

Dear Friends, 14-Feb

We are grateful to those of you who have contributed to our loss sustained when we were robbed in late December and continue to pray that the Lord will restore and use for good what the enemy intended for harm. However, in comparison, the suffering of the Maasai people is far worse than anything we have ever personally known.

It is with much pain and hurt that we write today concerning the current plight of the Maasai people in many areas where CMF works in Kenya. Our CMF-Maasai Team Leader, Dan Crum, recently visited in Kajiado District to receive a first hand report of the drought situation there. The older church leaders who can remember 45 years ago (and several droughts since then) reported that, "This is the worst drought since 1961." A brief version of Dan's drought report follows at the end of this email.

Rain is life in Kenya, and without it, life changes drastically or stops; and most "normal" everyday activities come to a halt. Also, due to very limited reserve resources, it takes the people and country of Kenya much longer to recover from disasters such as this than it does in America and other developed countries.

Narok district is not quite as bad, but conditions there are worsening daily. However, this area does seem to get more attention and aid from the government and outside relief agencies. This may be due to its larger population and also having the Maasai Mara Game Preserve, one of Kenya's top tourist destinations, located in Narok District. As Dan's report indicates, we will continue to monitor the situation in that area as well.

While many desperate acts are taking place, there is hope among believers in Jesus Christ. Even in the midst of much suffering, many Maasai Christians continue to praise God and look to Him as their provider, sustainer, and the One who will bring relief from drought. A pastor from Kajiado District recently told me, "If Jesus is coming back now, then we are ready; even more than ready."

Please join us in praying for:

- * RAIN! Now! Throughout Maasailand and Kenya in general. Even in Nairobi, water supplies have been cut back and rationing has begun with water being distributed to the various areas of town for only 1/2 the time that the mains are usually on.

- * Continued joy and perseverance for Maasai believers in the midst of immense hardship. Ask God to use this situation to bring hope to those in despair and lost without the hope of eternal life found in Jesus Christ. Pray that His church in Maasailand will minister in word and deed to those who are desperate and boldly proclaim that hope.

- * Wisdom for our CMF-Maasai team, Maasai Drought Coordinators, and other church leaders as they assess the situation and oversee aid distribution in their respective areas. Only 3 CMF families are on the field now with one single man on furlough; so we are dependent on the National church in Maasai to carry out relief efforts.

- * Pray that relief efforts carried out by CMF and Community Christian Church (CMF-planted national church in Kenya) would be above reproach and corruption. Pray against corruption in all relief efforts for the people of Kenya; this has been a problem with some government efforts as relief food and supplies are "diverted" for sale to line the pockets of corrupt

individuals running the programs.

May each of you be blessed for your generous partnership in the Kingdom work among the Maasai people. We are grateful for your prayers, encouragement, and support.

Lynn & Dori

KAJIADO DROUGHT 2006

The Maasai Report

9 February

This is the worst drought since 1961. There are no areas to which livestock can be driven for grass, so some people have driven their remaining cows back home to die so as to eat what little meat there still is and then sell the hides for \$3 each. Sheep & goats (both much more drought-resistant than cows), and donkeys (that carry water for many people) are also dying. Zebras can be seen dead by the roadside.

People are increasingly desperate. Three have committed suicide; others have tried, because their family has lost their entire herd of cows. Of those still remaining with cows, they are losing hope fast. One church leader told me, "Forget the cows. They're gone (dead). Let's talk about the people, very young and very old, that are dying." Another church leader said, "I have no where to send my cows for grass or water. They will die along the way. I really have no idea what to do."

Many students have not reported to secondary school as planned because their family's wealth (cows) has vanished. My best guess is that 80 kids in the areas of Kajiado where CMF works are now at home, instead of school where they want to be, because their family's cows are dead or worth next-to-nothing.

Food costs are skyrocketing; 300% higher on maize (corn), potatoes, and cabbage. Other food items are just not available at times, at any cost.

So far the only ones receiving any consistent help are the public schools, who get food from the government to cover student lunches. Otherwise, no one seems to be responding to the needs in Kajiado where CMF works; at least not yet.

URGENT NEEDS:

1. Food
2. School fees for kids to go to secondary school

NEEDS ONCE DROUGHT BREAKS:

1. Re-stocking of cows, sheep, and goats

As of today, there is a simple plan in progress by CMF:

1. We have already distributed money to one school for 159 student lunches in February and March. This school is not covered by the government program as they are still in process of building their school and getting it registered.

2. Jackson Mengati, manager at CMF's Kajiado Training Center (KTC) is overseeing one coordinator from each area where CMF works to assess the need for assistance and oversee distribution of aid. These Drought Coordinators will come up with a plan of how to address the needs of people in their area for one week, including: amounts of food, transport, and cost estimate. This will give a good idea for determining the course of action to be taken.

3. Drought Coordinators will enlist church leaders in their respective communities to help with organization of the community and distribution of food.

CONCLUSION: This is a bad one. It will take a lot of resources to sustain people and help them rebuild afterwards. Narok District is not quite as bad, but they aren't too far behind. We can anticipate low attendance at courses, high numbers of patients at the clinics. It is a constantly evolving situation.

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