

Stephen and Angelina Cowan

Location: **Tuum, KENYA**

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



Dusk had almost given way to darkness, and the river glistened in the headlights as it flowed, wide but shallow, to the distant bank. The landrover eased into the water and immediately became stuck in a deep hole hidden under the surface. Some of the passengers had already crossed to the opposite bank to gather stones to lodge under the wheels, while a few were mid-stream, when the first surge of water 'came from nowhere'. Everyone reached the banks safely but the luggage was quickly swept away in the, by now, raging torrent. In Tuum we began receiving videos of the situation. The nearby Catholic mission generously provided food and accommodation. It continued to rain. Having loaded up with tow bar, ropes and willing helpers, Stephen, at first light, drove the 4 hours to the river. Together with many people from the village of Barsaloi they created a dam, dug down, and 24 hours after its entrapment, managed with the help of 2 other vehicles to extricate the landrover from the deep mud. It was a sorry sight but everyone agreed it was a miracle that there still existed a vehicle to be pulled out!

Earlier in the week, Gareth's journey to Tuum was much less eventful. He writes:

"I returned to Tuum a year after I had first visited to conduct field testing of the iTeach App (iteachapp.com). With the lessons learnt implemented, iTeach was released to the play store in November 2023. Since then it has been used by Ibrahim the adult literacy teacher in Tuum, to teach adults how to read. What has been interesting for Ibrahim is that his students are persevering using iTeach, whereas before they were giving up on the traditional literacy classes.

The students take the lessons home on their smart phones and work at their own pace, repeating them as many times as necessary, seeing and hearing the words on the app in their heart language. I also trained 20 community health volunteers to use iTeach to create health lessons which can be transferred around the community, empowering the community to help themselves. It is exciting to see both students and teachers realising the potential of iteach. I hope to return soon".

A few days later when returning with Gareth to Nairobi we crossed the same riverbed and marvelled at the now 'small puddle' that had caused such problems. Many visitors and much rain provide variation to the regular pattern of life and work. Monthly seminars, bible teaching classes at school and morning devotions with the SAA employees are constantly used to share God's overwhelming love for us and His interest in all parts of our lives.



Prayer Points:

- Give thanks for the widespread growth of grass, and pray that the seeds being harvested out on the plains will grow well when planted out.
- Pray for wisdom and safety for all SAA drivers who have much responsibility placed upon them. The roads are unpredictable and rough and often insecure and dangerous.
- Give thanks for the team of 11 young people who have just arrived from 'Generation Impact' - a discipleship training school - and that their leader's 'river experience' during his recent trip didn't dissuade him from allowing them to attend their 4 week placement.
- Pray for ongoing planning towards deputation in the autumn.