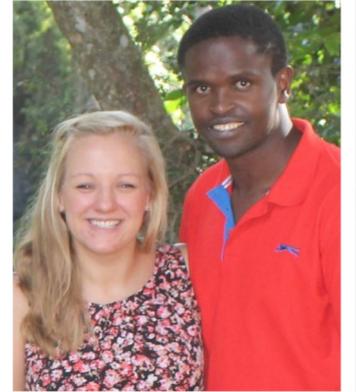


# MARCH 2019



Dear friends,

We are grateful to have started our third TransformD programme. This year we have 27 young people mostly aged between 18 and 21. This is double what we have had before! We are excited to have more people involved but having a larger group brings new challenges.

Our programme involves teaching sessions, particularly on the Gospel of Mark during the first phase (five weeks) as well as small-group bible study in Ephesians, personal devotions in Genesis and group morning devotions in the minor

prophets! So they are spending a lot of their time looking at the Bible. We also have a day every week dedicated to prayer and fasting. For life skills they are working on basic computer skills, farming and first aid. They are learning cooking and cleaning through their duties. The first phase is an interesting one because they are learning our ethos and standards, getting to know each other and getting to grips with the basics of the gospel to make sure we are all on the same page. Starting off well should make the rest of the programme easier as we have been setting the foundations that the rest of the programme will be built upon.

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*Bible study in Ephesians*

We have been happy to see how the group is getting along and generally the attitude they have. Being a larger intake has meant it has taken longer to get to know them and to get them settled as a cohesive group but we can already see significant change. We can be encouraged to pray Paul's prayers in Ephesians over them - ***'I pray that you being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.'*** Ephesians 3:17-18.

We are also very excited to report that three young people have committed their lives to Christ for the first time and others are visibly growing in their commitment. This is such a crucial time for them and we are happy that simply studying the bible for themselves has meant that the Holy Spirit is impacting their lives.



*Practical life-skills – digging!*

As many of you know we are awaiting twins which we hope will arrive early in April. They should actually arrive when the team is away in Samburu so that means this year the mission trip will have to be managed without either of us physically there. Often this is the most life-changing aspect of the whole trip as they serve in a new environment and very much out of their comfort zone, particularly leading the children and youth camps followed by village evangelism. Please also remember us during that time and beyond as we get to grips with having two new lives to look after. Obviously, Louise will be away from the programme and Gerald will likely be sleep-deprived and distracted! But we do pray that the programme will continue well and that the team effort will mean the young people will not miss out on anything because of this big change for us.

In the second phase, beginning 4 March, we will be continuing with the study of the Gospel of Mark and the group bible study will be in Colossians. We will also have some practical sessions to prepare for the Samburu mission. We have found that preparing them on public speaking, leading games, practicing songs and the specific preaching they will do (where they are given feedback from their peers and continue to improve on it) has made a noticeable difference to how well prepared they are to lead when they reach the camps in Samburu. We also teach sessions on cross-cultural mission and evangelism, which they can apply on their trip as well. Then the third phase takes place in Samburu. The anticipated dates are 5 April – 6 May.



*Brian reading the Bible*

### Prayer points

- Please pray for our young people - for each of them to grow in knowledge and to each have their lives deeply rooted in the love of Christ.
- Please pray for Peter (intern), Alex and Anisia (second-year ministry apprentices) who are working alongside Gerald for the rest of the programme. Pray particularly for evenings and weekends where there is less structure compared to day-to-day; for those in charge during those times, for patience, wisdom and perseverance.
- Please pray for us particularly as we wait for the twins, for a safe arrival and for us as we adjust to the new lifestyle and the demands that baby twins will put on each of us.
- Please pray for the young people as they prepare for the Samburu mission trip. Pray for Maggie (who has lead with us twice previously), and the other leaders in particular. Also pray that God will use the trip to challenge each of our young people.



*Preparing dinner!*