

The Methodist Church

Helen Moorehead, Mission Partner, Kenya, December 2007

Marimanti News

Issue 6

“Make sure you have plenty of supplies in,” warned my next door neighbour a few weeks before the rainy season started. “We can be cut off in Marimanti for two or three months.” It was good advice because when the rain started in October there was no way I could negotiate the road between Marimanti and Meru (even in the dry season it can be a problem).

Living in a very rural setting for a few months in the rainy season can be quite an experience! There is very little sun during the day so in the evening the solar power is limited. Most evenings we only had light from the solar for about two hours and after that it faded away. I soon learned to hurry up and get everything done within those two hours---- reading by candlelight is not to be recommended!

Also the rain drives so many creatures out of their homes and into the house. Scorpions, snakes and rats were some of the visitors I had during the last few months. I really thank God for His protection because to have been bitten by any of these creatures would not have been very pleasant.

However, whatever difficulties the rain may bring, everyone is glad to see it because it means there will be food for the following year. Also Marimanti, which is usually so dry and dusty, becomes green for a few months. At school we planted 66 trees around the boundary of the compound, which hopefully will provide shade for the hearing-impaired pupils who will study there in the future.



The senior boys from Kamatungu Primary helped us and above you can see them all busy at work.

Elections

Having lived in Tharaka for a year now, I understand a little better why it is designated as a ‘hardship’ area. Apart from the extreme climate, the rough roads and the mosquitoes, there are very few secondary schools and very few clinics. Often pregnant ladies are wheeled 20-30 kilometres in a wheelbarrow to the cottage hospital at Marimanti. A number of them die on the way. The government has allocated quite a lot of money for the development of this region, but unfortunately corruption is widespread in Kenya and money does not always reach its intended target. On the 27th December the country will go to the polls to elect a new government and a new President. Let us pray that people of integrity will be elected; people who will work for the development of the country and the well-being of the people.

School Life

Despite the rain the building work at the school has continued. We had a busy time in

September getting all the building materials transported to Marimanti before the road became impassable.

However, in October we were able to celebrate the laying of the foundation of the first dormitory----by slaughtering a goat!



Here the workmen are enjoying the feast.

When I was leaving Marimanti at the beginning of December for the Christmas holiday, the builders were roofing the first dormitory (for girls) and they had laid the foundation of the second dormitory (for boys). We praise God that the money has come in for the completion of both these dormitories which, if all goes well, should be around the end of March. Indeed we serve a faithful God.



We are hoping to admit ten more deaf children at the beginning of the second term 2008 (1st May) and then a further ten in January 2009—and so on each year. Ten is the optimum number for a class of hearing-impaired children.

This term we admitted our first girl---Rebecca. She had completed a year at a school for the deaf in Nairobi but her parents had had to withdraw her as they couldn't afford the transport cost. She has fitted in very well with the boys and the competition between them all is very strong, as the boys are determined that a girl is not going to do better than them!!!



It is very encouraging to see these children develop both educationally and socially. They are a pleasure to teach and it is a privilege to share in God's plan and purpose for their lives.

Next year, when we take in more children, we will have to appoint housemothers, watchman, groundsman etc. and the area of responsibility will be much greater. We will also have to start the process of getting the school registered so that we will be eligible for funding from the government for the upkeep of the school. Probably there will be quite a few requirements that we will have to meet before that process can be completed. I would really value your prayers for wisdom in all the decisions that will have to be made in the coming months.

Holidays

School closed for Christmas on 30th November. This is our long holiday as the school year starts in January. I am hoping to go to Mombasa on the 19th December to spend Christmas with my friend Meg, who works at the Theological College there.

I would like to thank you all very much indeed for your support during the past year, especially your support in prayer.

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Give Thanks

- For God's protection and provision during the months when I was cut off due to the rain
- For good neighbours who ensured that I didn't go short of food when my supplies ran out
- For good health
- For good friends at home and in Kenya who are there to encourage when the going gets tough

Please Pray

- For continued good health and safety on the roads
- For wisdom in all the decisions that have to be made in the coming year
- For the energy, enthusiasm and motivation to keep going despite the obstacles and disappointments
- For the Methodist church in Kenya which is greatly in need of spiritual renewal
- For the new government which will be elected on 27th Dec
- That I will be a channel of God's love to all those I meet