



## February 2017

Dearest partners,

***"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." Genesis 3:15***

Beginning December last year, I have been staying with a bunch of four other young people. We read the Bible together for an hour every evening, and we began at the beginning: Genesis. As we have been reading through, the gospel promise of 3:15 has firmly struck me, chiefly because of how strong a pointer it is to the Lord Jesus Christ, who we serve, and that he will crush the serpent's head. Fulfilled at the cross, the serpent's head is crushed. What an encouragement this is, whenever we face attacks. It is finished!



iMarika youth camp happened in December and we had 254 young people attend from across the vast diocese. Three girls from Leparua spent three days getting to the camp and three boys from Kargi spent two whole days on the road waiting for a vehicle to come by and were only lucky on the third day. It was epic, in every way, and we had over 10 tribes represented. Our theme, "Steadfast 24/7", was pushed through, and the book of Daniel brilliantly exposed. The diocese gave us excellent support and the bishop spent

two days with us. It was, however, very draining and though I did really try to delegate, I still overworked myself, getting extremely fatigued towards the end of the camp and, by the time it was all over, I was down for a week. This meant that I couldn't travel the long distance home to be with family over the Christmas break. Many commitments were made for the Lord Jesus during camp and there have been very good reports from churches on renewed zeal and passion in the youth groups after camp. They can't wait for the next one, 18-22 December 2017.

I also had a golden opportunity, many thanks to Christ Church South Cambs who paid for me, to attend the Living Word Uganda conference in Kampala, where I also did a talk. I tagged along four young people and we



were deeply encouraged. The students I went with learnt so much and are quite keen on returning next year. One of them is now doing trial expositions using skills learnt at the conference and sending them for feedback, which is deeply encouraging. And, just like last year, Living Word Uganda always feels like a Cornhill refresher, and I'm so grateful to be able to attend. A great way to start the year indeed!

Beginning this month, the bishop has asked me to assist the provost at the cathedral. Since the diocese is understaffed, they are forced to ask a few people to take multiple roles. Being a curate at the cathedral is a difficult job in its own right and I have to try not to act as one. I am just attached there at the moment and will only get involved inasmuch as it doesn't interfere with my youth work. I am also down for ordination on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 at St. Peters Cathedral Marsabit, something we've been thinking and praying about for some time. The big concern, even here, is that these things, though good, might interfere with the work going on in the youth department. Ordination, however, opens several other important doors for ministry in an Anglican church setting and joining the cathedral staff would definitely help me have substantial influence in the youth and children's work there.



Like I have mentioned previously, I regret that I haven't been very involved with outreach as much as I should in a mission front like this, and so I purposed to intertwine my youth ministry with outreach. Our theme this year is, "Growing deep, reaching Out" and we want to deliberately integrate every youth event with an outreach opportunity. We have a team, we have the sound equipment (to which we have added brilliant microphones and a superb generator) and we're by all means on the go. These last two weeks we've done open air evangelisms with great impact,

under God, in Karare and Laisamis and we're headed to Turbi, then Badassa and Bubisa. Leon, my brother who is a good instrumentalist, will be joining the team at the end of the month as he thinks of the options available to him, having not done very well in his national exams last year.

Kenya is currently faced with a serious drought, which the government has declared as a national disaster, and Marsabit is most affected. We didn't have much rain last year and when it did come it was very late, so crops failed. The story is repeating itself with devastating effects. It is not only extremely hot in most parts of the diocese, but also very dry. Water has become gold and those who have it are making a kill by selling it exorbitantly. Last week, I visited a village 100km from here to assess the situation: the whole area stinks with numerous carcasses scattered everywhere. It's something akin to the plagues, as someone pointed out. There are signs of rain in the last 2 days, and it has rained in some parts of the country, and we only hope it gets to us as soon as possible.



#### PRAYER POINTS

- Thank God for a successful youth camp in December and for Living Word Uganda's ministry.
- Please pray for me as I join the cathedral staff and prepare for ordination.
- Please pray that I will grow in my love for God's word and faithfulness to it and that I will remain servant hearted.
- Phil Parker, my minister at St. Andrews Frimley Green and Mytchet, is visiting 17 to 29 April, 2017. Pray that this would be fruitful and deepen our partnership in the gospel.

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