

KUSOMA TU

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. Mathew 28:19-20



Since the February Chesitet update where we had just started putting things in place, the feeding programme went on and as it was the dry season we had between 30-40 women and around 40 children coming each day. The porridge was a great pull and we would literally have church every day. On Saturdays we run the children's programme and we were reaching about 100 children by week 6 which was exciting for the kids because we would do games and colouring which a number of children had never done before.



During this time we were teaching both groups Kiswahili as they only know one language which is Pokot. By the fifth week we had an incredible breakthrough as the Holy Spirit led us to different passages in the Bible which we used to evangelise and we ended up having 22 people giving their lives to Christ. We asked if they wanted to be baptised and 12 people did with the amazing thing being that they were youth and included one young man.

They were very excited! We taught them about baptism and according to their faith we baptised them in the river which was a miracle that there was water as it had just rained three days earlier. The ones who were baptised and the witnesses at the river were full of JOY something we had not experienced with them before. They were literally singing and dancing, it really was so heart warming and a blessing! And we could only say this was truly doing of the Lord and it was truly marvellous to behold!

"They were full of JOY something we had not experienced with them before"



The twelve young people who were baptised

The Lord brought us a local woman who knows the Lord and is grounded in the word and who was already baptised and praying for a church to start in the area. So we left Chesitet for a break at the end of March with a local fellowship being headed by this local woman. We have continued to hear of testimonies of how they have continued meeting and transformed lifestyles as a number of the women were drunkards and have now stopped drinking! Glory to God!

Another amazing thing is that because it had rained we started having teen boys who usually herd livestock and have to travel distances looking for feed, but because of the rain they did not have to travel far, they started coming for literacy classes which we will continue when we get back as there is clearly a hunger for literacy classes amongst these young people.

Pray for these new believers

1. That these new believers would grow in their new found faith and that the Holy Spirit would lead them in the knowledge of God the Father revealed through His Son Jesus Christ.
- 2.. Colossians 1:9-14

A brief history of Kusoma Tu's journey to Chesitet

Location: Tiaty (East Pokot), Baringo County, near the famous Kapedo where 21 policemen were killed in 2013.

Problem: Livestock theft among neighbouring communities. The government has set up a camp but the problem still goes on – of stealing animals and killing each other in the process.



Kusoma Tu's intervention:

Kusoma Tu is an organisation that started in 2011 and whose aim is to teach reading, especially to pastoral communities where illiteracy is high. The vision was to teach reading using the word of God, so they can read the bible for themselves.

Kusoma Tu has worked in schools and juvenile homes until 2017 where we felt we needed to develop our own reading materials, which we did. We created them in the form of books and videos, but could not publish due to financial constraints.

When Covid hit we couldn't go back to the juvenile centres due to the restrictions. The Lord God brought back the vision of going to the pastoralists communities. Through mutual friends Kusoma Tu partnered up with MeMa – Medical Missions Africa who work with nomadic communities in East Pokot evangelising through medical camps. In November and December of 2021, we went to Chemolingot a small town in Tiaty in Baringo County. We carried out a pilot reading project with some women and the reception was high.



First and foremost...

In January 2022, we then set out as missionaries comprising of Irene, Sophy, Miriam and Virginia. Irene leading the literacy programme, Sophy and Miriam carrying out youthwork and Virginia teaching the women tailoring, which proved a hit. Through tailoring there would be time for bible study and prayers. From the testimony of one of the women, "we decided to close our own shops and spend time here to have fellowship. As for the literacy programme we started with fifty people, from the African Inland Church who were interested. Through much challenge, by the eighth week of continuous reading, we had at least 5 people who could read the Pokot Bible – with atleast a few paragraphs by those who had never been to school. The other two missionaries took up youth ministry, especially in the 3 secondary schools near Chemolingot. There is so much hunger among the youth as well to learn the word of God. In the last six months we had been there through the school ministry about 200 souls committed their lives to Christ.



left to right - Miriam, Virginia, Irene and Sophy

"Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." Matthew 9:38

Back to Chesitet

When we started the mission, we were taken to different schools sponsored by Full Gospel. The Chaplain took us to different schools, but the one which shocked and touched our hearts was Chesitet. As mentioned earlier, this school was highly affected with the Kapedo incident. The parents took out the children from school and until this year there were no children. The headteacher started with 19 children and by the time we got there she had 57 children. The children were half dressed in torn clothes, others carrying siblings on their backs. They had not been to school, there is no church and they had never heard of the son of God called Jesus. To get the children to school, they must be fed. The government does have a feeding programme, but sometimes the food is not there. So when there is no food the children do not go to school, and miss out on formal education.

"They had not been to school, there is no church and they had never heard of the son of God called Jesus"

The chaplain prayed that these children at least will have some uniforms and clothes, a call we embraced. Virginia, who was teaching tailoring took it up and together with the women she was teaching tailoring and through Mema who raised funds for the materials, they were able to make 67 pairs of uniforms. By the time they were tailoring the uniforms, the children had increased to 120.

During this occasion the parents asked if they could have church- there is no church because according to the Full Gospel Church, it is expensive for them to send someone every Sunday to minister to their needy souls. Another reason is that it is insecure due to the livestock theft.

Virginia felt atleast she can do a Sunday school. So in June and July she would travel to Chesitet to do the Sunday school. The chief responsible for the area gave KusomaTu permission to use the un used clinic/hospital building if we want to stay there, which we are very excited about. There is no clinic, yet the building has been since 2018.



Joylins Story

This beautiful story is of a young woman who was forcefully married because her parents couldn't afford school fees. She stays quite a distance away from Chemolingot in a place called Churo.

She heard of the tailoring programme and asked for permission from her husband to attend. She left home and rented a place and Virginia taught and mentored her and in four months she could make a dress for herself, for her little daughter and sister. As a way of encouraging her, the charity Mema, donated a sewing machine to her.

When she went back home in July of 2022 she has reported that she is teaching women to sew and has started a kindergarten and is teaching Sunday school and going for evangelism.

This is incredible progress for someone who has only completed form 3 and is now awaiting further teacher training that Kusoma Tu plans to start in May of 2023.

Photogallery



Tailoring class in Chesitet - while others await their turn on the two machines



Saturday Bible Class - Children excited to colour and draw a bible story. None of them has ever held a colouring pen or crayon



Decisions being made for Christ



This gorgeous six year old walked miles with her sibling on her back for porridge



Irene washing clothes at the waterhole



Some of the young herders who started coming for the literacy classes



Irene sharing the word of God with some of the women and children



Everyday we had over fifty adults and children to feed.