

FRIENDS OF MARSABIT

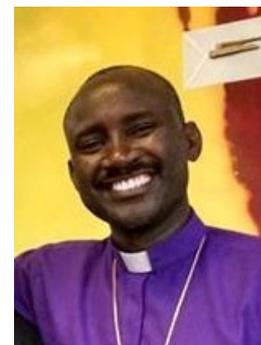
(Written by Rob and Sue)

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Dear Friends

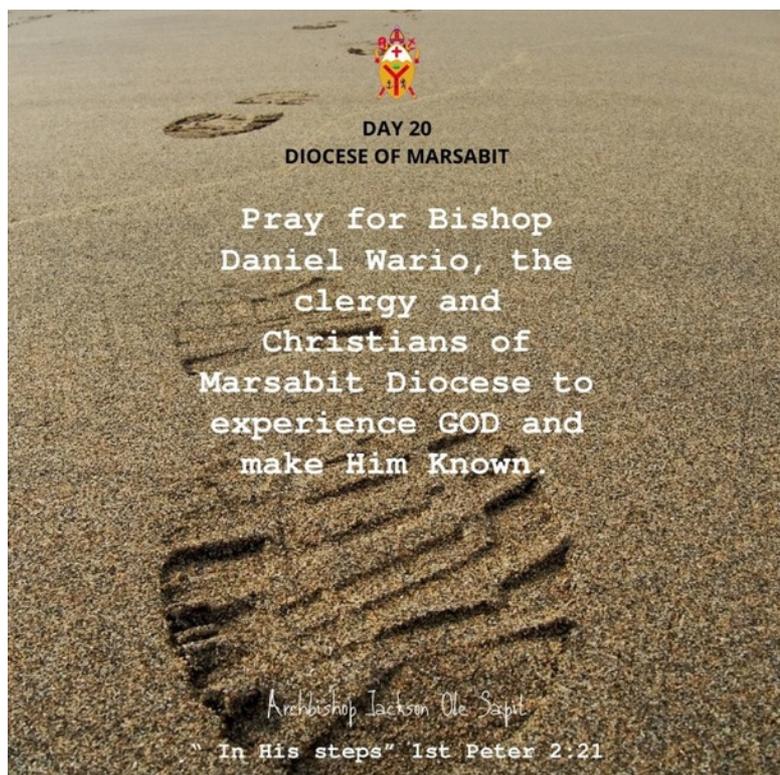
April 2020

Bishop Daniel Qampicha



We hope you all had a very Happy Easter! and we wish you well as you cope with the worries and social distancing of the Covid crisis. This virus, being worldwide, affects both us and our brothers and sisters in Marsabit

Thanks so much for your prayers and support for Marsabit throughout 2019 and into 2020. But please keep praying for them all. Three key prayer needs:



a) Corona virus: Like almost all African countries there are severe restrictions on movement, even though deaths have been few. In Kenya there have been about 300 cases so far in a population of 51 million (none recorded in Marsabit yet). Their median age is 18 (ours is 40), so being younger they should be less susceptible to severe reactions. But, if it took off, the health services wouldn't cope. Water for hand washing is sparse. Nairobi and Mombasa have been quarantined. Median income is \$2000 p.a., but millions live on just a few dollars a day, earned through small businesses. There is minimal state support, so economically the cost is unbearable. How will they survive? Famine threatens. **Please pray for a speedy resolution to this crisis**

b) Church life: As in UK, churches and mosques have all been closed, but unlike here, few in Marsabit have access to online services, Face time or Zoom. However, they can have services in the open, if properly distanced, especially in the villages; and clergy are still visiting responsibly to encourage the faithful. Bishop Qampicha speaks regularly on Sifa (Praise) FM. The Church called for a National Day of Prayer on March 22nd. **Please pray for + Qampicha and his team as they work out how to feed and support Christians during the lockdown in their faith and witness.**





c) LOCUSTS! On top of the economic impact from the virus, there is the locust plague. The first wave of locusts hit Kenya two months ago, mainly in Central and Western Kenya, with Marsabit being affected but not too badly. Now with good rains the second generation is breeding and flourishing. The Government response is hampered by problems in supply of the right insecticides, a lack of well-maintained spraying planes and now the effects of the virus restrictions... We fear a massive famine if the locust swarms are not destroyed. **Please pray this plague is neutralised and people have enough food**

But we have HOPE!

Voice of hope: Many of you will have read the amazing Voice of Hope magazine, which we sent out in February! Everything looked so positive. Another church was consecrated, ACK Agape, in the far North. The big youth conferences ministered to over 400 students across the Diocese. The Education department ran a rejuvenating seminar for the headmasters of our schools, and a new primary school has started on the Cathedral compound. Sunday School Coordinator, Lilian Lule, ran the first Brigade Founders day service, is visiting all the parishes and has planned a Fundraiser in May. Elema, the MU Coordinator, has also galvanised MU ministry and is rolling out a micro-finance and literacy project, supported by 5 Talents.

Now, all is on hold throughout East Africa, but at least security has improved! What lies ahead?

Give thanks that despite all the challenges, the Lord is in control!

Mission Director Norm Gorrie and Janelle (CMS) are on furlough in Australia. Janelle is recovering well from an operation; Norm is in continuous contact with evangelists and young people who are helping share about Jesus. They hope to return to Marsabit in September...



Finance In 2019, we received over £68,000 - brilliant! We have already sent out our first transfers of 2020 to Marsabit, totalling £22,422.

This includes grants for more motorcycles, a water project, school fees and the Academy at Laisamis, as well as for the general running of the Diocese. **Thank you so much for your generosity!**

FoM trip: 10 of you are heading with Sue and I to Marsabit in October, dv! Will it happen? We pray it will, as it is still 6 months away, but... In faith, we have paid a deposit on our flights!

One of our two patrons, Bishop Stephen of Chelmsford, is to be the next Archbishop of York. What a massive support he and Chelmsford have been for Marsabit! We are delighted that he wishes to remain one of our patrons.

"Thank you, Bishop Stephen - we pray for you as you move to such a key role for the Church of England".

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