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KUSOMA TU FOUNDATION

READING PERIOD!



Bumper Harvest, Chesitet Baringo.

"GOD GIVES THE GROWTH" - STORIES OF HOPE

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones well. We are doing well too, and though we continue to wait patiently for our Australian work visa to be processed, we take heart in knowing that our waiting is not wasted. We are still within the official processing times, so all we can do is wait, but as you know, waiting does not mean we are idle! The work of Kusoma Tu continues faithfully here in Kenya.
I am reminded of the words from ***1 Corinthians 3:6–8:***

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor."

It is such a comfort to know that while we do our part, planting, watering, praying and showing up, it is God who brings true growth and transformation. This truth has become so real to us in these past months. I hope these updates encourage you as much as they have encouraged us.

An Answered Prayer for a Pastor in Chesitet

Many of you have been faithfully following our journey in Chesitet. At the beginning of last year, we faced a distressing and unexpected situation when food provided by the government for the children at Chesitet Primary School was sold off by teachers. When the matter was brought to light, these teachers reacted with threats against both Irene's, our missionaries on the ground at the time, and the children attending our Open Schools programme. Because of this, we were forced to pause our work in Chesitet for most of last year, and we asked you to stand with us in urgent prayer.

We resumed work in Chesitet at the start of the year and even kickstarted off with Open Schools training for the ATC Lodwar team who travelled all the way from the most Northern part of Kenya, Lodwar to Chesitet. Irene Kiror also picked up where she left off, running the Open Schools programme as an after-school intervention to help children who otherwise receive little to no teaching from the government teachers. She continues mentoring young girls, many of whom are now young mothers in their teens, helping them find hope and strength to keep moving forward.

Every Sunday, Irene also leads a small church fellowship in Chesitet. And each night, she keeps watch over the many young boys who have turned the abandoned government clinic into their makeshift home. Every morning, these precious boys are given breakfast before heading to school.

Then, just last month, we received news that the headteacher of Chesitet Primary School had passed away after a long illness. In the face of this loss, the children themselves began praying earnestly that Lord would send them not just a new headteacher, but one who is also a pastor, someone who would care for their spiritual and educational needs with integrity and compassion.

How faithful is our God! When Irene met the new headteacher, she learned that he is not only a deacon in his church but also the assistant pastor at the Anglican Church of Kenya. The children were overjoyed when they heard this, that their simple, sincere prayers were answered in such a beautiful way.

This new headteacher has already expressed his deep desire to see the children in Chesitet flourish, beginning with receiving the education they have long been denied. He is passionate about transforming the school, nurturing the students, and strengthening the local fellowship. With his leadership, we believe a firm foundation for a church community will take root in Chesitet, and the school will finally have the guidance it desperately needs. Truly, we plant and water — but it is God who gives the growth!

🙏 **Please continue to pray:**

- That the Lord would strengthen and establish this new pastor's work.
- That he would shepherd the children and wider community with wisdom and grace.
- That this small but growing fellowship would become a light in Chesitet for generations to come.



Left: The new Headteacher/Pastor leading Sunday service at the Abandoned government Clinic that we use as both a classroom, church and home.
Right: Children enjoying a bowl of porridge after church.



A Miracle for Cheptoo

We have another praise report that has left us in awe and even the doctors astonished! Many of you have stood with us in prayer for Cheptoo, who has been struggling with an overactive thyroid that caused a large goitre on her neck. When she first began treatment to regulate her hormones, the doctors prepared us that it could take a long time because of additional complications caused by the imbalance.
Yet at her last check-up in May, the doctors at Kijabe Mission Hospital were amazed to find her hormone levels had already stabilised, far sooner than expected! This is nothing short of God's mercy at work. The next step is to schedule her surgery to remove the goitre. We are hopeful and trusting that the same God who has brought her this far will see her through to complete healing.

🙏 **Please stand with us in prayer for:**

- A smooth surgery date to be confirmed soon.
- Skilled hands to carry out the procedure safely.
- Full recovery and renewed strength for Cheptoo.

A Harvest of Hope — Transformation in the Community

When we first visited Chesitet a few years ago, very few families grew food crops, even though they had access to water from a donated solar pump. Most families relied almost entirely on livestock and food aid from the Kenya Defence Force.
We prayed and encouraged the community to see the potential of the land and trust God for the increase. This year, by God's grace, the region has experienced abundant rainfall. Many more families have begun planting crops alongside keeping livestock and they have just harvested a bumper crop of maize!
I was overwhelmed to see fields of maize growing where once there was barren land. Families who used to rely on food handouts are now feeding themselves and even storing grain for the future. This is God's growth in action, He is faithful!

New Growth in Literacy Work

We are also deeply thankful for how God is expanding the literacy work of Kusoma Tu. This year we partnered with ATC, who recently launched the Open Schools Programme in Lodwar and as per my last newsetter have been working mostly with adult learners. Even more exciting is that ATC now wants to roll out this programme to four more sites in Nakuru, West Baringo, and Kitale.
This is an answer to many prayers. For years, we have asked the Lord for partners who are working in their own communities to share the gospel but who need help with literacy resources. With this expansion, we can help more children and adults learn to read, write and open doors for the gospel to reach deeper into these communities.

🙏 **Please pray for:**

- The training of new volunteer cohorts in these regions.
- Strong partnerships
- Endurance and wisdom for everyone involved so that the seeds we plant take root and bear fruit.

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The entrance and playground of children at Samergo School - Huruma

Launching the Sparrow Project (part of TeachBeyond)

Another beautiful door the Lord has opened is the start of the Sparrow Project here in Kenya. I first heard about it during the TeachBeyond Africa Conference in South Africa in March 2023. As soon as I learned about it, I knew it could be a game changer for our many under-resourced schools here.
In Kenya, we have a large number of **APBET** schools *(Alternative Provision of Basic Education and Training)*. These schools serve children from marginalised communities; including urban slums, informal settlements, and remote areas who often have no other access to formal schooling.
The challenges they face are real:

- They lack formal recognition by the Ministry of Education, which limits their access to government funding and resources.
- Many struggle financially and rely on donations and small fees.
- They often have inadequate facilities, few resources, and untrained or undertrained teachers.
- Their future can feel uncertain because of these limitations.

The Sparrow Project is designed to come alongside such schools and strengthen them from the inside out.
This month, we trained four facilitators who will now be walking with 20 teachers from Uzima Educational Center and Samergo School Huruma, two APBET schools that previously reached out to Kusoma Tu for support. Over the next year, these teachers will gather for training a few days each month and more intensively during school holidays.

What is the Sparrow Project?

- A 6-unit teacher education programme that condenses a 4-year university degree into 34 engaging, creative lessons rooted in a biblical worldview.
- A 12-session school leadership programme that helps school leaders build strong foundations so that their schools can become beacons of hope in their communities.
- Practical training that equips teachers to integrate a biblical perspective into their teaching in culturally relevant ways, sparking transformation not only in their classrooms but also in their students' homes and neighbourhoods.



Inside a classroom in Samergo one of the Apbet Schools we are working with.

We believe with all our hearts that when the hearts of teachers and leaders are transformed by Christ's love, it overflows into the children they teach and the families they serve.

🙏 **Please pray for:**

- The facilitators and teachers to be encouraged, inspired, and equipped for the important work they do.
- Transformation in their classrooms and communities through this programme.
- Continued support for APBET schools as they stand in the gap for the most vulnerable children.

Publishing Local Literacy Resources — Stories for African Learners

Alongside this, I have personally been heavily involved in helping Kusoma Tu publish engaging, culturally relevant storybooks, word and picture cards, and literacy tools designed especially for our African context. I've unexpectedly become a part-time editor, working hard to complete our 26-letter sound book and resource series for literacy learners.
We believe these practical resources will greatly help improve literacy among our target communities, while also empowering parents, schools, and literacy champions to nurture a love of reading and learning in children and learners of all ages.

What We Offer:

✔️ High-quality, beautifully illustrated storybooks and educational resources.
✔️ Competitive prices, accessible to parents, schools, and community libraries.
Please pray that these resources will reach the families and schools that need them most and that many of our learners will discover the joy of reading and learning.

Thank you, dear friends, for standing with us, for planting, watering and trusting God for the growth. Your prayers, encouragement, and generosity are transforming lives in Chesitet and beyond. We remain grateful for every one of you.
May you be encouraged to know that in every seed sown whether in a field, a school, or a learner's heart — our faithful God is the one who gives the growth.

With deep gratitude and hope,
Wangũi

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PHOTO-GALLERY



Facilitators gather for Kenya's first Sparrow Project training, launching a new chapter of equipping teachers in under-resourced APBET schools with practical, Christ-centred tools to inspire transformation in their classrooms, homes, and communities.







To the left Irene teaches the first cohort of teachers from Samergo and Uzima Education Center. To the right Irene stands outside the school together with Ms Rose Waigwa founder of this APBET school.

At the bottom, here I am celebrating having Sam and Mark back for their Summer holidays.



Below: Giving thanks for Charlene who safely delivered a beautiful baby girl, remember she was the one married as a fourth wife to a 60+ old man at the age of 13 and lost her first baby.

R: Abigail Cheptoo standing in a field of maizem who is hardly recognisable from the video we shot of her in Oct 2023 before she started treatment for her thyroid.





R: The photo shows the only library books owned by the entire Samergo Primary school of 350 students. The box to the extreme right shows Kusoma Tus first literacy box containing books and word and letter cards.



