



## Update from John Lokeno and Amos Limo Liang'or March 2022

Dear Friends of Alale Pokot,

New Year Greetings and Praise be to God!

We are glad for your faithful prayers and constant partnership with us. Jesus Christ has been good to us here, by giving us mercy and protection. He has been faithful in sailing us through the last year to this wonderful year of hope and determination. We have a lot of faith that He is and will continue to help us to fulfill our desires and dreams of expanding his ministry of serving our people holistically.

Below is an enumeration of what has been achieved from October 2021 to December 2022.

### Church and Community

Through an act of God, the place has received quite some rain for close to a week in January. This helped soften the characteristically hot, windy, and dusty January-March weather. The Pokots have migrated their herds to the side of Uganda where there is plenty of water and grass to avoid the challenges of the worst hunger we experienced in the year 2020 after the rain delay to come on time which caused the severe death.

As we begin this year, we ask you to pray with us for peace and stability since it is an electioneering period here in Kenya. The general elections are slotted for August 9. An election period in any country can mean many things and can bring far-reaching effects. The campaigning period alone can cause major negative shake-ups in the social lives of people, especially if politicians are not careful with the words and pronouncements they make in the campaign trail. Besides, it can affect the church in a great way, especially by causing divisions among Christians along political lines. Also, political activities, such as campaigns, can divert the attention of 'young' believers and cause them not to attend church meetings regularly. Such times as these require prayers so the devil does not get a chance to cause chaos and wreak havoc in the body of Christ.

Throughout the country, the costs of living have shot up. In and Alale community it is not an exception. This is due to a rise in the price of the commodities in the market, making life hard. The Pokot people had a poor harvest last year in the entire community. People had moved to the foot of Karasuk hills where gold mining was

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*AIC Alale Mission Station Main Gate. It was renovated last year in November, together with the nurses' quarters all at a cost of Ksh. 100,000 (1000USD).*



*Community members in a social function of a member of AIC Kalapata in November last year.*

taking place. Most of them flock there every morning to get their daily bread from the bedrocks. The work done there is tough. For one to get something he has to spend at least a day. Some even go for five days in the place to get something.

### **AIC Alale Church Dreams**

AIC Alale local church, the mother of the 23 planted local churches, was planted in the year 1980. It is now clocking to 42 years. The church began with five congregants worshipping under an acacia tree before construction of a semi-permanent, iron-sheet roofed house, which was serving the purpose of a church as well as preschool. The congregation grew slowly until the dream of building the current church arose. It served a capacity of 300 people for 30 years. It is now full, from the pew to the pulpit.

In 2018 when CCMP started, it opened the doors of good dreams. Members realized that the church capacity was full which led them to break the service into two. CCMP teaching motivated the church members when this question was thrown to the members, "What is a characteristic of the desired church

and the desired community you will wish to be in the next five years?" The question awakened the church to have a vision of building a cathedral. Immediately the church members engaged themselves in the contribution of family targets of Ksh. 24000 for men, Ksh. 12000 for ladies and Ksh. 6000 for youth. This was to be done in a one-year scheme but it extended to three years.

In December 2020, fundraising was done and totaled Ksh. 2.8 million (approx. 28,000USD) was raised. This is one-third of the money required to bring their desired church to completion. But as per the CCMP principle, that says dream big then start small. This will be enough to start construction work as soon as possible at the start of next month, God willing. The church members intend to keep mobilizing their resources until their dream is realized.

### **Health Centre**

Our health centre has been of great help in the community. It has been like a healing pool of Bethesda in the Bible where people get in for healing and go. However, the facility demands both financial and managerial attention to improve it to a high-level hospital for people to get specialized medical services. This is especially a critical need following COVID-19, which made the referral facilities like Matany in Uganda and Kapenguria inaccessible for patients with complications, such as deliveries.

The health facility had been facing the challenge of nursing understaffing. Our great appreciation goes to the RCA for helping sponsor our medical students for many years for the health facility. This has been of great help in staffing. However, they have not been able to hold at the facility for very long due to less salary we give compared to government facilities. Also, in the last month of December, our qualified accountant resigned from duty following low payment of salary compared to other intuitions. For a degree holder in accounting, the salary scale starts at Ksh. 50,000, while that of diploma person starts at Ksh. 20,000 to Ksh. 30,000. This is quite high compared to what we get to run the health centre. It is not sustainable. This month we employed a new accountant fresh from school, Mr. Silas Amori from the nearby community. He will work under probation for six months as he gets acclimatized to his profession before we approve him.

The magnitude of work in the health center has gone down for the last three months of the quarter and we praise God for healing his people. This has impacted our income, making us withdraw the savings we had to meet the deficit of the staff quarter salaries.

*RCA Global Mission does not receive denominational assessments or covenant shares. We depend on the faithful generosity of churches and individuals.*



*AIC Alale Church on January 1, 2022 New Year service.*

The health facility committee carried out repairs in the nurses' quarters' toilet, provided proper drainage, and emptied sewerage tanks for the first time after 10 years. The renovation of the main gate and the installation of security lights at the gate was also completed. These repairs cost Ksh 100,000.

With your continuous prayers, love, and support over the many years, we thank each and everyone who has gone beyond an extra mile to dipping in their pocket to support what God is doing via the Pokot project. We wish you all a very wonderful year in 2022. Receive many greetings from us and pray for us.

### **Prayer Requests**

1. Pray for good rains. East Africa has been experiencing severe drought. Thankfully, rains began in January but we need them to continue so we have a good harvest and can support livestock
2. Pray with us for peace and stability since this is an election year in Kenya. General elections are scheduled for August 9.
3. Pray for the Alale AIC Mother Church founded in 1980 and our CCMP motivated building project to expand the seating capacity from 300 to 1,000. We have raised 1/3 of funds (2.8 million Kenya Shillings, \$28,000) enough to begin the first phase of the project. We will complete this with local resources.
4. Pray for the grace, wisdom, and patience to address staffing challenges at Alale Health Centre. There is high turnover with good nurses, an accountant, and other positions because, as a faith-based NGO, our salary scale is not comparable to the competitive package of the government. Thus, scholarship support to train indigenous nurses to keep them under contract for 5-7 years is essential.
5. Pray for a new ambulance, 2022 Toyota Landcruiser. We need to raise an additional \$65,800 to purchase a much-needed new 2022 vehicle.

Yours in Christ,

John Lokeno Lochoge and Amos Limo Liang'or