



Update from Maasai Outreach Mission (MOM) December 2020

Evangelism in the Midst of COVID-19

You are receiving this update because you supported the Maasai Well Project over the years.

It was a blessing to visit the U.S. in the fall of 2019 and winter of 2020 for speaking deputation and Mission 2020. Thank you to those who hosted me and allowed me to speak, preach, and provide an update on the progress of the well project and other initiatives.

Evangelism is one of the pillars in soul-winning and church planting. During the COVID-19 crisis, we've been able to open 16 churches as follows: four in Narok North, three in Kajiado West, three in Nakuru, three in Kajiado Central, two in Narok South, and two in Narok East.



We held our Annual Men Leaders conference from February 4th to 9th before the lockdown. One of our emphasis was on evangelism. We agreed that every leader ought to reach a minimum of 10 people with the gospel of Christ every month and bring them to church. This has impacted most of the families and the community at large. This has been evident from the increase in the number of members in most local churches. In March, COVID-19 caused everything to shut down in Kenya. With restricted travel, the inability to gather and sell

livestock in the market, the seminomadic Maasai remained home throughout the first six months of COVID-19.

The youth remained home because schools were closed. Men and boys tending to livestock remained in the area with their livestock, grazing and benefiting from the water wells. These wells have contributed towards greater food security, particularly at the three sites with greenhouses near the primary schools.

Pastor Isaiah Oripu, one of our local pastors, suggested we use this period to reach the youth with the gospel by organizing youth seminars since the schools were closed. This idea was put into action by the pastors and their youth leaders. They organized youth conferences and

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seminars which have been going on since mid-April. The main activities conducted during the conferences were prayer, fasting, and teaching of the word. The meetings are still ongoing since they are moving from one district to another. Many lives have experienced transformation, with 105 individuals giving their lives to Christ. We have also baptized 230 youth.

Thankfully, COVID-19 never reached the Maasai in the interior rural areas of Kenya. Maasai Outreach Mission leaders continued their rural evangelistic campaign visiting homes, preaching, and sharing the gospel while conducting trainings about how to mitigate the spread of the virus, and providing some food relief to the most vulnerable. MOM held socially distanced outdoor worship services and intense prayer meetings. The Spirit of God blessed our efforts and over 1,500 new believers committed their lives to Christ, resulting in 16 new church plants in 2020. With the support of our partnership with the RCA, MOM has now grown to 236 churches.



Maasai Youth Baptism

MOM Summary

We thank God for our partnership with the RCA which began in 2007. Our partnership started with the Maasai Well Project. The RCA responded to our request to join us in our church planting movement by assisting us in digging water wells, supporting primary education,



Maasai Church Building

pastors training, and scholarships for students and healthcare for underserved Maasai communities. When I started MOM in 1984, the vision God gave me was to reach the Maasai deep in the interior of Maasailand by contextualizing the gospel in a way that the people could understand and receive it while still embracing our culture and healthy practices.

With our partnership's holistic approach, long term development, and sustainable community development principles, MOM has shared the gospel in word and deed, resulting in significant growth in church planting. In 2007, we had 39 churches with about 3,000 members and to date, we have 235 churches with nearly 20,000 members. Our partnership has yielded the completion of nine deepwater wells, three greenhouses (with plans to install more at the remaining six well sites for food security), the building of two primary schools, the training of two primary school teachers (Joyce and Stephen), one lawyer (Serpepe), and one young lady (Evelyn) with a degree in communications who has become an advocate for girls rights and education issues. Also, via our collaboration with Christian Reformed Church World Mission, the Timothy Leadership (TLT) Training program, and the Theological Education in Africa (TEA) conferences, we've equipped MOM's pastoral leadership team with the skills to further train and equip others. This has sparked evangelism and ongoing church growth.

Sharing the gospel holistically in word and deed has demonstrated the love of God to Maasai neighbors and provided opportunities for MOM to share Jesus with many. The next phase of our partnership will include completing three more wells, the building of a clinic, and the implementation of a community health mobilization and evangelism program. One young lady, Miriam Nailos, is in her third year of medical school and will join the project when she completes her studies in four years. She still needs \$6,000 in scholarship support each year to complete her studies. I will share more about Miriam and her unique experience and call and desire to serve the Maasai as a medical doctor in my next letter.



Thank you for your prayers and generous support over the years which has made all of this possible. By God's grace, many more will come to Christ, and MOM's church planting movement will continue to grow exponentially, reaching deep into the interior of Maasailand.

Please pray for:

- Maasai facing eviction from Kedong Ranch, their ancestral land by the government
- A good rainy season
- Continued protection from the spread of COVID-19 as cases are on the rise in Kenya> Pray for the mitigation of its spread in Kenya
- Revival among the Maasai and continued growth and discipleship of new believers

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Simon Muntolol
Maasai Outreach Mission Church