

FRIENDS OF MARSABIT

(Written by Rob and Sue)

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Dear Friends

December 2019

Bishop Daniel Qampicha



Firstly, may we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and every blessing in 2020. Thanks so much for your prayers and support throughout this year. We have just sent out our final transfers to Marsabit totalling £17,125. It includes a grant towards the youth conferences in December and a Christmas gift for all Diocesan church workers, as well as designated gifts for motorcycles, theological education and education fees. **Sue and I spent 10 days in Marsabit Diocese in November, so here's the latest news. It is a mix of encouragement and pleas for prayer.** All our activities were facilitated by our friend, Bishop Qampicha



ENCOURAGEMENTS: a) Rain! After the long drought, which caused such hardship, rains have come – in abundance! We travelled North to Moyale on the Ethiopian border and the dreaded bone-dry Did Galgalo, part of the Chalbi desert, was no longer brown and rocky, but covered in green grass and yellow flowers. What a wonderful sight, praise the Lord! It means replenished aquifers and boreholes, pasture for the animals and the promise of food for farmers. However, the rains have also brought floods, washed away houses and livestock, and made non-tarmac roads impassable. **But, give thanks for rain!**

b) A growing church:
Rob was privileged to lead the ordination retreat for two ordinands,

one priest and one deacon, both of whom he had started on their vocational studies. John Lobei, a Turkana priest, has been posted to Ngaremara to assist the ageing Rev. Ekai, and Simon Conwell, a Samburu deacon, has gone to Archers Post to assist Rev Alice, the former MU Secretary. They will be much appreciated. Whenever I could, I encouraged the clergy to look out for potential vocations, and the Bishop is planning to hold a selection conference in December for some who have been identified. The day before the ordination (a 5 hour service!), we confirmed 101 candidates and enrolled 30 mothers into MU! (a shorter 4 hour service!)

Please pray for more vocations – the harvest is ready and full, but...



We visited two new sites where land has been given or bought for **new church plants**, and prayed for the fledgling churches which have already begun. Jomo, the Youth Officer, is running **3 youth conferences** for 100s of youngsters. Sadly, they have been disrupted in Isiolo by winds blowing the main tent away, and in Sololo by one town's youngsters staying behind to "defend their town", because of insecurity. **Please pray for these youngsters, for theirs' is the generation that can begin to end the culture of tribal fighting.**

c) Development: So many projects are going on. We dedicated the newly completed second floor of the Diocesan offices (photo left). We ate in the newly refurbished Dining room and visited the new reception rooms at the Training Centre. We stayed in the newly completed ground floor of the new accommodation wing, and later we stayed in the new guest house in Moyale. We also helped dedicate the new vicarage at Waso, and "cement mixer" to help train youngsters in building water tanks! **Please pray that all**

this new infrastructure will help the Kingdom of God to grow in these tough conditions



FOR PRAYER: a) Insecurity. We have mentioned the troubles affecting the youth seminar in Sololo. When we drove back from Moyale to Mt. Marsabit, that night there was a major attack below the mountain. Over 1000 cattle and camels were stolen and 13 herdsmen killed. The Bishop, who had stayed in his home area an extra night, had to delay his return for an extra day, until things had cooled down and it was safe for him to travel. As a peacemaker, he is especially grieved by these attacks between the Gabra and Boran. We give thanks calm has returned. **Please, again, pray for permanent peace and reconciliation in the area.**

**Rev Ekai, Ven Abraham, Rev Elema MU,
Bishop Qampicha**

b) URGENT: the tragic land rover accident of 2015 has reared its painful head again. Some passengers have claimed huge damages from the insurance company, beyond their limits, fuelled by corrupt lawyers and judges. Now, auctioneers are trying to grab Diocesan vehicles to pay these huge debts. They are held at bay for now by legal appeals and behind the scenes negotiations, but there is still a risk of major financial crisis for the Diocese. **Please pray for Bishop (and Diocese) as he navigates this dangerous situation**

2020 FoM supporters visit: We still have 2 or 3 places available for the visit in October 2020 - to experience Marsabit first hand. These trips are truly life-enhancing! £100 deposit is needed towards the cost of £1600 per person, all inclusive, for the 13-day trip. Please let us know as soon as possible, (at the latest by the end of January) if you can join us. We'd love to have you!

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