

Following our visit to Kenya before Christmas, we wanted to share with you the latest news. We only had 5 days in Marsabit Diocese, but they were action packed!



**THE** reason we went at this time was to attend the wedding of the daughter of good friends of ours from 1980s, Joyce Baye, a Gabra girl, marrying Steve Leakono a Samburu. The Gabra are tough nomads, living in the harsh northern Chalbi deserts, moving from one water and pasture point to the next with their camels. Joyce's parents married as Christians, not traditionally, making marriage difficult for their children within the tribe. Steve's people are pastoralists and warriors, so some attended with headdresses and beads.

He is an army major, and they had a Guard of Honour, with 12 soldiers in full scarlet dress uniform. Both have left their home backgrounds, and through education become thoroughly modern youngsters. Wedding rings were delivered by drone! As we travelled over vast desert areas later, we marvelled at the journey these two have taken. Remember, and be encouraged when you help people with their education, how transforming that can be. **If anyone would like to sponsor a youngster, its only £300 p.a.**, and we can act as a channel. *Thank the Lord, and thank you!*

We also rejoiced to see our primary schools at Laisamis and Karare being funded for new classes!

**WE** travelled North to the Ethiopian border to a Muslim village, Mado Adhi. There is a small Christian community here, fed spiritually by evangelist John and parish vicar Shadrack. With John's drive and local fundraising, boosted by generous support from Boreham church in Chelmsford, they built and furnished a permanent church. We joined Qampicha in consecrating the new St. Andrews Ebenezer church in temperatures of up to 40C! What a joyful day, as we marched round the church and praised the Lord inside. Some Muslim neighbours sat outside contentedly, waiting for the feasting afterwards. I preached on Ebenezer, God our rock and help, for they have prayed long and fervently for this building; and on Andrew, who wanted to bring people to Jesus.

*Thank you, Lord, for your goodness; and please **pray for** this remote community.*

**THEN** things got tense: ethnic tensions have simmered, and Qampicha has been part of a peace team seeking reconciliation between Gabra and Borana. But killings restarted earlier in the week, both on the border and on Mt. Marsabit. While we were at Mado Adhi, we then heard Borana had lynched one of

their own chiefs, seen as too conciliatory to the Gabra. Qampicha, a Borana, was worried for himself and his wife Safia, so we travelled back through the Gabra desert to Marsabit in convoy. Fortunately, there were no problems.

We had originally planned to stay in Moyale further along the border, but that was even more violent, because of instability on the Ethiopian border. Archdeacon Michael, whom some of you met in September, said it was not safe to come.

Qampicha and others have put so much energy into the peace keeping effort, but it seems like a losing battle. *Please, please **pray for** peace.*

Update March 2019: Things regarding the ethnic tensions are still bad, so the Bishop can't now go to some areas. And Kenya is crying out for rain. They should be arriving now but no signs yet. It just adds to the pressures on resources which fuels the tensions.

*Please **pray for** Turbi parish, on the border between the two peoples, where it is still not safe for the vicar and 3 churches remain closed. **Pray also for** Qampicha as he makes new appointments, while balancing clergy ethnicities*



**BACK** to good news! The youth conference, Imarika (Strengthened), was a great success. Despite the tensions, over 400 youngsters came to Marsabit from all over the Diocese, made friendships across ethnic lines, were challenged and inspired, and returned to their areas re-energised to live for Christ and share their faith, in a largely non-Christian environment. The

new Youth Officer, Jomo Nderitu, was introduced - another fine I Serve mission partner, like Daniel before him. The conference theme was "Growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus". I gave the opening talk on "God wants changed lives", not just affirmations of faith. *Please **pray for** these youngsters, their growth in faith and their desire to break down old tribal loyalties and hatreds and live for Christ.*

**Friends of Marsabit:** (Reg. Charity No. 1169552 - tax relief reclaimable).

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