including past balances. Amazing! Thanks be to God, and you!
Please may these gifts be a blessing to our friends in Marsabit

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