

## Stephen and Angelina Cowan

Location: **Tuum, KENYA**

Mission: **Church-based community development and outreach**



Having established a small bible study and prayer time, one of the FOCUS (Fellowship of Christian Unions Kenya) volunteers working with SAA on a one-year basis was pleased by the commitment and progress of one young man. Then he stopped attending. It transpired that he realised adherence to biblical teaching would adversely affect his traditional marriage plans, even if somewhat in the future. He didn't want the conflict of making a decision between Christianity and culture. A SAA senior leader has recently taken that step of faith, encouraged by his Christian friends and a Samburu pastor, and has entered into a Christian marriage. For him the conflict is real as many are wondering when he will kill the bull and get 'properly married'.

For ten days during December there is 'beautiful chaos' as hundreds of children and young people attend the youth camps. The team from Nairobi were totally committed and well prepared for the teaching sessions, discussion times and afternoon games sessions. Their secular workplaces had given them experience in dealing with scenarios often hidden from church workers. However, many times they were still shocked by the behaviour and apathy they encountered.



The team from Nairobi who lead the youth camps



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*Go Deep Go Wide*

**February 2025**

Recently Stephen met with a group of moranis (warriors). Many topics were discussed openly and honestly. Traditionally these young men herd their animals over wide-open plains. As land is demarcated this lifestyle becomes more difficult. Cattle raiding continues and is very destructive in building trust between two neighbouring communities. Biblical values were introduced and contextualised and the Christian certainty of eternal life through Christ was shared. A few weeks later, three young men of similar age were killed during a raid. The visit of some political leaders brought financial help and sought to prevent further suffering in an inevitable revenge attack by speaking restraint into the situation.

Tuum Girls' Secondary School Form 4 exam results were very encouraging with many high grades and most girls achieving results which showed hard work and improvement. The commitment of the teachers and headmistress was enhanced by the 1 on 1 tuition, especially in maths, by the FOCUS volunteer.

### Prayer Points:

- Give thanks for the teams who teach God's word faithfully at the various camps. Pray that the young people would be impacted by a heart change and that they would desire and enjoy the true freedom of living within their heavenly Father's instructions.
- Pray for internal strength and encouragement from the Christian community for those who are living out their faith.