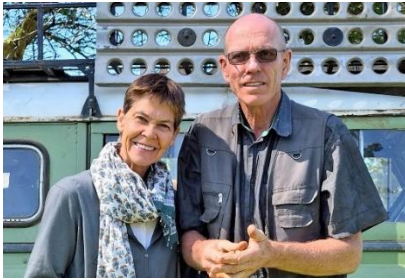


## Stephen and Angelina Cowan

Location: **Tuum, KENYA**

Mission: **Church-based community development and outreach**

**April 2026**



March was a month of landings and lift-offs. The volleyball net was removed, the weighted posts shifted aside, and the 60 nursery school pupils were kept at a safe distance as the first helicopter landed. The second helicopter was directed to the open space outside the SAA compound gates. An international reconnaissance team was visiting to assess the viability of using the facilities for medical camps later in the year. The team members, together with the pilots, joined us on the veranda for a quick cup of coffee, muffins and vegetable samosas. After reviewing the available accommodation and meeting staff at the village health centre, the team boarded their helicopters in preparation for departure. As the blades spun noisily into action, the downdrafts creating a sandstorm in the vicinity, the aircraft lifted gracefully into the air and normality soon returned.



A week later we travelled to Nairobi to meet up with friends who had just flown in, and to catch up with others who were about to fly out. We also attended what was billed as *'an extraordinary conservation talk on one of Kenya's least known landscapes, the Suguta Valley.'*

Tuum serves as the main gateway to the Suguta from the eastern side, and the SAA campsite often hosts intrepid travellers before their overland journeys into its harsh, insecure, yet breath-taking interior.

It is ecologically rich and has geothermal energy and mining potential, both on the cusp of much greater development. Tuum also serves as the refuelling centre for 'helicopter tourism' safaris – currently in the busy season – and although an expensive means of transport, visitors are rewarded with incredible aerial photographic opportunities and the occasional brief landing in the searing heat of the valley floor. Ensuring that local communities have a voice in the valley's ongoing development and transformation remains a significant challenge.

The SAA monthly seminars provide a useful forum for addressing at a grassroots level, similar significant challenges facing the communities around Mt Nyiru and the Ndoto mountains. During teaching and discussion sessions awareness of and engagement with the opportunities and difficulties of inevitable and inexorable change are explored through the lens of the wisdom and mercy of God's justice.



### Prayer Points:

- Give thanks for the SAA building team who persevered through difficult circumstances to complete the roofing on a home they had been requested to build in the South Horr area. The owner is delighted, and the team is justifiably proud of their achievement.
- Please pray for the ongoing planning and strategising for future sustainability. This involves collaboration between the SAA senior leadership office and the Presbytery Office in Rumuruti, where a very positive meeting was had during our return journey to Tuum.
- Pray for preparations for the April youth and children's camps, which will be led by a team from Nairobi.