

Stephen & Angelina COWAN

KENYA

Location: Tuum

Mission: Church-Based Community Development & Outreach

I was reminded recently our comfort zone is not only where we are, but what we are in that place.

Drought continues to bite across northern Kenya. The Laikipia ranching area on the southern side of the district was recently issued with a British government travel warning after a tourist lodge was burnt to the ground. Stores and machines were wrecked on a second ranch and fences cut and gun protected herds of a reported 87,000 moved through a third (normal capacity of 5,000). Further north we pass thousands more sad, bovine specimens, often struggling to climb the sandy road verges as we inch our way through.

Present land ownership in the ranching area and potential land demarcation in the north of the district do not bode well for a pastoralist people. The vast herds of grazing animals would suggest that at least some families are very wealthy. Restocking will help keep the present unsustainable numbers in an increasing cycle of desertification and drought. A mindset change is needed.

Thankfully several families in Tuum have taken measures to manage their animals, selling some of these resources to educate their children, and caring more effectively for the smaller herds left. Challenging the status quo is constant; from the informal veranda chats to the more formal monthly teaching seminars.



We truly see the necessity for the Spirit of God to open minds and hearts.

We were asked to carry the government designated 70 bales of hay to the Seren area - a round trip of eight hours via the distribution centre at Baragoi. With 400+ family bomas (livestock enclosures) in that area, the meal would be well stretched! On the trip we met a little boy who almost died. The young girls in the dormitory had asked to go and pray for him. Some of the women in the fellowship gave him rehydration salts, before a vehicle arrived to take him to hospital where he became much better. The whole family recognised and thanked God for His intervention.



Photo: Stephen unloading hay bales

Prayer Points

- Give thanks for those families and individuals who allow God to move them out of their comfort zone by courageously adapting new ideas and lifestyles.
- Pray for Caragh as she also moves out of her comfort zone and allows God to work in her and through her as she commences a three-month Tearfund trip to Bolivia.
- Pray for us all as we allow God to teach us new things and use us in new ways.

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