

# Africa Inland Mission's Prayer Sheets

006 - January 2018



## Who are the Samburu?

The Samburu are a semi-nomadic people living in the arid areas between Mount Kenya and Lake Turkana in central northern Kenya. They number nearly 240,000 people. Traditionally the Samburu are a pastoralist community that depends heavily on cattle, sheep, goats and occasionally camels. They are related to the better-known Maasai people. Their culture encourages a strong adherence to its traditions. Samburu people are generally friendly and hospitable, however, it is difficult for them to leave their traditions and shift their loyalty to Jesus.

## What do they believe?

Most Samburu practise a traditional religion which focuses on a multi-faceted divinity (Nkai). It is not uncommon for children and young people, especially women, to report visions of Nkai. A few children gain a reputation for prophecy throughout their lives. Samburu also have ritual diviners, called 'loibonok', who divine the causes of individual illnesses and misfortune, and guide warriors. Although ritual life focuses especially on cattle, other kinds of livestock figure in ceremonies.

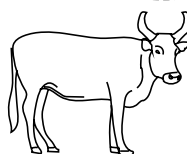
## What is being done to reach them?

Recent years have seen the fast growth of a variety of Christian churches, but the congregations tend to be small and committed members are few. Remote areas have been left behind and remain very traditional and mostly unreached. From 2014-16 a Training in Ministry Outreach (TIMO) team was based in Lchakwai, led by Martin & Joy Koch (Germany). After the TIMO team finished in March 2016, Martin & Joy Koch returned to Lchakwai, to continue the work the team started there.

They live north of the equator in Samburu District, Kenya.

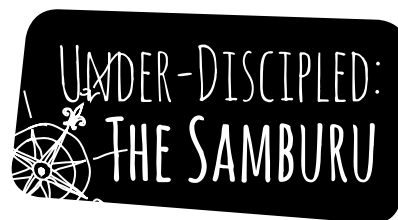
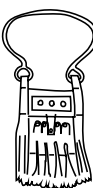


They adorn themselves with necklaces, bracelets and anklets, like the Maasai.



The Samburu are semi-nomadic pastoralists who herd mainly cattle.

The name 'Samburu' is derived from the word 'Sambur' which is a leather bag they use to carry things.



## Give thanks:

- \* For the growth of churches among the Samburu and especially for those believers who are truly committed to following Jesus.
- \* For the dedication and love shown by the TIMO team during the time they worked among the Samburu.
- \* For the clubs that the TIMO team ran to share the gospel with the young people. Pray that the seeds that were sown would take root.

## Please pray:

- \* For Martin & Joy Koch who have returned to Lchakwai to continue the work that the TIMO team started. Pray that they would be able to build upon the relationships the team established.
- \* That God would open the hearts of many to respond to the gospel and to break with their traditional religion; there is a tendency to follow culture and tradition when a conflict occurs between culture and Christian teaching.
- \* For more boys and men to turn to Christ; in areas where churches are starting, it is mostly women and children (especially girls) who attend the services.
- \* For male believers to show greater unity; it seems that men find it difficult to work together in cooperation and mutual submission for an extended period of time.

## Who is AIM?

**Africa Inland Mission** is a missionary organisation that helps churches send gospel workers to work among African people. **TIMO (Training In Ministry Outreach)** is a two-year cross-cultural training programme to equip people for a lifetime of ministry.

*If you are interested in going yourself, giving to help send gospel workers or want more prayer info, please contact us.*

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