

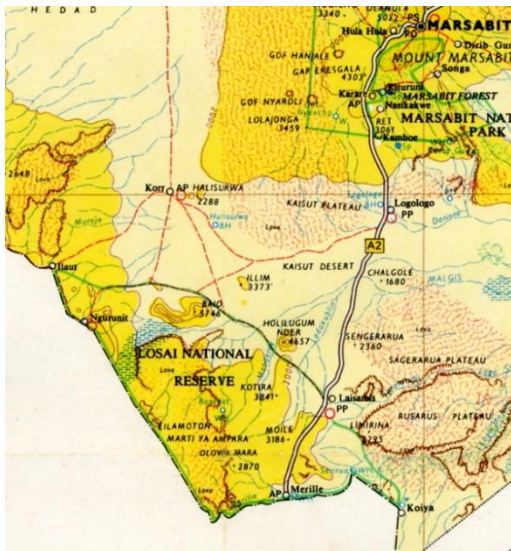
Pray for Kenya

December 2016 / January 2017

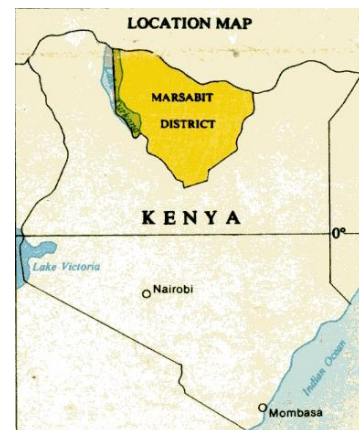
Dear Brethren:

Priscilla and I have been back in U.K. just over a year now. The Lord has been gracious to us helping us to settle in and find our feet. But I doubt if we will fully acclimatize in every sense of that word. Kenya is just a different culture that we have absorbed over the past 40 years, and now I am understanding why it has often been said that coming back to the country of one's birth after so long is often a more difficult adjustment than leaving it in the first place (the 'reverse culture shock').

It has been almost 2 years since I have been able to visit the Rendille work in northern Kenya. And this time I would like to bring this to your attention once again. The Rendille are Cushitic, probably of Somali origin because of the similarity of their languages, who inhabit the dry plains between Marsabit and Lake Turkana in northern Kenya. There are about 60,000 of them and those who still are pastoralists remain largely unreached with the gospel because of wandering far and wide with their animals.



We have had contact with Rendille people for almost 20 years, first in Nairobi, and then in late 1998 I made my first visit to their homeland, having been told by a missionary that they are 90% unreached.



A number professed faith in Nairobi, a few went back home for one reason or another, and we decided to send them all back to form the nucleus of a church, and in 2004 we sent 2 Rendille brethren who had been trained in the TPC to minister in Korr. We

have had many leadership difficulties so that presently with 15 members there are three leaders we call Evangelists, who have had no specific training, only one of whom is functionally literate (Ogom).

The Rendille who live south of Korr have assimilated to the culture of the Samburu who live yet further south and are known as Ariaal Rendille. We sent a trained brother to the Lontolio area in 2006 to church plant. There has been almost no response to the gospel. One brother who was saved left us to start his own church, and we hope he is seeing genuine fruit.

We do sponsor two Primary Schools in Lekuchula and Losidan, and there is another in Ndikir sponsored by Kindfund. In addition to Early Childhood Development (ECD) schools in those places and Korr, we also support ECDs in Dubsahaay Dogo and Lagarama. Village Elders are requesting us to start a church in these places but we have no one to send! In these areas we know of no man who has turned from the traditions to put his trust in Christ. "And how are they to believe in Him whom they have never heard?" We are much exercised about this situation especially with the many young adults we have in TBC Nairobi.

I would like to give you below parts of the report that Pastor Murungi wrote after his recent visit October 19-24, 2016.

1. The Church in Korr

I was encouraged to see the brethren in Korr. I praise the Lord for their full involvement in the life of the church, going by the attendance on Sunday. The two men were profusely grateful for the labours of Ogom in uniting them. Godana said that Ogom, even though younger has been able where the previous leaders had failed.



Ogom was embarrassed to hear it. His zeal is in no doubt and he well organised our stay there, with the little resources that they have. I think we need to do more for him financially, because he has effectively become a leader. He is very committed to the work, and he does not have a side job like Godana and Nadesol who both have animals to look after.



They still meet in the old structure because they would prefer to start using the new one when it is complete! We began with singing many hymns and songs in Rendille before memorizing verses. Almost everyone gave a verse, even Mzee Esirimidana and his grandson! After the person recited the verse, the rest of the church would be helped to grasp it. Such verses as Genesis 1:1-2, Psalm 23:1, John 3:16, etc. were so well recited.

In my judgement the church is doing well. There is spiritual health and vibrancy in the way the singing and recitation of verses was done that was refreshing. As I preached, it felt like I was at TBC Nairobi. The children, the adult the young people, all, were interested in memorization and the singing so that Stanley himself admitted that the ground is fertile for much spiritual growth. We all acknowledged that it was a very reformed indigenous local church, where the Spirit of God is at work.

2. Stanley Musyoki

I took him with me so as to evaluate his suitability to minister among the Rendille. He was given a chance to preach to the wazees (married men) at the *lugga* (sandy river bed), the first day we went out to visit one of the goobs (circular village). I was happy with the way he began from the known to the unknown, taking their pastoralism lifestyle in his illustrations. He handled the *wazees* very respectfully and spoke from the background of John 3:16-18, though he did not read the Scriptures. I was pleased that he heeded my advice to take a very basic

gospel passage. He was categorical about sin, and the wrath of God in condemning sinners. He was very clear about the Saviour Christ. He also emphasized faith. He is good in evangelism and some guidance will help him to see the need and the how to plead with the sinners to flee for their lives to Christ and take their sins to Calvary.

His **desire** is to go there. I think that he could be greatly used of God, since the Lord knows how to use us with all our deficiencies. He is interested in the TPC which, we hope could build him up for ministry in the areas of weakness. He could be an effective pastor – I believe he has the **potential**. He has the **resilience** necessary for Korr. He has **interest** in the place. He **liked the church**. I think he may be tried by going there for a month next year, possibly after the TPC in January. He should keep a daily journal/log of what he does with his time, as a way of developing him.

3. The building structure



The church structure stands tall with the pillars but is not used. The brethren have opted to remain in the same old structure as the new one is completed. I encouraged them to make use of it, but they were not enthusiastic about it. I believe the building should be completed soonest. This will encourage the brethren to know that we have long term goals for Korr and Rendille work. The rooms which could be used for accommodation should be well furnished for future guests like us. We had to rent a guest house for accommodation because of the pathetic state of the church hut and beds. The wire mesh has come off, only two metal bars stick out. The first night was so uncomfortable and tiring. New beds and mattresses are needed.

We thought that men in the church in Nairobi could be called upon to take a trip to Rendille for a week or two and help a *fundi* (skilled artisan) to complete the structure. The roads are good, and one no longer needs a 4X4 wheel vehicle to go there.

4. Education

The state of facilities in the schools we sponsor is dire. We need to urgently work on the church building for the sake of the nursery school in Korr. The Dubsahaay Dogo Nursery is still meeting in the school that George Galale heads. By the way he came to worship with us on Sunday. He said that if the church got another pastor, he would consider coming back because he regards TBC his church.

Lekuchula is in need of a kitchen and possibly a nursery structure which could be built with a church building in mind. We support Leibor, the teacher, and a cook. Mzee Ltapar, who is the chairman of the school and the village headman, said that the goob does not have a church

and we should send them a pastor and look at the needs of the school. Nduruba (the one professing Christian) was away in Laisamis but the husband was home and was so excited to see us and slaughtered a goat for us!

Matthew, the ECD teacher we helped to put through training, encouraged us to send a pastor in Lekuchula. He said that the villagers love Trinity and would not welcome anyone else. But since they do not have a choice, the influence of the nearby Namareey Catholic is strong and the children are being influenced. He admitted that he is not saved yet, but would like to see TBC take root in the area. The school in Lagarama is continuing according to Matthew and we should consider starting another school in goob Haragura. For photos of Lekuchula and Lagarama please visit www.trinitybaptistkenya.org/rendille-ministry.

5. Needs

Antonella requested us to support her son to go for the ECD training in Kianjai and I took his certificates. He teaches the nursery at California and is happy to spend the rest of his life as a teacher. Esirmidana also asked for more help because they could barely survive on the 4K we give (he and his wife are old, live in the church compound, have nothing except what we give). Mama Diba (a widow) also requested for more help but I pointed out that she does nothing in the church compound anymore and so thorns were growing so fast. She said that she will help in uprooting the smaller ones and the men can do the bigger ones.

All the men asked if we could increase their monthly financial support we send them because are great. Godana for example was saying that fees for his children is overwhelming him. He was so grateful for the help with Khobosha (Teacher Training College), Maka (University) and Grace (going into a Secondary School for the Deaf).

The needs are overwhelming, both the spiritual and the material. Please pray for preachers of the gospel and for the Lord's mighty hand of grace to be stretched forth in the salvation of sinners. The children of the leaders and other poor people need help with their school fees at secondary and beyond otherwise these families will never be able to be self-supporting. Please consider how you might be able to help and make the needs known to others. All such help is being coordinated through the charity TRAIN (Kenya) and for details please look at the website www.trainkenya.com.

In Christ's service,

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