



June 2018

Dear friends,

It is hard for us to believe that TransformD finished for this year on 9 June! We have had a wonderful time together. Our trip to Samburu County during April seems to have been a highlight for all participants. Two of our 14 members come from Samburu and have grown up going to the children's and youth camps which we went to run - so many people commented on how much they had both



The whole team in Samburu

changed and grown. Samburu culture is a culture fairly oppressive to women with polygamy, early marriage and FGM all still incredibly common. Our female participant was frequently at the front translating and keeping order and people were amazed at the confidence she had gained with us in just a few short months. During giving her testimony Vivian told everyone she had always been sitting at the back and wasn't overly interested in the teaching, but now she believes the message fully and wants to always be sitting in the front row. Do pray that her enthusiasm will continue!

It is a real challenge to share the gospel in a community where many of the traditional practices are contrary to what the Bible teaches. Young people who have accepted Christ often find strong resistance within families who don't believe. It is easy to think when going to somewhere that is still steeped in tradition that you have to start at the very beginning but these camps happen three times per year, every year - so many of the young people have a good grasp of various aspects and themes within the Bible and they definitely know the gospel. Our hope and prayer is that some came to faith and others deepened in their knowledge and commitment to Christ. We did our



Gerald with local friends

best to play a small part in God's story with each of them.



Brian addressing the youth camp

It was wonderful to see our own members preaching and leading from the front. In our preparation they had practiced their preaching and given each other feedback which helped them feel prepared. In pairs they managed groups of around 45 children (300 in total). They built relationships and also built confidence in leading games, singing, craft and teaching sessions. Several said they

wouldn't have thought of doing children's ministry but now see they could prepare, lead and enjoy doing so. We are encouraging them to look for ways to serve like this in their own churches in the future. Preparation and solid bible teaching are quite often absent in Sunday Schools around Kenya, so we can see evidence that they have been positively influenced to be thorough and make sure they convey the message of their lesson accurately. The youth camp had about 80 young people; the majority were boys and many were the same age as our group. They managed to lead really well in what was quite a daunting experience.

We want to pray that these words of Psalm 40:5 would be the mind set of our young people: **'Many, Lord my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us. None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare.'**

In the final few weeks with us, Louise has been teaching basic computer skills on a projector and then they have a bit of time during the week to complete tasks to practice those skills. We have also taken them through the covenants of the Bible. They have had some time to read biographies of famous Christians and have been giving book reports. We even had a day of prayer and fasting including prayer walking around Kikuyu town.



The greenhouse (480m²)

A greenhouse has been erected within iServe grounds - TransformD planted 737 courgette seedlings so in a few months we hope to have a bountiful harvest to sell! After courgettes we are hoping to plant tomatoes. Through iServe connections we have an advisor who manages greenhouses for her personal business so it has been very helpful to have her input and support in this new venture. We are still continuing with farming potatoes and kale outside of the greenhouse.

We will be in the UK for most of September and October - our next couple of months involve some resting, visiting a project in Marsabit (rural Kenya), co-ordinating the work in the greenhouse and participating in the August mission month our church is having. Particularly for Louise this means co-organising and running another holiday bible club (one of her favourite things to do!) Gerald will visit high schools and churches to promote TransformD so people become more familiar with it. We will also have a visiting church team and several individuals coming to visit iServe.

Thank you, as always, for your prayers and partnership. We look forward to visiting the UK soon.

PRAYER POINTS

We are grateful to God for:

- The progression of this second programme of TransformD, for Maggie, Barnabas and Naomi who have helped us in leading the programme. Also the way other iServe staff have understood the aims and participated fully.
- The growth we have seen in the young people in so many ways, their faith, and their commitment to Christ as well as practical skills they have developed.
- The new greenhouse being erected and the benefit it will bring.

Please pray for:

- The girls: Juliet, Anitah, Favour, Hildah, Faith, Roseline, Vivian, Shirley, Anastacia.
- The boys: Bosco, Danson, Michael, Brian and Sammy.
- That as they begin to pursue their next step that God would lead them and hold them close. Particularly those who are unsure of their next steps, where finances will come from, or where they can find work.

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