

Pray for Kenya July 2017

Dear Brethren:

It has been a month since returning from Kenya and I now have the opportunity to give this report for thanksgiving to God and for intercession. The Lord was very kind in giving us a trouble free time as regards travelling, health and the fulfilment of what we had planned to do. I went with fellow pastor Murungi, two of our TPC students, and a visitor from Canada. The report can be divided into 4 sections.

1. Korr

The majority of the pastoral Rendille live around this town as historically (since 1970s) it has had wells with a secure supply of water. When we started a church more than 10 years ago, there were already the Catholics and Africa Inland Church present. A number of Rendille had been converted in Nairobi and we agreed they should go back home to form the nucleus of a church in Korr. One of the important differences is that we believe that a person shows himself to be a true convert by rejecting the central ceremonies of his culture. In this case it is the 'sooriyo' celebrated 4 times yearly when an animal is ritually slaughtered and blood applied to the house and to camels, and skin is tied on men and animals, for protection against disease and raiders.

We have had leadership difficulties with 3 trained men having come and gone. There are now 3 untrained Evangelists faithfully seeking to preach the gospel under the Trinity Baptist Church both on Sundays and in surrounding villages (goob) during the week. All of the men who accompanied me have a serious interest in bringing the gospel to the Rendille people. One of the purposes of the visit was to gain an insight into their abilities and character so as to know the way forward with them. We pray for a man (even men) who can oversee the work and can go all around the area. We went to the very isolated goob of Dubsahaay Chaule and two women said that when we came last (2014) they believed the message and have been waiting for a church to start. At the other remote villages of Farakore we were told that no one has come to preach since we were last there. Traders and politicians come (elections are soon) but no one to bring the really good news.



Sunday service at Korr
Incomplete permanent church
building at left rear



Ariteey & Ambaso

There are presently 15 church members, 5 of those having been converted out of the traditional community. Ariteey and Ambaso have had to leave their Goob Nebeey because he refuses to take part in the traditions and they are now housed at the church compound. We only know of one other traditional man who has professed Christ and left the old way of life behind. There are a few others who say they are Christians but either they are looking after animals, wandering far and wide for pasture (up to 100 kms), or live far from Korr (up to 10 kms), and so hardly come for worship.



Wareiya (left) was baptized in Nairobi and finds it hard to come the many kms. to church.

Ali (right) says that as a Christian who does not perform the ceremonies he has to look after his own animals even up to 100 kms. away from home.



2. Namarei

About 30 kms. south of Korr is Bayo Mt. with many goobs around it. The small centre of Namarei has a Catholic sponsored Primary School, and an African Inland Church (AIC) Dispensary. But there is no preaching in the goobs surrounding (as far as we know). We have been going to the large goobs of **Lekuchula** for almost 20 years, we have sponsored a primary school there, but we have been unable to secure a man to go and live there to take the gospel to these people who still live in darkness.



Murungi with Lasantan of Goob Torre.



Four 'morans' who spend their time wandering with animals, which is why they may never hear the gospel.



Children of Lekuchula who have no one to tell them Sunday by Sunday about the Lord Jesus Christ.

On the other side of the mountain are the small communities of **Lagarama** and **Goob Torre** where few children are able to go to a school and none hear the word of God in their communities. Our visit made us the more burdened for such places where Christ is not known. Some report that the Rendille are very open to the gospel, but they have not distinguished between politeness ('Thank you for coming') and genuine interest. They are fully entrenched in their traditions, and it is unthinkable for anyone in the community to leave them. There would be a heavy price to pay as they live in communities (circular villages), and the Elders take decisions together.

3. Lontolio

25 kms. further south-east is an area inhabited by a sub-group of the Rendille called Ariaal, who have assimilated to the Samburu culture of the people further south. We have had a trained man working here based in **Ndikir**, but he is now giving up, having seen very little fruit, and wanting to get more money for the needs of his family (he is also a trained veterinary officer).



Losidan Primary School



Pupils and their teacher

At **Losidan** we have a second primary school that we sponsor. We have been encouraged to put up a church building, but we have had no one to send to the 8 or more goobs that depend on the wells here. We found few pupils in the school, but the Government had sent a new teacher, a young married lady. She is not a Rendille but told us she would like to devote herself to these needy children for a number of years. We ask ourselves, where are the Christians willing to do this out of love for Christ? There is a young Christian who has come to live here for a number of years, to learn the language, and to evangelize, although with no intention of starting a church. We can only thank God for such dedication and pray that some of our young men (and women?) will likewise give themselves.

At **Lontolio** there is an imposing Baptist Church structure. The Pastor there was converted through our ministry but decided to link up with others. They have used methods that give so many problems. They came with a crusade and 90 were baptized on profession of faith! Stephen says none of those are in the church; he can count on 1 man and 3 women, and has around 20 for worship on a Sunday. Yet a big structure has been erected. We want to do everything we can to encourage this brother to be faithful to the Lord.

[If you would like to view some more photos please go to www.trinitybaptistkenya.org under Rendille Ministry. At <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5lkpvh0pa5M> there is an hour video of a traditional wedding ceremony – nothing to do with me. There is a 2 minute clip on the Rendille at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8N9MaxyYTl4>.

We would ask you to join us in PRAYER for the following:

- (1) The speedy completion of the permanent church building in Korr.
- (2) Obtaining of a motorbike for our brethren in Korr so that they can travel even to the further villages, and more regularly, to preach Christ.
- (3) Wisdom to know how to best train the Evangelists in Korr.
- (4) God to mercifully raise up trained 'missionaries' who we can send to oversee the work in Korr, to minister in Lekuchula and Losidan. We were overwhelmed by the need.

4. Miathene

On the way back to Nairobi I spent the weekend in Miathene, on the equator, just east of Mt. Kenya. This is where I first came to Kenya as a teacher in 1968!! In some ways it is like going home. We started a church here in 1991 but, sadly as in quite a few churches, there have been leadership difficulties. We have now sent a 'missionary', Joseph Mucheru, who trained at the TPC, and he is helping to stabilize and build up the church.

Miathene TBC Sunday service



Joseph & Isabella Mucheru



In Christ's service,

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