

Karamoja Update and Prayer Requests – January 2008

Diocesan meeting: Diocesan staff from both the Northern and Southern dioceses of Karamoja are currently meeting together to formulate their 5-year plans. Please pray for God's guidance and wisdom in preparing and writing their mission plans. Please also pray for safe travel as delegates return home on Wednesday 9th January.

Crop Failures: Due to the heavy rains late last year there are food shortages in parts of Karamoja. New rains will hopefully arrive in April, but crops cannot be harvested until July. Please pray that the Ugandan government provides sufficient food aid to those who need it most.

Clergy: The clergy in both the North and South of Karamoja are spiritually strong in the gospel but are demoralised by their practical circumstances. Many work without a salary and are unable to fund their children through secondary education. Crosslinks, an international mission agency with strong links with Karamoja, has recognised this problem and provided substantial funds to help support the clergy's salaries. This money will be sent out to both the Southern and Northern dioceses this month. Please pray that just like the boy's five loaves and two fish, Crosslink's funds will be spread throughout Northern and Southern Karamoja to uplift and sustain all the clergy. Both bishops also hope to provide conferences for their clergy to encourage and spiritually feed them. Please pray that God will provide the resources needed so that these conferences may go ahead.

Confirmation Camp: Praise God that the confirmation camp held last December was a huge success with over 800 young people being confirmed! Bishop James Nasak was particularly encouraged by the atmosphere during the camp. Young people were singing and praising God until midnight! Thank God also for the peace within the region that enabled the conference to take place. Bishop James hopes to organise more confirmation camps this year catering for other areas in the north. Please pray for God's blessing on these plans.

Southern Diocesan Visits: Bishop Joseph Abura hopes to visit clergy and parishioners from each parish in the Southern Diocese of Karamoja during February and March. Please pray for the organisation of these visits and particularly for his safety as he travels.

Schools: The Southern Diocese of Karamoja hopes to found the first diocesan secondary school. Please pray that funds may be made available to enable this to happen.

Roadshow: There is another opportunity to hear about the recent trips to Karamoja. A slide show will be held at 8.00pm on Friday 18th January at St Lawrence Parish Centre in Alton. All welcome.

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