



JULY 2010

Rob and Sue Martin

**ACK Marsabit Mission Area,
c/o MAF Kenya,
PO Box 21123-00505
Nairobi, Kenya**



Moving forward

On 16 July we will be presenting our "Vision for the future" to our Archbishop, Eliud Wabukala. We come under his jurisdiction, being one of the three Mission Areas in N. Kenya, (the other two being Garissa; and Lodwar, which has sadly disintegrated and the Suffragan Bishop chased away at gun point). The Archbishop is coming to Marsabit on a pastoral visit, and will consecrate a new church, St. Andrew's, at Bubisa in the desert, and ordain one deacon and two priests. Before he comes I have called a meeting of our Area Council, (the Mission Area equivalent of a Synod) and we will be evaluating our progress since we began in 2008. We will also look at the way forward, our vision for the future and our strategies.

What is our Vision? Here are the fruits of our discussions so far:

1. Become a fully fledged and self supporting Diocese
2. Reach men, women and children in our missions, transforming people with the good news



"Transformation - Rain"

*The dark cloud settles overhead as it releases
the first drop of its precious load.
So small,
So gentle, it falls to the ground as silent as the tread of a cat's paw.*

*Following one after the other, they break the silence,
splatting baked earth,
drumming on mabati roof,
volume increasing,
until all conversation ceases.*

*Tumbling now, united, like walls of water
they beat the wet ground,
mud exploding,
gutters overflowing,
creating a frenzy of activity, to catch all escaping.*

*Deep ruts create hidden traps across dirt highways,
Thro' morning mist, stuck lorries loom like stranded whales.
Houses built from mud, washed and flattened, to mud return,
And rivers race, rage and roar with destruction,
'til all is silent again.*

Then... gently...

*Green shoots like tiny stalagmites pierce every surface.
Leaves and buds burst from seemingly dead wood.
Butterflies abound, vivid, like dancing flowers
And waterholes shimmer amongst black lunar rocks.*

Sue Martin

3. Equip clergy and evangelists for the 21st century through training, better salaries and transport
4. Advocate people's rights and help protect the environment
5. Bring about unity, one family where tribe is not an issue

We have developed various actions to enable these things to become a reality. A friend of ours, Charles Burgess, who works with CPAS in training leaders, and visited in May, facilitated our clergy in putting flesh on these priorities. We will be laying these before the Area Council for their input, so the laity is also involved with what lies ahead. Now we have been removed from our old parent Diocese of Kirinyaga we must take responsibility for our God-given mandate, to take the gospel to all those within our borders, and to build up our own people. The key of course lies in the detail and in the ownership of our discussions by those who will have to fund and action them.

MOVING FORWARD

Becoming a Diocese is slowly moving forward. I attended the Synod of All Saints Cathedral Diocese, who are legally responsible for us, and they agreed with our proposal to be made a Diocese. They will forward our proposal to the Provincial Synod, which meets in September, and has the power to bring it about. There are various papers to be written (by me) and legal requirements to be met, including the approval of Kirinyaga Diocese, before that September date. Please pray that all will be ready in time. Also Sue and I go on home leave in August, so I won't be there to influence the actual meeting. Becoming a Diocese, whilst giving us full autonomy to govern ourselves, does require a greater willingness to shoulder the financing of our area, despite our poverty. The Province agreed to give us a sizeable

grant for three years, but we haven't seen a shilling yet this year! So can we afford to be a Diocese? The alternative is we will always be run from down country by people who have different agendas, their own challenges and see us as too far away. So our priority to better equip clergy and evangelists depends so much on our own long term stewardship.

CALLED

Mission and Transformation is what all Christians are called to, and we all face difficulties. The human soul seems willing to accept Christ, but reluctant to allow him to transform their lives. You see it in UK, we see it in Kenya. At a recent meeting of clergy and evangelists, they identified some problems here:

- a) Syncretism, mixing the old faith with Christianity, going to church one week but then going to the tribal "sorio" (sacrifice) the next.
- b) Reaching nomads who move from place to place and so cannot easily be disciplined.
- c) Nominalism, an inch-deep faith which doesn't affect the way we live. And we could add -
- d) A dynamic Islam that is pushing its missionary agenda especially in N. Kenya and on the coast. It has inveigled itself into the new draft Constitution, despite the so called separation of state and faith.

We have had five of our schools forcibly given Muslim head teachers without any reference to us, contrary to the law!

But mission continues. Yesterday, (4 July), I confirmed 25 people, including 10 Turkana women. I carried them in the landrover with their babies, from their remote village, Daaba, to the centre at Archers Post. They sang all the way – wonderful! Their church building is God given – a lovely shady tree - but they long for one with a roof to protect them from the harsh sun and the rain. They are also still suffering from the drought last year which robbed them of their livestock; and they continue to fear renewed insecurity from cattle rustlers. The next big mission is scheduled for Sololo in the North, a majority Muslim area, but not aggressively so. As for transformation - Kenya is still rife with corruption, the mainly Christian MPs demand ever greater salaries and tribalism is everywhere, hence our priority of fostering unity, where tribe is not an issue. The Government is trying to stamp on "hate speech", where politicians and businessmen stir up "their" supporters on a tribal basis.

PRAYER

For special prayer: Please remember Kenya, as a Referendum to pass a new Constitution takes place on 4 August. At a recent prayer rally in Nairobi, which turned into a "No" rally, grenades were thrown, six people killed and 100 injured. The Church is against the new draft, because it opens doors to easier abortion and because of the Islamic influence. If the draft passes we will be mocked, if it fails we will be blamed. Pray for wisdom as to the best way forward and for healing of the nation.

And finally we will be in UK from September to 20 October, visiting churches and friends. Please contact us: Sue's mobile 07968701244, Rob's 07807623140, but remember we can't do all the travelling!

Our Church itinerary is:

September

4/5 Chislehurst; 11/12 Ashstead; 15/16 Essex; 18/19 Ashover; 25/26 Gateshead and the North;

October

2/3 Broadwater, Worthing; 9/10 Frome and the West; 16/17 Woolavington; 20 We fly from Paris...

**If you can receive prayer letters via email please send us your email address.
If you are not receiving our monthly email updates and would like to, please let us know.**

PRINTED BY:

Crosslinks, 251 Lewisham Way, London SE4 1XF Tel: 020 8691 6111 Fax: 020 8694 8023 Email: pletters@crosslinks.org
Check for the latest news on Crosslinks mission partners and associates on our web site

www.crosslinks.org/mps