

VISION MINISTRIES KENYA, WEST POKOT
REACHING THE UNREACHED MISSION
'A DECADE OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS'
10yrs

VENUE: WEST POKOT COUNTY

DATE: 24TH – 26TH, NOVEMBER, 2021

God says, 'Try It! Put Me to The Test! Malachi 3:10 NLT



More, effective, flourishing churches!

REACHING THE UNREACHED POKOT COUNTY MISSION 2021

Introductions

The Pokot, who inhabit the North Western dry part of Kenya are pastoralists in nature. According to their culture, men dominate the decision – making processes within the society, and a council of elders is responsible for maintenance of law and order, security, social disputes, ceremonies, and decisions regarding livestock.

The Pokot are polygamous, with the number of wives in proportion to a man's wealth. This practice is viewed as means of maximizing the productive and reproductive capacity of the society.

The Pokot believe in supernatural power (shadows of dead people).

Realization of the west Pokot County

Brother Ishmael and Bishop Gilbert Omollo arranged for a pathfinding mission in the Pokot County where they met church leaders and discussed various issues that concerns the church leadership. Some of the matters discussed include;

- Church leaders training in the area
- Church planting mission in the areass
- Working partnership with VMK and the leaders in this region
- Social empowerment opportunities

On this first day as Ishmael and the part of the team drive across the area, they met the residents of this area and got time to interact and talk to them. It was really touching to hear from these people as they share their testimonies, stories and the challenges over here.



Brother Ishmael sharing small gift of food stuff with the women .The women behind Ishmael is the area assistant chief.

Moriang'ole, a widow, the lady bending on the photo, said she wakes up at 4 am and, with her young child sometimes wrapped on her back, going to scoop underground water from sand in a seasonal river which is 30 kilometers away from her home.

“I have been walking for eight hours just to get where the watery sand is and get this water from the sand. I am weary after walking such a long distance with this jerican on the back. Carrying a 20-litre jerican of water on my back is no joke.

Need for water;

The West Pokot County, where we were is 74.5% ASAL, with a forest cover of only 3.9%, a fragile ecosystem, with low investment in environmental goods and services. This increases the county's vulnerability to climate change. As per the research by (KIHBS, 2016) poverty level currently stand at 57.4 percent and just as I explained in the introduction, livelihood economy is highly pastoral and dependent on natural resources (pasture, water, wood, timber, wild fruits) which are scarce in that matter.

The women in the previous photo were carrying water that you have walk 20- 60km to acquire.



This is a family. The family owns the hut behind. That hut is being shared by about seventeen members of the family. According to Pokot culture, it is women who take care of the family. They build the house, take care of basic needs like food etc.



These children are part of the family shown above

Need for the unreached in the area;

- *Bibles translated in Pokot language*
- *Education*
- *Introduce farming*
- *Food and water*



These are Ishmael's disciples. This team received Christ for the first time. The gentlemen in red shirt had not attended any church gathering meeting since his childhood. It is really amazing that he received Christ and for the first time attended a church meeting on the Sunday when Ishmael preached.



This brother gifts Ishmael with the Pokot stool after he received Christ. Ishmael on the right photo giving food gift

Early Marriages

In our conversation with the area assistant chief, we were told that early marriages is a problem that the Pokot community battles with. Girls are married as young as 10years old.



case of the girl with the marron t-shirt in the photo is a case that the chief intervened. An old man aged sixty years had sent proposal to marry her. This girl cried and ran to the chief's office where she lived until 'mzee' was advised and talked to.



Reaching men in their roundtable talk forum. All men usually meet here to talk, make political decisions, discuss marital matters and take alcohol. Ishamael met them and preached to them.

Conclusion

Visiting this area was a great eye opener. The chief in charge of the area is ready to donate 2ha land to VMK ministry to start any income generating project that will benefit the community and the ministry. We are looking forwarding to a fruitful engagement with them in future.