

FRIENDS OF MARSABIT

(Written by Rob and Sue)
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Dear Friends,

June 2025

Bishop Daniel Qampicha



Greetings. Firstly, thank you, thank you, thank you! This last month has been extraordinary. It began with an unexpected and terrifying demand for approx. £70,000 compensation to be paid to one of the victims, Tume, of the terrible land rover crash in 2015. What a shock that was to everyone, a huge amount, threatening the very survival of the Diocese. But FoM supporters responded with incredible generosity, including some very large donations, and we were able to send this amount to the Diocese, with some left over. We have now heard that the amount has been paid to the lawyers concerned, who are acting for the family, hallelujah!

We pray the funds do reach Tume herself, and she can have the operation and care she so desperately needs. However, **a final court case looms in October**. It is of a less severely injured victim, who has already been well compensated. But with endless unsuccessful appeals by the insurance company, who didn't refer back to the Diocese, the final compensation has grown ever larger. You FoM supporters gave more than we needed for Tume, so we pray this excess will cover the cost of the final bill.

Please give thanks the funds for Tume have been paid, and pray this whole stressful saga will soon be ended

But mission and discipleship is the heartbeat of the Diocese. In a remote part of the Chalbi desert, the rocky sandy ground rises slowly up. As it rises, the land gets less scrubby, shrubs start to appear, then greenery. These are the **Huri Hills**. The first time I went, the mist came down, the fields got greener and



more fertile, and suddenly herds of cows loomed up out of the mist. I could have been in the Swiss Alps! In the village at the top was an old, abandoned church. I had it renovated, but could never get an evangelist to stay there, as it was too remote. It was also prone to ethnic violence, as the Gabra and Borana communities lived in close proximity. It seemed to have such potential. Now, Jomo tells me that a small nucleus of 3 Christians has grown into a fellowship of over 50 vibrant believers, under the leadership of a dedicated evangelist, Molu. As Jomo says, a once silent place has become a beacon of life and hope!

Praise the Lord.

Amazing Grace Church is another new church, planted in a long unreached area amongst Borana people of another faith background, where

new believers can face violent opposition. Jomo calls it a lighthouse in the darkness!



Every year the Diocese has a major mission in August: this year it will be in the Isiolo archdeaconry, in the south. Norm and Janelle Gorrie have flown out from



Australia for 3 months, and are joining with Jomo, acting Diocesan Mission Officer, and others, including the Bishop, to help train the missionaries, so they too can train disciple makers. Volunteers and evangelists will gather from far and wide to join in this mission and share the gospel in both rural and urban centres. A major tool is the Mega Voice audio bible, small and solar powered, with the Bible in different languages, including Borana, Samburu, Turkana and others. When local opposition prevents people coming into the villages to share Jesus, these audio bibles can really touch hearts, and have done so. **Please pray for much fruit from the August mission. God's word does not return to him empty! (Isaiah 55.11)**

Security issues: Mr Lee and his mother-in-law are still alive., praise God. A video of them has been seen pleading for their government (S. Korean) to help secure their release. They have been held for nearly a year, and the Bishop has advised Norm and Janelle to be alert as they travel round. The Voice of Hope magazine highlights the Diocesan work helping people displaced in ethnic clashes, IDPs, by giving them tools and materials to build themselves simple houses. Whenever ethnic tensions flare up, the Bishop and other community faith leaders are key peacemakers,.

7th Diocesan Synod: The Bishop recently asked for prayer for the upcoming Synod. Delegates came from every corner of the Diocese to discuss and thrash out the strategy and 5 year plan for the Diocese. The Bishop's charge focussed on building strong Christian families, with parents setting good examples to their children and nurturing them in the faith: "Wholesome family for Wholesome ministry". He called for the family home to be a place of spiritual formation, and was quite fierce about the breakdown of families and the lack of spiritual input from parents, which results in so many youngsters falling away - maybe a lesson for us here in the West? The 5 year plan



(2025-2029) is now being worked on, and will focus on family faith focussed ministry, expanding children's and youth work and mentoring, schools work and strengthening the institution of marriage.



The April Voice of Hope magazine is once again full of encouraging news. It has a special section on our schools, in particular the High schools, Elazar (girls) at Karare and St. Andrews (boys) at Sagante, with a third (girls) being built in Sololo in the North. I pray you enjoy reading the magazine, which makes for breathtaking reading!

FoM Trustees and the future: the Trustees are aware of their increasing age! and thinking how to continue supporting the Diocese as we gradually wind down in the next few years. This was reinforced when Rob and Sue had to postpone their January trip to Marsabit (now rescheduled hopefully to October), and then Rob had a heart attack and heart bypass in March. We have alerted the Bishop to our concerns, and he hopes we can consider a major income generation project. Next year the Diocese is planning a mega Harambee in May for such a project. Please let us know any thoughts you might have on this issue, and we will keep you informed of our thinking



In Brief: - The two Diocesan land cruisers are now old and wearing out very fast. The Bishop is desperate for a new one. **Rain** was reasonable this year, but everything is very dry now. **Rev Nancy** has left the Diocese to be a hospital chaplain in Kirinyaga. **Manman**, the curate, is now the new vicar of Waso.



- **Thank you all so much for your prayer and support – it means so much and I pray the letter encourages you too!**

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