



Kenya

Kajiado Diocese

Urban Development
Programme, Nairobi

April 2021



CMSI Global Update

Dear Friends,

Greetings from CMSI! I'm delighted to bring you the latest update from our partners in Kenya.

Diocese of Kajiado

As a result of a third wave of C-19 cases in 2021, the Kenyan Government introduced a second lockdown on 26th March. This prohibited all movement by road or rail into or out of Nairobi, Kajiado and four neighbouring counties until further notice, and imposed a national curfew from 10pm to 4am. Large gatherings and in-person meetings of any nature (including congregational worship and livestock markets) have been suspended and schools closed. Many businesses within Kajiado town which depend on stocks supplied from Tanzania have also had to close.

This is causing severe and widespread hardship for marginalised Maasai communities in the Kajiado region, with many vulnerable families unable to obtain their daily food rations. There is a rise in child malnutrition and stunting rates as the school children who rely mostly on school meals for a regular source of daily nutrition now lack this.



Clergy are also suffering hardship as they depend on Sunday collections for their salaries and are now not being paid. In addition, five clergy are in hospital being treated for the virus, and are in urgent need of assistance for medical fees.



In response to these difficulties, **Diocesan Finance Officer David Osoi** (pictured) is organising a Development Department project which CMSI is supporting with a grant from Bishops' Appeal and help from link parishes. This will provide:

- Food relief parcels (maize meal, cooking oil, unimix porridge) distributed to approximately 600 of the most needy households in 12 remote areas of the Diocese (50 households per area);
- Financial support to assist 20 clergy/evangelists and their families and to increase morale;
- Financial support for sick clergy to meet medical bills, helping their families feel that they are being supported by the Church.

Please pray for David, Bishop Gaddiel and his team - that this project will go well, and that they will be empowered to conduct outreach mission through social development, so increasing the evangelism mission within the parishes.

Meanwhile Kenya received its first delivery of 1 million Astra Zeneca Vaccine doses in early March (through the Covax scheme supported by UNICEF). Although the vulnerable (those over 60, health care workers and people with underlying diseases) are being prioritised, the amount is a drop in the ocean when compared with the population of 54 million. There is also the difficulty of vaccine-hesitancy, made worse by reports from Europe about rare blood clots along with misinformation circulating online.

Urban Development Programme (UDP), Nairobi

In January, CMSI Mission Associate Isabelle Prondsynski wrote:

"Thanks to the support from CMSI link parishes, Antony Njoroge and I were able to buy lots of books to equip the newly built Centre of Excellence Youth Centre. These will give the youth plenty of entertaining, spiritual and educational reading materials (no textbooks - all these books are for broadening the minds). We are so grateful!"



A wonderful 'Reading Room' cross-cultural Bible study took place in early March, with 10 members of St Mark's, Dundela (many of whom had been planning to visit Kenya last year until the pandemic put all their plans on hold) and 7 partners from the UDP in Kayole, including Antony and 4 leaders from Tumaini African Foundation (TAF).

This was the first joint Bible study session between St. Mark's and their Kenyan link, facilitated by myself and Linda Abwa, with the participation of Louise Githire and Isabelle. Even at this time when we are challenged by the effects of C-19, Zoom made it possible for us to interact from continent to continent to share the Word of God.

The session was a challenge to Tumaini, using a portable Wi-Fi in anticipation of permanent electricity and Wi-Fi in their own premises. Antony managed the tech really well (with appropriate social distancing), helping the TAF group to discuss the Bible passage as a group, while the participants from St Mark's, CMSI and the UDP discussed together via Zoom with guidance from Rev Helene Steed.

Studying the passage from Matthew 14 about the feeding of the 5000 there were a number of insightful responses. Louise commented on the apparent smallness of the 5 loaves and 2 fish:

"We should not despise those little things we have ...the Bible study group at St Mark's, they are not a big group, but a small one, but the transformation they have made in Kayole is tremendous!"



Lynn Wilson (St Mark's) reflected afterwards:

"Wow, that was just fantastic this morning. I am blown away by how much we learned from a passage I thought I knew, and the amazing insights shared by our friends in Nairobi."

Hannah Nelson joined in with her mum Heather and said:

"I really enjoyed being part of the online meeting with our partners in Kenya, it was really fantastic and meant a lot to mum, too."

In April we learned that sadly C-19 infection levels in Kenya were running high, with hospitals full and ICUs, even in the private hospitals, 100 % occupied. UDP responded with a request for Emergency help, which CMSI was able to respond to (with support from link parishes, other supporters and the CMSI Covid-19 Response Appeal).

The project will provide:

- Food for the elderly and the children in the most affected households (maize flour, rice, beans, green grams, cooking oil and soap) in April and May;
- Bananas for the small children (who, thanks to another donor, already receive a mug full of uji porridge every day from TAF);
- One large cooking pot for the TAF energy saving stove;
- 20 sanitary kits from the Tujiinue Young Mothers which will provide the girls with sanitary protection and the Young Mothers with some work and income;
- Motorcycle transport for the elderly people to the most convenient C-19 vaccination centre - Mama Lucy Hospital - located some 5 km from the community.

With thanks and best wishes,

Roger Thompson (Partnership Coordinator)



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