

Gary and Mary Reid

Location: **Olkinyei, KENYA**

Mission: **Church planting and Scripture distribution**

June 2024



Rain, which is usually a cause of sincere thanksgiving within our area as its welcome presence brings hydration to an oft-times parched and sun-scorched land, has conversely been a cause of sorrow, and not least to some within our church family and community who hold such a special place within our hearts.

With unrelenting and unwavering force, the steady, heavy rainfall has been buffeting areas of Kenya, and parts of Maasailand were not exempt. Severe flooding and landslides impacted different areas, and the devastation was most acutely felt in the shocking and unexpected loss of life.

Tragically, near to where our children attended boarding school, at least fifty people died when a landslide's destructive progression forcefully overwhelmed all in its path and this unexpected calamity caused immense distress and anguish, as fatalities, injuries and destruction of homes, property, livestock and infrastructure became increasingly and painfully apparent.

Closer to home, the intense rainfall induced perilous flooding, and, to the immense sorrow and agony of loved ones and the wider community, two men's lives were tragically taken away. Amid deepest sadness and anguished grief, our Beloved's children looked, and continue to look, to Him in this time of bereavement. In such times, God's precious, beautiful and flawless words of treasure reflect their intense meaning with clarity.

"For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and He has not hidden His face from him, but has heard, when he cried to Him." Psalm 22:24

With distress of heart, sorrow of soul, anguish, pain and brokenness, our compassionate Saviour can not only sympathise but empathise with His suffering children. He is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

These are trying days, but through these days our LORD is revealing more of Himself and showing that He doesn't abandon or forsake His children, but goes before them making a way, taking them by the hand and telling them not to fear for He is the One who helps them, whilst walking and talking with them, or whilst silent, but ever-present. He draws with gentle cords, gathering His precious lambs up in His arms, and not least when all strength has failed them, they are in distress and their hearts throb. It is only His love that can reach into the depths of their grieving hearts and mend their broken souls.

Prayer Points:

- Please pray for those who have experienced intense sorrow and grief over these last few months.
- Pray that those who don't know our LORD will come to know Him as their personal Saviour.
- Ask that our LORD's children will know His unfailing love, and His Holy Spirit's comfort, as He has indeed seen their affliction and knows the anguish of their soul.
- May our Beloved bring cheer in the darkness and hope in the gloom, as only He can, and may He continue to be glorified, honoured and praised.