

THE SEGERA MISSION JOURNAL



Habari! Welcome to the very first edition of “The Segera Mission Journal”. Segera Mission Directors will be sending out regular updates on what is happening here at the Mission when we have the time.

410 Bridge Medical Team Visit in April

Teams “Segera North” and “Segera South” came to the Mission to assist the people here with medical assistance to include dentistry, general medical help, and even jigger removal. It was an enormous success despite the Team’s insistence on playing in the mud and getting vehicles stuck as an almost daily event! Fortunately it didn’t rain much. Mission employee Joseph Rais had a tooth pulled during the visit.



Here are a few scenes from the visit:





I cannot possibly express what a huge impact the team had on the population here in Segera, God bless all of them for coming, and I personally hope they all come back in the future! People here are extremely grateful for all the assistance and support and are looking forward to New Spring Church's visit in May.

The Tree Bridge

The tree that fell over the river during the rains before March was pushed into the middle of the current over a week ago so people no longer could cross the river from Endana to the Mission. Here is what people were doing:



As you can see it is a bit precarious to say the least, but people were thanking God that the tree fell because the Uasonyiro River is too deep and fast to cross with all the rain

we've been having. Instead of just crossing the tree bridge, people now have to go all the way to Debatas and then walk, or if lucky, catch a lift for the almost 10 kilometers from there to the Mission.



So now the leadership in Endana has dropped another tree across the river just north of the Mission to serve as a bridge. The Mission had no involvement in this action. It demonstrates however, how badly we need a proper bridge like the one I hear is planned by Engineers Without Borders.

Janice's Late-March Party

Before Janice Gleason Skow (best woman I ever met) left the Mission to attend to issues in the United States in late March (including sending me money!) she held a small party,

which was attended by a newcomer to the Mission: Serge Musasilwa. Serge has the immense challenge of repairing all the vehicles, generators, and pumps at the Mission, as well as ensuring the Mission has clean water. (Good luck Serge!) He also has delivered a couple of very meaningful sermons and is already very popular.



(Serge and Janice jubilating at the party)

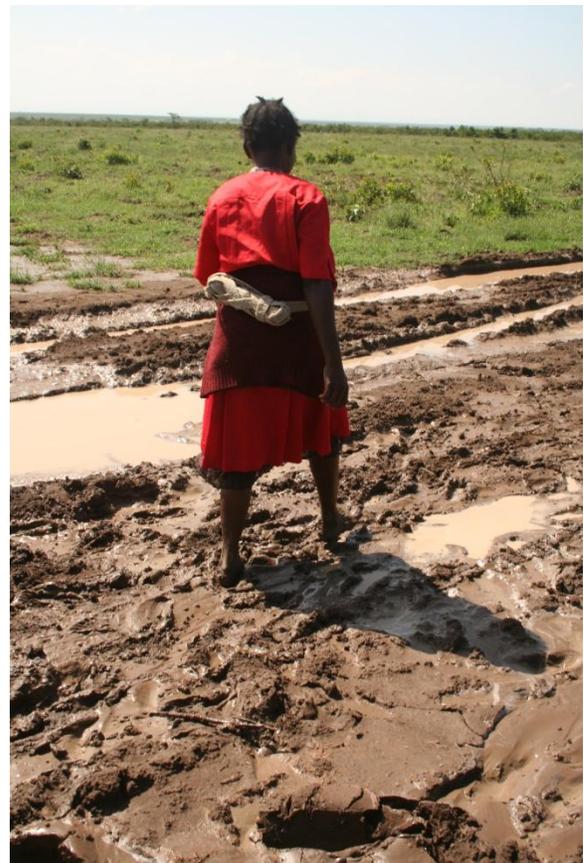
Current Challenges

Our vehicle fleet is in pretty rough condition. Our white pickup truck is semi-operational and we're working hard to keep it going. The black pickup has no four wheel drive capability right now and in this black cotton mud with the rains it can't move if roads are wet. When I say mud, I mean mud. Slick, sticky stuff. We haven't had any rain for about a week now but this is

the rainy season and we're likely to be mired up again soon. Our old Bedford truck can run but has no brakes, no functional electrical system, no batteries - well it is pretty much nothing but an engine, a frame and tires. Serge will have a real challenge there. I really like this truck though - it has pulled a LOT of vehicles out of the mud.



So let's go back to MUD for one picture!



The poor woman in the previous image had the dubious honor of pushing a land cruiser out of the mud and finding rocks and bushes to put under the tires. (She knew Moroni and Janice and did it with a smile while Moroni – local friend of Pappy - and I got covered in mud.)

Other challenges include the fact the grass is growing at a rapid rate and our lawn mower finally died, so we'll all be getting some serious exercise cutting it by hand after our boarding students return to school at the end of the month. We have a lot of infrastructure issues from plumbing to replacing broken windows to painting exposed wood, and much more.

Segera Mission Quote of the Month

This month's quote comes from Enoch Omondi, and in the future I hope to get a recording of quotes embedded in this journal so that you can hear it because that makes all the difference. Anyway, here it is: "Fine. I'll do it." I have come close to mastering the accent and delivery, and I'll be saying it for the rest of my life. Branch quotes include "We shall do it" and "Fine, we are doing it." I am exporting it and Philip and Margaret's toddler now says it perfectly 😊

Director's Comments.

I'd like to thank Carl and Patrick from the 410 Bridge Medical team visit for the SOCKS and everyone else for the goodies they left behind from PB to beef jerky and most of all the excellent memories of the great work you all did here! (Carl – I think I will wear smart wool socks forever!) Why socks? The mud ate mine....

My thanks to a certain anonymous team member with a big heart who decided to buy five goats for the Samaria women's club. I will buy the goats but it seems now that there is grass from the rains, goat herders are happy to keep their goats. No worries I have scouts out looking for the right ones and I will get them! (I'll do it! – to quote Enoch)

Cliff Bush thankfully is here at the Mission with his much-needed engineering skills, and he's working with our boarding school students – many of whom he personally sponsors for their education. Most importantly he keeps the Mission's course plotted in the direction "Pappy" Gleason would have wanted.

To my friends receiving this that were unaware that I am back Africa and at my father-in-law's former Mission in Kenya, and were unaware that I am now Director of his Mission....I'll explain later.

It is a moonless, almost cloudless night here, and those of you who know Segera know how amazing the night sky can be here.

Until the next edition,

Richard Skow
Current Director
Segera Mission