## November 19, 2019





## **Church Celebrations**



Early Sunday morning we headed out to Baqaqa. The church was lined with the benches that Jason and our worker Guyo had made. The goats and cow had been slaughtered, and the ladies were now busy cooking the meat and rice, as well as boiling

milk to make tea. All of us, including the vehicles, were given a piece of the animal skin to wear around our wrist, a sign of welcoming for a guest. The ladies served us tea, liver, and mandazis (similar to a donut), and then the festivities began. The women and men did traditional dancing that they do at celebrations, followed by Christian songs. A prayer was offered to dedicate the church, and then everyone was welcomed into the building. A choir of girls lead everyone inside.

Inside, people filled the church, and their voices praised God in the Gabbra language.



Between songs, village elders gave testemonies of how they have seen God work. Following this was the message, which was given by a retired missionary. He spent his life working in northern Kenya building roads and water catchments, planting 3 million trees, and spreading the gospel. The Gabbra were excited that he came back for the celebrations. The service ended with a poem that our worker Guyo wrote, and some more singing.

Afterwards we sat around outside. People gathered in groups of six or eight around a communal plate of rice, meat, cabbage, and potatoes. They went around with pitchers of water to wash our hands before and after, since our hands were our utensils for eating.



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The community gave us all traditional Gabbra clothing and some sheep. Jason, Dilly and Eddy were also given the traditional wrap that the elders wear on their head. We left the village happy, tired, and ready to do it all over again the next day in Ali Boru.



## What's Next?

Now that all of the planning and preparations are over, and Jason is no longer supervising construction and building benches, we will have some more time for other ministries. Jason plans on spending more time discipling three young men, going through a basics of Christianity course. Two of them currently help us with translating in the villages, and the other is a watchman for our compound. We see a lot of potential in these men and hope that they will one day be pastors in the churches of Hurri Hills.

As a team, we would also like to start branching out into other villages. This last month, there was a woman from one of these villages that needed an injection every day for 21 days. Since our house is closer to her than the dispensary, she arranged to come to our house everyday, where Joanne could give her the injection. We also gave her an audio Bible, which she is now listening to.

## **Praise & Prayer Items**

- ~ Pray for wisdom as we plan to start ministry in new villages.
- ~ Praise God that we had lots of rain last month. ~ Joanne's parents arrive on December 8 and will stay for 3 weeks. Pray for a good time together.
- Praise God for a great time of celebrating and dedicating the churches. Pray for continued growth.
- ~ Pray for our families. Last month two of our Grandpas passed away unexpectedly.

Watch our update video: https://youtu.be/K6gSmcmJa I

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