

HERDING FOR HEALTH

*Holistic Ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya
In partnership with the World Mission Prayer League
Among the Samburu People*



—Mission Education in the Congregation—

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THE SAMBURU PEOPLE OF KENYA

"I like to sleep outside and look up at the stars at night. I think of the stars as being the eyes of God," a camel herder muses.

"It must be very hard for God to take care of us. I know how hard it is to take care of my goats and camels. They are very stubborn," a Samburu shepherd explains.

"I hope your cattle are well." is a typical Samburu greeting.

"The worst thing in the world would be if a boy or girl would see a stray goat or cow and not bring it to the safety of the manyatta (community). That child would never be forgiven. Respect for animals, respect for your neighbor - this is very important in our life," explains a camel herder and father of three children.

The Samburu people are close cousins of the *Maasai*. They along with their Rendille neighbors are pastoralists; their entire world revolves around their life with grazing animals. Their social structure, their religious beliefs, their greetings, their values passed down to the children, their folk stories, ... all reflect a life of intimate connection with their herds of cows, especially, and more recently because of drought, camels and goats. These animals are the center of their daily lives because through them they receive milk, blood, butter, meat, skins, hides, thongs, horns, ornaments, and also status in the community. The nomad's diet consists mainly of blood, milk and meat, a diet coming from their herds. They also enjoy honey, tea and maize porridge when they can purchase it. Late in the afternoon, the shepherds round up their herds and head back to the manyatta, the homestead, where they will be safe from the lions and hyenas. A thick thorn



fence surrounds the community of stick huts. When it is dark, the fires glow and it is time to gather around to hear stories of the past.

Power and community decisions rest in the hands of the elders, because of their age. The married man (*lpayan*) is next in rank, being the responsible citizen of the clan. The warrior (*moran*) is responsible for the safety of the clan. Next comes the

young shepherd (*layeni*) and last but not least the child (*nkerai*). Women have no particular value in the community, as they are not destined to remain in the clan. Girls marry at a young age and live with the husband's clan.

The Samburu believe in *Nkai*, God, who is omniscient and omnipresent. God is God and is recognized as the one to be worshipped. The Samburu also believe in an evil power.

Samburu District is in the north central part of Kenya. Traditionally, the Samburu have been able to herd their animals for a season, pack up all their belonging and then move on to another location suitable for grazing. But war, drought and famine have hindered that movement in recent history; and, subsequently, relief food must be brought in for survival. With the presence and availability of relief food, some communities are not "moving on" anymore. Villages are sprouting up here and there. This is the challenge to all those who work among them: introducing health care, education and community development without stripping these communities of their identity as a nomadic, pastoralist society.

SAMBURU MEDICAL MINISTRY

Missionaries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya and of the World Mission Prayer League have lived and worked among the Samburu and neighboring Rendille people near the border of Samburu and Marsabit Districts since the early 1980's. Medical ministry has always been a part of the work. The nature of this ministry has changed over the years from dispensing medical care to full partnership with the Samburu in holistic health. Medicines used to be given free of charge to sick patients who came to the dispensary. Now Samburu health workers teach health classes in remote areas to promote healthy living. Funding for the medical work used to come solely out of the missionaries' work funds. Now partnerships can be established with church groups and organizations to support on-going projects such as the eye clinics or reproductive health classes and specific projects such as a gift of a vaccine refrigerator that one church gave. Kenyan workers and WMPL missionaries partner with Samburu and Rendille health promoters. The entire team partners with agencies and groups wanting to participate in promoting holistic health among the Samburu and Rendille people.

This ministry has been growing in quantity and quality over the years. Currently there are 2 static dispensary sites near the towns of Arsim and Illaut, 10 mobile clinic sites and 4 additional health teaching sites. The Kenyan national staff is doing almost all of the hands-on care and teaching, while the medical missionaries mainly do administration. The popularity of the Lutheran medical care at Arsim has reached far and wide. People walk or drive past health facilities run by other churches or government agencies to come to the Lutheran sites for help. Many are very poor and almost all are cash poor. One Rendille man came to Illaut from another town one day seeking help for his wife. When a staff person agreed he should bring her for an evaluation with the payment of a goat, he looked at her and asked, "Are you the 'Kristo' we have heard about?" She said, "No, I am not Christ, but I know Him!" Payment by animals, hides or work is unique to this ministry in Samburu District. It is unheard of elsewhere.

Approximately 25 - 30 patients are seen at Arsim Dispensary per day and roughly 5 -10 at the Illaut site. Mobile clinics range in size from 30 - 150 people on the clinic day. The medical staff is doing a fine job. They are committed to providing the best care possible and promoting health throughout the whole district. One nurse is a particularly fine Christian, and others are showing Christian growth as well. They care for the physical needs of the people, but they have been showing concern for the spiritual needs as well. One day the patient attendant at Arsim and the dispensary driver asked on their day off in the evening if they could take the vehicle from Arsim over to Illaut to show the "Jesus" film to the people at Illaut because the residents of that town hadn't seen it yet. So, a Samburu dispensary driver and a Samburu patient attendant became evangelists that day. This was an answer to the prayer that the medical staff would also be active in sharing the love of God among the Samburu and Rendille people.

But in spite of a lot of good work going on, the medical work continues to run in the red. It is simply very costly to bring good health care to a remote area like Samburu. In discussions among WMPL leadership, ELCK leadership, Kenya government health leaders in Samburu District, and dispensary committees at Arsim and Illaut, all agree that the **Lutheran medical work there is too important to abandon or lose**. So, we are

looking for solutions to the problem. Rates for care have increased, but it is not enough to cover the cost.

Partnership with the Samburu Medical Ministry includes people willing to **pray, give and go**. Consider the following ways groups, agencies and individuals can partner with this ministry:

1. The “Samburu Medical Fund” keeps the dispensaries, mobile clinics and teaching sites funded. Patient payment (cash or animal) has not covered the cost of running the ministry. *(Funds will go through WMPL designated “Samburu Medical Fund.”)*
2. Long term donors can give to the “Samburu Medical Fund” gifts up to \$4,000 per month initially for one year and diminishing amounts as time goes on over 5 years.
3. The income generation project needs to get off to a big start. The project is a herding project. 500 goats are needed for this “Herding for Health” project, a sustainable project to help finance the ministry. *(Funds will go through WMPL designated “Dispensary Herd Fund.”)*
4. Funding is needed for capital grants designated for big projects such as
 - An in-patient ward at Arsim,
 - A fencing project at Illaut Dispensary,
 - A full solar power at Arsim and Illaut Dispensaries,
 - A new vehicle or motorcycle for the work,
 - An improved airstrip, and
 - Improved school classrooms and teacher’s housing
5. A team of experienced prayer warriors is invited to spend from 7-10 days in Samburu District with the purpose of praying for the Samburu and the ministry among them. (Contact WMPL for information.)
6. Teams of helping hands to assist in the above projects are welcome. (Contact WMPL for more information.)
7. Spiritual retreat leaders are welcome to work with youth and missionary families. (Contact WMPL for more information.)
8. Some short term missionary opportunities are available. (Contact WMPL for more information.)

HERDING FOR HEALTH

An income generation project

Description: Arsim Lutheran Dispensary in Samburu District has had herd animals since 1994. Currently the herd consists of about 40 goats and sheep, 9 camels and about 6 cows. Three herders are actively employed to care for the animals. One nurse manager is also in place. Each animal has a name and the brand of the dispensary. The dispensary administrator supervises the herders to ensure good care of the animals and no theft. The present herd is not large enough to generate enough income for the needs of the dispensary. 500 goats are needed at a startup cost of \$5,000.

Rationale: Samburu and Rendille people have used herd animals to pay for services, food and goods for centuries. It is no different now. A young goat, a large milk goat, a goat hide, an old goat, goat meat... represent the Samburu method of payment. Cows, sheep and camels are also used. Samburu businessmen sell goats for cash to have for goods that only currency can buy. A young goat costs about \$10. A large goat costs \$20 or more depending on its size, breed, age, quality, etc.

Purpose: The dispensary needs to generate income and has found that this herd project works. It needs a larger herd for the purpose of generating money for

- salaries of staff,
- poor patients' hospital bills,
- dispensary vehicle needs,
- supplies for mobile clinics,
- community outreach costs and
- other operating costs.

Strategy: Young animals will be bought in bulk at a low cost. The males will be separated from the females. The females are kept for reproduction and the increasing of the herds. A few strong males are kept to stay with the females. The rest of the males are herded separately and castrated to grow big and strong. The herders are supervised to ensure good care and health of the animals.

Schedule: A \$5,000 gift will get the project off to a good start. After one year has past, some of the animals will be sold for a profit. The dispensary committee would then decide how much of the profit should be reinvested in new goats, animal medicines, and herder salaries, etc. This type of project has worked for many Samburu businessmen; it is our hope that it will work for the dispensary as well.

**LET'S GET BAAA- CK
TO HEALTH!**

SAMBURU MEDICAL MINISTRY MISSION STATEMENT

We the medical staff of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya in Samburu and Marsabit Districts, are called to provide promotive, preventive (including health education), curative, and rehabilitative health care to the pastoralist communities with their full participation and to bring them to the knowledge of Christ.

PURPOSE OF THIS CONGREGATIONAL GUIDE

Samburu District is far away from any church in the United States. It is far away from the capital city of Nairobi. Nevertheless, over 100,000 people live in this remote mountainous desert. It is a beautiful yet rugged land. One can hear the soft “clink” of a wooden bell around a goat’s neck and feel the warm African sun. One can see shepherds and their flocks grazing at a distance and wonder if there is a more peaceful place.

But all is not well in Samburu District. War, poverty, political pressures and modernization are bringing change and unprecedented stress to these people as they move from an Iron Age lifestyle into the Computer Age. This reality involves all of us because we belong to the larger world community. Partnership with the Samburu is not about charity; it is about justice. It is about developing human beings. It is about participating in the mission of God’s love to those whose lifestyle, culture, language and identity will be lost unless helped.

The ELCK and the WMPL encourage partnerships with the ministry in Samburu District. Through direct communication, relationships are formed. Those that **pray** can ask for updates on prayer requests through monthly newsletters and prayer letters. Those that **give** can give to specific projects and can ask for updates on how the project is going over time. Those that **go** have the opportunity to see first hand the challenge and the privilege it is to work in that part of the world.

The purpose is partnership. God is at work in Samburu District.

Come and see.



OVERVIEW

THEME: Medical ministry among the Samburu and neighboring Rendille people of northern Kenya. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya sponsors medical dispensaries in Arsim and Illaut, mobile health clinics and teaching sites. The ELCK partners with the World Mission Prayer League and Samburu and Rendille medical workers. The “Samburu Medical Fund” is set up to help finance this ministry. The “Dispensary Herd Fund” is set up to start an income generating project that will help finance the dispensary.

MISSION MINUTES: Mission Minutes inform the congregation about the ministry using specific Bible verses, stories, songs and prayers. These Mission Minutes coincide with the information given in the bulletin inserts. Five Mission Minutes are provided; five bulletin inserts are provided. The format of the Mission Minutes is basic; the worship leader will adapt it to the setting they use them in.

BULLETIN INSERTS: These inserts include additional information about the ministry, ideas for involvement, activities, prayer requests etc. for members to use.

HANDS-ON PROJECT: This project allows the members to participate in the ministry by providing items that are needed and will actually be used. Dedicate a time and place for members to do the following project:

- Maternity Kits – Contact Global Health Ministries for instructions
7831 Hickory Street NE, Mpls., MN 55432-2500
(612) 586-9590; FAX: (612) 586-9591

VISUAL RESOURCES: A Power Point Presentation is available on CD to be used in Mission Minute #1. It is available for sale or for checkout at the World Mission Prayer League office. The presentation is meant to introduce the theme. It can also be used as a final Mission Minute to review the theme.

SONGS: These African songs reflect the theme of God’s love and our need to share that love with others.

- “*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love*” (*With One Voice* #765)
- “*We Are Marching In The Light Of God*” (*With One Voice* #650)
- “*Listen, Listen, God Is Calling*” (*With One Voice* #712)

PARTNERSHIP: Offering gifts to be given to the ministry can be designated either to the

- “Samburu Medical Fund” – which finances the work of the dispensaries, mobile clinics and the teachings sites, or the
- “Dispensary Herd Fund” – which finances the income generating project to help subsidize the patient costs.

PARTNERSHIP BOARD: Provide a visual to help the congregation see the offering increase every week. Some ideas include:

- If offerings are going toward the “Dispensary Herd Fund” cover a wall in the narthex with a desert scene. Draw a goat pen. (In Samburu, the pens are made out of the dry branches of a thorn tree.) As the offerings increase, add goats to the pen. Each goat represents a certain dollar amount
- If offerings are going toward the “Samburu Medical Fund” draw a medical exam room on a large sheet of paper. As the offerings increase, add equipment to the room. Each piece of equipment represents a dollar amount.
- Display a list of the long and short-term mission trip opportunities. Label it “Come and See!” (See Samburu Medical Ministry.)

CELEBRATION EVENT: When the emphasis is over, take time to celebrate what you have learned. Some ideas for the event are:

- Invite a mission representative to the church and show them what you have been doing over the last weeks. Present the offering and hands-on project. Take time to have a prayer of blessing over the offerings. A sample is provided. (See “*Gathering of Gifts and Offerings.*”)
- Organize a mission festival and include activities such as Kenyan food, Samburu tea, a jumping contest, Kenyan games, music, clothing, wildlife on parade, storytelling, etc.

FOLLOW-UP: In the months and even years after the emphasis is over, keep the congregation informed about the medical ministry in Samburu by keeping in contact with the WMPL missionaries. Letters, photos and prayer requests can be exchanged. Continue to invite the congregation to consider going to Samburu to work for a short time. The work can be prayer, building, bookkeeping, teaching, etc. Contact WMPL for more information.

MISSION MINUTE #1

PARTNERSHIP

BIBLE VERSE: *“Every time I think of you, I thank my God. And whenever I mention you in my prayers, it makes me happy. This is because **you have taken part with me in spreading the good news** from the first day you heard about it.”* Philippians 1:3-5

The Apostle Paul needed partners. Missionaries today need partners, also. We have an opportunity to partner with the Samburu Medical Ministry in Kenya.

STORY: Use the Power Point Presentation, *“Herding for Health,”* to introduce the congregation to the Samburu Medical Ministry.

SONG: Sing one of the following songs:

- *“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love”* (*With One Voice* #765)
- *“We Are Marching In The Light Of God”* (*With One Voice* #650)
- *“Listen, Listen, God Is Calling”* (*With One Voice* #712)

PARTNERSHIP UPDATE: Establishing a partnership with the Samburu through the medical ministry takes **praying, giving and going**. If giving will be a part of the partnership, direct their attention to the visual display of how the offerings will be growing throughout the week. (See Overview for ideas.)

PRAYER: Dear God, Samburu District is so far away from where we live, but you are there all the time. Help us to remember that your family extends all around the world. Thank you for the partnership we have with the Samburu Medical Ministry. We pray your blessing on the missionaries and the medical staff. Heal those who are sick. Amen.

MISSION MINUTE #2

PROMOTIVE HEALTH CARE

BIBLE VERSE: “You have often heard me teach. Now I want you to tell these same things to followers who can be trusted to tell others.” 2 Timothy 2:2

What does this verse have to do with health? Let’s hear the story of Matthew, a community health worker in the town of Arsim, in Samburu District.

STORY:

You will need: Large red cloth (3’X 5’), staff.

Preparation: Wrap the cloth around character, tying cloth at the side of the waist.

Supa! (Hello!) My name is Matthew. I am a camel herder by trade and a community health worker by profession. I don’t know which job is harder. A runaway camel is very hard to catch, but people can be stubborn, also. They need to learn how to stay healthy, and it’s not easy teaching them to change bad habits.

My job requires me to take long trips into the big city of Nairobi to buy supplies. It takes two full days to get there by car and once we are there, it often takes several days to pick up all the supplies that are needed at the Dispensary in Arsim. From car parts to medicine, food to medical equipment – it takes time to get all of these things. As they say in Swahili, “*pole, pole*” or “*slowly, slowly.*” On a day off or in the evenings, I go in search for people from Samburu District. Many come to the big city looking for work. (Big companies have found that Samburu warriors make great night watchmen and guards.) They are anxious for news from home and I often take messages back for them. They are lonely for the wide-open spaces and for the sound of the camel bells across the valley. Many are so lonely that they seek companionship with others that may or may not be infected with the HIV virus. They need to know the risks and how to keep themselves healthy so that when they come home they don’t infect others. I search them out because they listen to me. They trust me.

SONG: Sing one of the following songs:

- “*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love*” (*With One Voice* #765)
- “*We Are Marching In The Light Of God*” (*With One Voice* #650)
- “*Listen, Listen, God Is Calling*” (*With One Voice* #712)

PARTNERSHIP UPDATE: Remind the congregation of the Partnership Display and thank them for their gifts toward either the “Dispensary Herd Fund” or the “Samburu Medical Fund”.

PRAYER: Dear Lord, help those who have been or will be trained as community health workers through Arsim Lutheran Dispensary to be godly in living and reliable in service to others. Enable them to promote good health in all their communities of influence as they were taught. May good health multiply faster than disease as they teach others. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

MISSION MINUTE #3

PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE

BIBLE VERSE: “Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act.” Proverbs 3:27

Polio, tuberculosis, malnutrition, measles... all these diseases are preventable. It is in our power to immunize children against these killers. But we don't act soon enough sometimes. Listen to Johana's story as told by her mother.

STORY:

You will need: Red and pale blue pieces of cloth (each 3' X 5'), beads, baby doll in cloth.

Preparation: Wrap the red cloth around waist and tie at the side. Wrap the blue cloth under one arm and up to tie on top of shoulder. Put beads around neck.

She was only 18 months old when she started coughing and coughing, only a baby. They told me it was whooping cough. I am her mother. Her name was Johana – such a beautiful name. We chose that name because it sounded so nice: *Johana*. They told me that if I would have come sooner, they could have saved her. But the dispensary is so far! I thought she would get better. But her fever just got worse and she got so weak. By the time we finally got there, she was so weak and dehydrated, there was no choice but to go immediately to the hospital in Maralal, a city too far to walk to. The missionaries drove us there. It took six hours to get there. But even before the doctors could see her, it was too late. She died in my arms... Johana, my beautiful Johana.

Something happened on the way to the hospital that I will never forget. About half an hour into the trip Johana began having seizures and her condition weakened in spite of the medications the nurses injected into her. Then one of the nurses began to pray out loud, using Johana's name and committing her to Jesus. I had never heard that name before. I lost my Johana, but I promise to bring my other children to the dispensary for their immunizations even if we have to walk for days! It is too important; I don't want to lose them. I trust the workers at the Dispensary; they loved my Johana.

SONG: Sing one of the following songs:

- “*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love*” (*With One Voice* #765)
- “*We Are Marching In The Light Of God*” (*With One Voice* #650)
- “*Listen, Listen, God Is Calling*” (*With One Voice* #712)

PARTNERSHIP UPDATE: Thank the congregation for their gifts toward either the “Dispensary Herd Fund” or the “Samburu Medical Fund”.

PRAYER: Lord, it grieves us to hear a story like Johana's. We know she is not unique – many diseases in our world are preventable. Remove the barriers around Arsim Lutheran Dispensary to encourage mothers and fathers to bring their children for immunizations and other health care. Empower the health program there to do the good of “buying” ounces of prevention so that pounds of cure are not needed. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MISSION MINUTE #4

CURATIVE HEALTH CARE

BIBLE VERSE: “When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.” *Matthew 14:14*

Did Jesus get tired? Did he “need his space”? Compassion moved him to heal. Missionaries get tired, too. Let’s hear Gloria’s story.

STORY:

You will need: *Three small benches or seven chairs to represent seats in a Land Cruiser.*

Preparation: *Set up the chairs so that three are facing one direction and four are behind it, with two chairs facing two chairs. (This is a 7-person vehicle.) Gloria is in the driver’s seat (right hand side of the vehicle) and there are eight other passengers.*

Hi, my name is Gloria and this is my trusted Land Cruiser. I am a medical missionary in Samburu District. I work at the Arsim Lutheran Dispensary. I spend a lot of time in this Land Cruiser; it is the only vehicle within a two-hour drive. Think of me when you face rush hour traffic. There is no doctor within a six-hour drive of the Dispensary. People around here know this Land Cruiser; they know me.

I remember one day when I was driving back from Nairobi to Arsim with a friend (*have eight people get in vehicle.*) who was visiting me, and seven others who needed a ride. It is a two-day trip that starts out on a paved road, then a dirt road, then a path, then a riverbed, then we follow landmarks. We like to arrive before dark. Well, on this particular day I decided to try out a new road to see how it was. Within five minutes the road took us right by a “manyatta” or community of huts where a man was frantically running toward us waving us down. I stopped to see what was wrong. He excitedly explained his daughter had been sick with malaria for a week and was now gravely ill. He pleaded with me to bring her to the dispensary. I saw them dragging a semi-conscious girl out of the hut toward our vehicle. She was about twelve years old. As I was examining her, she stiffened and arched her back and had a seizure. It confirmed my worst fears: cerebral malaria. If this happened in the U.S.A. an ambulance would be called to whisk her away to a hospital for admission to the Intensive Care Unit. But this was rural Africa; they were asking me for help.

I looked at the Land Cruiser loaded with nine people including supplies and luggage. We needed to get the girl and her father in, too. I informed those in the back that two more were coming in. There was no choice. (*Two more people get in.*) The girl was stretched across laps and somehow we managed to finish the trip to Arsim. We were hot and tired when we arrived. We wanted a bath and supper. But we needed to care for this sick girl. We prayed for her and for ourselves. We needed strength and the touch of Jesus’ love and compassion for her. Well, to make a long story short, the girl is herding her father’s goats today. It took two weeks for her to recover, but she is strong. If I had not taken the new road, this girl would not have made it. This chance encounter was an opportunity for compassion.

SONG: Sing one of the following songs:

- “*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love*” (*With One Voice* #765)
- “*We Are Marching In The Light Of God*” (*With One Voice* #650)
- “*Listen, Listen, God Is Calling*” (*With One Voice* #712)

PARTNERSHIP UPDATE: Remind the congregation of the Partnership Display and thank them for their gifts toward either the “Dispensary Herd Fund” or the “Samburu Medical Fund”.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, thank you for Jesus’ example of compassion for the sick. Help all Christian medical workers to follow His example. Specifically we ask you to empower the medical staff of the Arsim Lutheran Dispensary with gifts and skill for healing, adequate financial resources and the compassion of Jesus. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

MISSION MINUTE #5

REHABILITATIVE HEALTH CARE

BIBLE VERSE: *“The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.”*
Matthew 11:5

Jesus always took special note of the handicapped and poor he encountered even though it upset and bothered others. Following Jesus means doing what he did, loving like he did, healing like he did. Let’s listen to Naiseku’s story.

STORY:

You will need: *red cloth and brightly colored cloth, each 3” X 5” big and a stump of a log.*

Preparation: *Dress Naiseku with red cloth around her waist and the colored cloth under one arm and tied on top of the shoulder. She will be sitting on the log pretending to milk a cow. Practice singing “Asante sana, Yesu” which is “Thank you, thank you, Jesus” in Swahili.*

“Asante sana Yesu, asante sana Yesu...” Oh, hello! I didn’t see you. I’m happy today. It’s not only that this cow is giving good, creamy milk today; I just felt like singing. I feel I could burst with joy sometimes. God is so good to me! It wasn’t always like this. In fact, it isn’t until this year that I can truthfully say that I am a happy person. (*Look at leg.*) And it all started with this leg. Two years ago, I had an infection in my foot. I didn’t do anything with it for a long time. It got worse and worse. Someone from our *manyatta* (community) heard that a clinic was coming to our area. I went and the nurses gave me pills to take. I took them, but it didn’t do any good. My leg was swollen and infected. The pain was so bad, I cried for my husband to cut it off! We heard that the clinic was coming back. When the nurses saw my foot, they were alarmed and decided to take me to a hospital in their truck. It was a day’s safari for me. They put me to sleep and when I woke up, the pain was gone, but so was my leg. I had what was called Madura’s Foot, a fungal disease found only in desert regions in Africa. I had it, all right; and it took my leg. I was fit with an artificial leg. With the love and patience of the nurses from the clinic I am able to work and walk around. They were the only ones that treated me with kindness after I lost my leg. They prayed for me, too.

In my country people that are blind, deaf or are crippled are not treated with respect. I know, because I looked down on them myself. Now I was one of them. I knew that I would lose my husband and that I would be sent away. That’s what happened. I was wife #2; I didn’t matter much. I still remember how I was treated and how I felt, but it doesn’t matter anymore, because I **know** that I am loved. Not by my husband, but by the one who made me. God loves me. That’s why I’m happy. I started going to a church and I heard stories of how Jesus noticed people like me, took the time to heal them. I am not worthless; I am loved. *“Asante sana, Yesu, asante sana, Yesu.”*

SONG: Sing one of the following songs:

- “*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love*” (*With One Voice* #765)
- “*We Are Marching In The Light Of God*” (*With One Voice* #650)
- “*Listen, Listen, God Is Calling*” (*With One Voice* #712)

PARTNERSHIP UPDATE: Remind the congregation of the Partnership Display and thank them for their gifts toward either the “Dispensary Herd Fund” or the “Samburu Medical Fund”. Their offerings make a difference!

PRAYER: Lord, you have set the example for all Christians to follow in treating people with handicaps. Help your people everywhere to break free from prejudice and patiently love and help even those who can do little to help themselves. Provide for the needs of handicapped people as long as you give them life. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Gathering of Gifts and Offerings

Leader: We are called to be partners in mission with God's people all over the world. We are thankful for this opportunity and for the privilege of partnership not only with the ministry of the World Mission Prayer League, but of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya. We can do our part in spreading the Gospel in the Samburu District of Kenya, East Africa.

Leader: We have heard the story of what God is doing in Samburu District. We have seen pictures of people that are different in so many ways and yet have the same needs as we do. We have given our offerings. We have made maternity health kits to be distributed to new mothers. Now let us pray for the blessing of these gifts and offerings.

All: Lord, Creator of all people, we thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ into this world to live among us, suffer, die and rise again. You call us to follow you, to serve and to love in Jesus' name.

Leader: Bless the hands that minister this love to the sick, the maimed and dying in Samburu District.

All: Fill them with your Holy Spirit so that they might sense your presence with them as they labor night and day. Give the medical staff the courage and the strength to fulfill all that you want them to do.

All: Asante Sana, Yesu. Thank you, thank you, Jesus.

Gathering of Gifts and Offerings

Leader: We are called to be partners in mission with God's people all over the world. We are thankful for this opportunity and for the privilege of partnership not only with the ministry of the World Mission Prayer League, but of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya. We can do our part in spreading the Gospel in the Samburu District of Kenya, East Africa.

Leader: We have heard the story of what God is doing in Samburu District. We have seen pictures of people that are different in so many ways and yet have the same needs as we do. We have given our offerings. We have made maternity health kits to be distributed to new mothers. Now let us pray for the blessing of these gifts and offerings.

All: Lord, Creator of all people, we thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ into this world to live among us, suffer, die and rise again. You call us to follow you, to serve and to love in Jesus' name.

Leader: Bless the hands that minister this love to the sick, the maimed and dying in Samburu District.

All: Fill them with your Holy Spirit so that they might sense your presence with them as they labor night and day. Give the medical staff the courage and the strength to fulfill all that you want them to do.

All: Asante Sana, Yesu. Thank you, thank you, Jesus.