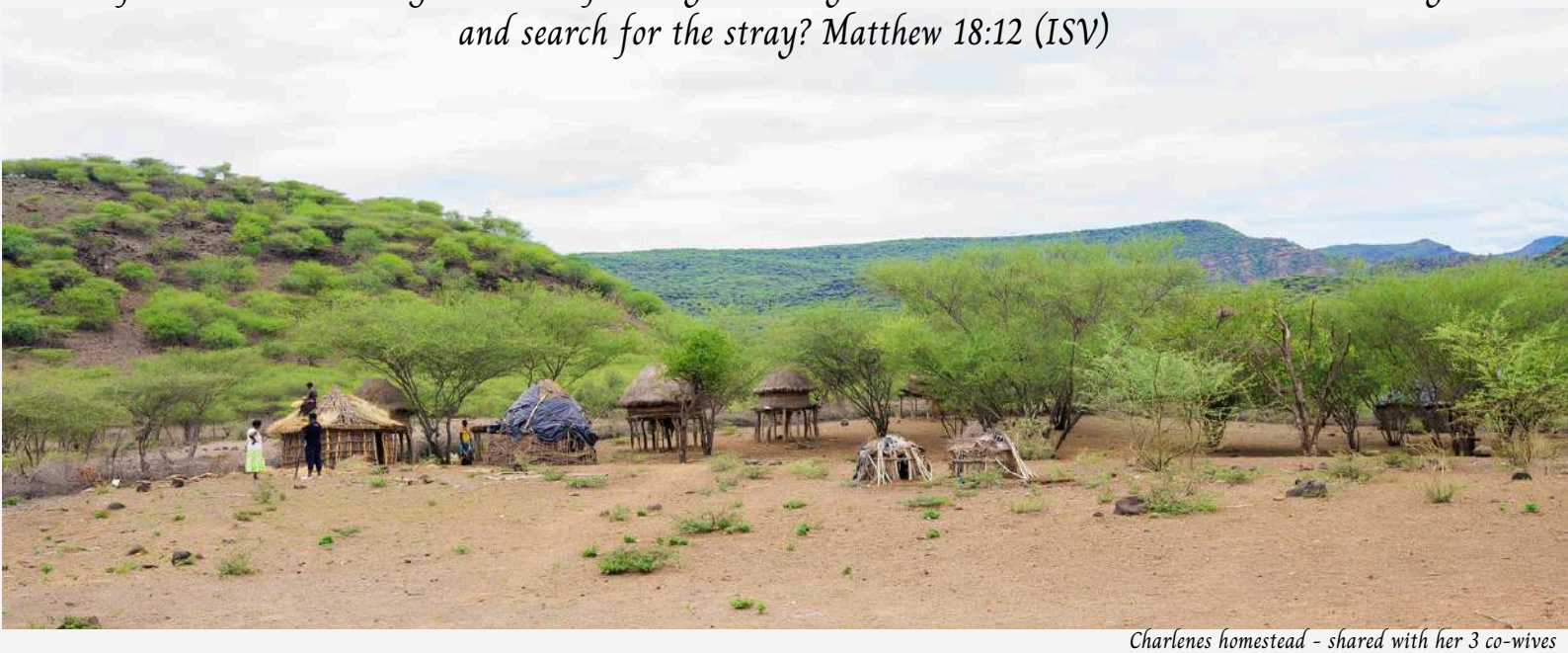
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KUSOMA TU

If a man has 100 sheep, and one of them goes astray, won't he leave the 99 on the hillside and go and search for the stray? Matthew 18:12 (ISV)



Charlenes homestead - shared with her 3 co-wives

Dear friends,

A number of you have been wondering what happened since my last urgent prayer request following the situation in which the food meant for the children at Chesitet primary was sold off by the teachers. Following the incident and the time we took to pray about the situation, things escalated further when two of the brightest boys were then moved to a boarding school further from the village. The headteacher and teacher involved in the food scandal were not happy about this and begun to threaten both Irene's. We then decided to raise these concerns with the appropriate authorities by writing a letter of concern to which we received a verbal response that was also threatening in manner.

During this time the children were warned by the teachers not to attend the Open Schools programme afterschool with threats of physical violence against the children if they were seen attending the programme. As a result of all this, we felt it wise to stop the Open Schools programme in Chesitet for now. Physically we will not be in Chesitet as we wait on the Lord for a longer solution to the multi-layered challenges facing the children in Chesitet.

We continue to however be vested in the children that we started working with and here I share some of the transformation stories we have witnessed and continue to watch with thanksgiving in our hearts.

Abigail Cheptoo

In November of last year, we shared the story of Abigail on the video from 7:44 (click here). Abigail at the time of the video shared the health challenges she was experiencing following the development of a goitre and we hoped in sharing her story that she would get some form of medical attention and indeed through the video the Lord did raise someone who saw Abigails plight and has took up the need just when Abigail begun to get quite unwell.

We are so happy to report that she is currently receiving treatment for an overactive thyroid and we are trusting the Lord that she will have surgery to completely remove the goitre at the end of this month and afterwards Abigail can then attend school.



Abigail attending a literacy class

Charlene

In the video we also shared Charlene's story. In the video you met a pregnant 14-year-old girl who is the fourth wife to an old man. Throughout the pregnancy, Charlene did not once receive any prenatal care and unfortunately after almost 10 months of pregnancy Charlene lost the baby and became quite unwell.

What is really tragic about the story is that if we had not insisted that Charlene receive medical care, she too would probably have lost her life as her husband was adamant that there was nothing wrong with her.
We are currently seeking help from higher authorities to rescue her and get her to school and we really really need your prayers on this.



Charlene at age 14 solely building a home for her and her unborn child

Kusoma Tu FOUNDATION

OPEN SCHOOLS WORLDWIDE
SERVING AT-RISK CHILDREN



Brighton, Peter, Brian and Joseph

These are four boys we have managed to take to a boarding school where they are now learning and receiving having proper lessons.
These boys came to our attention when we begun the Open Schools programme we noticed their interest in joining the programme and we encouraged them to go to school. Unfortunately, because of a lack teachers teaching them at the school we felt they were being wasted and so we decided to find a school where they could actually learn. And we are now so excited to report that the boys are literally thriving. Two of the boys (Brighton and Peter) are already leading the class after only one term in school. In my July 2023 newsletter I shared Joseph's story.

The sporting prowess of these boys especially Brighton is astounding everyone. At only grade 4, just last week at the divisional competitions, Brighton won the triple jump, high jump, relay and 200m races. Now he is the only student representing the whole division and going to Tunglebay for the district competitions against secondary school students all while leading his class academically!
What amazes is that all these boys would have been lost in the forest looking after livestock, killing others or been killed.



Brighton and Peter at their new boarding school.

Prayer requests for Chesitet continue be;

1. Pray for a responsible Head teacher and a Pastor.

2. Pray that the right authority in the government can take the case of the children of Chesitet.

Loiyangalani Marsabit County



From March 4th to 8th, the Kusoma Tu team had the honor of conducting training sessions for 50 volunteers and educators on the Level 1 Open Schools Programme, focusing on literacy and numeracy. This initiative took place in Loyangalani, situated in Marsabit County, approximately 570 kilometers away from Nairobi, Kenya's capital.

Nestled at the base of Mt. Kulal and along the southeastern shore of Lake Turkana, Loyangalani boasts a unique geographical setting. Lake Turkana, stretching nearly 300 kilometers in length and 50 kilometers in width, stands as the largest permanent desert lake globally. However, its alkaline water with high fluoride levels renders it unfit for consumption or domestic use.

Traveling by car to Loyangalani typically requires about 12 hours during the dry season. The town hosts a diverse population primarily consisting of four communities: Turkana, Samburu, Rendille, and El Molo. While the Turkana, Samburu, and Rendille communities predominantly practice pastoralism, the El Molo community thrives on fishing. Loyangalani serves as an oasis, harmoniously blending the nomadic lifestyles of these distinct communities.
Outside of Loyangalani however these nomadic communities live isolated in their villages looking after their livestock.

Open Schools level 1 Training of volunteers and teachers in Loiyangalani



Our target group of volunteer were students who had completed high school. Currently some of the schools in the town have many students with very few teachers. Some of the volunteers were already volunteering in schools and we hope that with more trained volunteers they can lend capacity to the schools.
The teachers also got to be receive training, which they really appreciated as it went towards their continued professional development.

Gumbaru Schools

The Catholic mission over the years has been running adult literacy classes (not just for adults but for out of school kids) which resonates with our vision to teach learners of all ages how to read and write.

The nun's running the programme were particularly appreciative as they had not learnt the new government competence based curriculum which is based on phonic reading. Through the Kusoma Tu and Open Schools programme we were able to give them more skills and tools to teach these learners.

Prayer requests

1. Volunteers who will the take reading programme out of Loyangalini to the surrounding communities who are quite isolated and in need of basic literacy.

2. More open doors to train more volunteers in the region.

Photogallery





2

Photos 1, 2 and 3 show delegates attending the Level 1 Open Schools programme in Loiyangalani.



3





'Left to right - Irene Kiror announcing team delgate prize winners, Myself outside a Turkana settlement



Esther hand lettering delegate certificates





On the road to Loiyangalani, it was a gruelling 13 hour drive. Myself on the right delivering training.



Homeschooling in the field



Me with a group of Turkana women