

Gary and Mary Reid

Location: **Olkinyei, KENYA**

Mission: **Church planting and Scripture distribution**



“He is altogether lovely. This is my Beloved, and this is my Friend.” Song of Solomon 5:16

We were due to leave Acacia Grove Mission on the Friday and, together with the Mission Steering Committee, meet with our minister and the Parish officials, and complete some other business, within Narok. Our departure from Kenya was to take place the following Monday. However, despite our plans, we had this persisting feeling that we would be leaving the Mission on the Wednesday. So, pressing was this feeling that we packed our suitcases into the Land Rover on the Tuesday night.

At 4am Wednesday morning we went into the day with our Beloved, looking to Him to go before. We started our work and, before midday, we were on our way to visit neighbour's homes with children's Bible story books and gifts to a dear elderly lady. It had been raining heavily in the preceding days and some of the dirt tracks were covered in mud. We traversed through some thorny bush, across a small clearing and down the short slope with its water-torn gullies, to meet a beautiful natural grassy 'avenue' flanked by, mainly, Acacia trees, with mud smeared across its floor. Within this picturesque spot, I (Mary) slipped on mud, and hurt wrist, knees and ankle. Gary immediately started to ponder how I would get home, as the terrain was such that a vehicle couldn't reach there. However, after thanking our LORD, for we both knew that this was His will, we continued towards the first home.

We bless our LORD that the children did receive the Bible story books, but I became faint and knew that I had to return to the Mission. Gary, and two dear Maasai with us, were so caring and helpful on that return trip. With the pain intensifying, we realised that I would need to travel to a hospital and thanked our LORD that He had placed on our hearts beforehand that we would indeed be leaving that day.

We thanked our LORD that before dark we were able to complete all the work that had been planned and parted from the Mission, with all that this entailed, alongside bidding our farewells to some of the very dear people who have shared with us in God's work for so many years. God even granted us time to greet our dear elderly neighbour and give her the gifts, encouraging her to have Jesus as her Beloved and Friend.

Due to an accident on the escarpment, we didn't reach Nairobi until the early hours, but we knew deep within that this was all for good, and we could thank our Beloved, and were still able to meet the Parish officials in Narok on the Friday. Due to the fractured wrist, our return to Northern Ireland was delayed by a further two weeks, but this was for our good, as our LORD knew that the extra meetings etc we were able to have would be beneficial and a blessing, including with the Secretary General of PCEA, Rev. Dr. Robert Waihenya.

Prayer Points:

- Rejoice and magnify the LORD with us as we exalt His Name together for all His goodness, including the good progress on the new church building and the two new nursery classrooms, remembering the Maasai church families in Olkinyei and Siana that they will grow in the knowledge of our LORD and be unified in Him, for His glory and their joy.
- Please pray for Gary as he has had his operation and is now receiving postoperative care and that our LORD will be glorified throughout. Thank you.