

## 25 JAN • FRIDAY

Give thanks that the translation of the New Testament into Samburu has been completed. As it is finalised for the audio version (this will be put on to the Treasures), and as work begins on the Old Testament, pray that hearing the Word in their heart language would transform people's lives, and that many would believe in Jesus.

## BUILDING BLOCKS AMONG THE RENDILLE

For accompanying articles and stories, visit: [eu.aimint.org/rendillejan2019](http://eu.aimint.org/rendillejan2019)

**Last August, the Rendille celebrated the dedication of the New Testament that had just been completed in their heart language. But many Rendille are illiterate, and can't read it for themselves because they have had no chance to get an education. To address this need, the Africa Inland Church (AIC) in Korr set up the Tirrim project, which includes a nursery, primary school, high school, and adult literacy classes.**

## WEEKENDFOCUS 26-27 JANUARY

The Africa Inland Church in Korr, started in 1976, is now thriving, and completely led by Rendille pastors. Pray for Pastor David and the other pastors as they lead the church and encourage the believers to reach out to those around them with the gospel.

## 28 JAN • MONDAY

Pray for the translation of the Old Testament into Rendille which is just beginning, that there would be nothing that would hold up the work, and that God would provide all the funds that are needed.

## 29 JAN • TUESDAY

Pray that when they can read the Old Testament in their own language and see the animal sacrifices made by Israel that are so similar to their own, the Rendille would recognise and understand the importance and finality of Jesus' sacrifice.

## 30 JAN • WEDNESDAY

Many Muslims attend the Tirrim schools, where all students learn the Bible and have Christian Religious

Education lessons. Pray for the opportunities as they hear the gospel explained, that what they hear will plant seeds in their hearts that will grow into a trust and hope in Jesus.

## 31 JAN • THURSDAY

Pray for Jim and Laura Propst who have just retired to California after living in Korr for 10 years, and in Africa for 40 years. Pray that they would adjust well to life in the US and that they would know God's faithfulness and leading in this transition.



CONNECT is Africa Inland Mission's Magazine & Prayer Diary. It includes a weekly focus on either an unreached people group, an African country or a ministry area. Each week, there's

also links to complementary stories and articles which we trust will encourage you to pray with more insight and praise God for what he is doing among African people.

## AFRICAN TRADITIONAL BELIEFS

For accompanying articles and stories, visit:

[eu.aimint.org/beliefsjan2019](http://eu.aimint.org/beliefsjan2019)



**African traditional religion is the collective name given to a set of highly diverse beliefs, which vary according to geography and ethnicity. Generally, these traditions are oral rather than written, and include belief in a supreme creator, belief in spirits, veneration of the dead, and use of magic and traditional medicines. The role of humanity is generally seen as a bridge between nature and the supernatural.**

## 1 JAN • TUESDAY

Happy New Year! As we begin 2019, there remain over 1,000 people groups in Africa who have yet to hear and respond to Jesus' saving grace. Pray that over this year, we would have the personnel to take the gospel to these people, and be able share the joy of people groups turning to Christ.

## 2 JAN • WEDNESDAY

Pray for the many people who are caught up in the rituals and rules of animism. Many live in so much fear of the spirit world that the concept of engaging with other ideas is beyond their comprehension. Pray that God would break through those barriers and give them supernatural courage.

## 3 JAN • THURSDAY

Pray for missionaries who are seeking to share the gospel in areas where beliefs in African traditional

religions are strong. Pray that they would be able to understand the local culture so that they can present the gospel in ways that are accessible and relevant.

## 4 JAN • FRIDAY

For witchdoctors to turn away from their beliefs in the spirit world can often mean losing community status and respect. Pray that they would be more concerned with their status in God's eyes and that through their testimonies, would lead more people to Jesus.

## WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS TO BELIEF?

For accompanying articles and stories, visit: [eu.aimint.org/barriersjan2019](http://eu.aimint.org/barriersjan2019)

**Though there are different barriers for each people group, one of the answers that we hear echoed regularly when we ask people, "What is the biggest barrier to the gospel in your location?" is 'culture and tradition'. These issues become barriers as the price of accepting Christ can be heavy.**

## WEEKENDFOCUS 5-6 JANUARY

**Barako is a Gabbra believer who works in Dukana, Kenya, on the Christian radio station, Chalbi FM:**

My aunt was a Christian and she shared the gospel with me when I was about 10 or 11. That's how I came to know Jesus. I went to school in Kalacha, northern Kenya, and when I went home in the holidays I would share my faith with my family. I would go with my aunt to visit my family, so I always had some backup! Now, my family all know Christ too. Most Gabbra are happy for you to share your faith, as long as you are respectful. You just call them aside and ask for their permission, and if they are interested then they will

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listen. During the rainy season, when their animals are ok, they are less occupied and often are happy for you to talk to them and share about Jesus. But there are opportunities in the dry season too, when people are poor and in need. When they come to us for help, we can give them what we can, but we can also share about Jesus and invite them to church on Sunday. Pray that as we explain the gospel to people, they will be motivated to get to know Jesus.

#### 7 JAN • MONDAY

Making the decision to become a Christian in many African communities can be difficult for people, and may result in exclusion from families or community life. Pray for believers who have made that decision and are feeling isolated, that they would know God's presence and comfort with them through their struggles.

#### 8 JAN • TUESDAY

In many African communities, what is understood to be 'good' and 'bad' is decided by how it affects the whole community. Therefore, in similar ways to the West, it can be difficult for people to grasp that even though they may be good, helpful and generous, they still need a saviour. Pray that people would understand fully their need for Jesus.

#### 9 JAN • WEDNESDAY

Traditional concepts of god can make aspects of biblical theology difficult to grasp. For instance, the Borana of Kenya believe in a supreme god and many lesser gods. This makes the Trinity, God being one and equal, and Jesus being God, difficult concepts. Pray for missionaries and believers to be clear and understood as they communicate about the God of the Bible.

#### 10 JAN • THURSDAY

The Samburu of Kenya believe in one creator god, so it can be hard to distinguish when you are talking about the God of the Bible. Pray that, as they hear the gospel, they would understand that God is not distant, but that he gave his life for each of them so that they could have a personal relationship with him.

#### 11 JAN • FRIDAY

Because the role of a father differs from culture to culture, understandings can vary widely when the Bible speaks of God as our father. For the Samburu, a father's role is one of provision, but also of distance and discipline. Pray that the Samburu would understand what the Bible says about God's character, not how it is understood through the lens of either African or Western culture.

### WEEKENDFOCUS

#### 12-13 JANUARY

In many places in Africa it's not common for men and women to participate in activities or meetings together. Pray that as people believe in Jesus, these cultural barriers wouldn't prevent them from experiencing true fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ.

#### 14 JAN • MONDAY

In societies where women don't often participate in meetings, there can be tension when women are more open to the gospel. Pray that God would raise up male believers to be leaders in new churches, and that women wouldn't find it hard to begin to play a role.

#### 15 JAN • TUESDAY

In some circumstances, women who want to make a commitment to Christ, or be baptised, need permission from their husbands to do so. Pray that these husbands would also commit their lives to Jesus, and that families will worship God together.

#### 16 JAN • WEDNESDAY

Sometimes in Bible translation, there are words that a language has no equivalent for, such as 'grace' in Samburu. Pray for wisdom and insight for translators, and that words that are used for tricky or foreign phrases or concepts can be given more depth through teaching the biblical meanings.



#### 17 JAN • THURSDAY

For many people groups, identity is tightly bound up in their group culture and traditions. Pray for those who are interested in the gospel but are struggling with the idea of letting go of their traditions, and therefore, their identity. Pray that they would come to fully understand their identity in Christ.

#### 18 JAN • FRIDAY

Pray for new believers as they navigate cultural traditions with their families and communities. Pray for insight and wisdom, that they would know how to handle those situations, and that believers would be able to form communities to support each other.

### SERVING THE SAMBURU

For accompanying articles and stories, visit:

[eu.aimint.org/samburujan2019](http://eu.aimint.org/samburujan2019)

**After living in Kenya for six years, Joy Koch met her husband, Martin, serving short term. After a few years in Germany, they moved back to Kenya in 1994 with four young children. They live among the Samburu in Lchakwai, building relationships, serving practically, and sharing the gospel.**

### WEEKENDFOCUS

#### 19-20 JANUARY

**Joy explains her journey to becoming a missionary:**

While studying at college I became friends with a number of Kenyan students. A desire grew to visit Kenya, and to stay and learn the language and the culture. While attending the Urbana missionary conference I declared myself willing to become a missionary if God so led me. However, I heard a number of negative comments concerning missionaries from my Kenyan friends. An educated Christian Kenyan proposed that no more missionaries be sent to Kenya. So I asked my Kenyan friends, "Is there still a need for missionaries in Kenya?" Their response was that there was a need, yes, for people who would work alongside Kenyans and partner with them. God used that discussion to challenge me. I began applying to AIM, and a year later, when I was accepted as a candidate, I was having doubts. I felt unworthy to be a missionary. I saw my sin and apparent lack of influence. Could God use me as a missionary? After setting aside a morning for fasting and prayer, to talk it over with God, I felt him saying to me, "Yes, you are right, you are unworthy, you can do nothing on your own. But, if you are willing to go, I will use you for my glory." With that



assurance, I first left for Kenya, and true to his word, he has used me. Pray that we will see more people willing to serve in Kenya and across Africa. God is longing to use people for his glory.

#### 21 JAN • MONDAY

Give thanks for the baptism classes that Martin and Joy have hosted, and for all the Samburu who have attended. Some people attended regularly, and others just attended some of the 18 sessions. Pray that their hearts would be transformed by the gospel they have heard through these classes.

#### 22 JAN • TUESDAY

After the baptism classes, six Samburu women, two Samburu schoolboys and one Samburu man made the decision to be baptised! Praise God! Pray that their faith would continue to deepen and strengthen, and that as they have made this public statement of faith in Christ, it would be a witness to their families and communities.

#### 23 JAN • WEDNESDAY

Martin and Joy have been praying for men to make a commitment to Christ and to be leaders in the church. Pray for more men to follow Lekaria, (the man who was baptised), and for men like Lemusi who have shown interest in Jesus. Pray that God would raise up male leaders to lead the church in Samburu.

#### 24 JAN • THURSDAY

The Samburu love listening to stories and songs in their own language. Pray for the distribution of the Treasures (solar MP3 devices with Bible stories, portions of Scripture and songs in Samburu) to new people, that they would speak to people's hearts. Pray also that they would not break, and for Martin as he fixes them!