

MY BIRTHDAY IS:
November 6, 2019



Eripon Lopetet Chegem

lives in the village of Natelo which is located in the Urum region of western Turkana. This area is very isolated from the rest of Kenya. Their main language is Ngaturkanan. Natelo is within 4 miles of the border with Uganda. Most families gather and sell wood or wild fruits, weave sisal mats, make charcoal by partially burning wood, or herd goats, sheep, and camels. Lodwar is the closest city to their village, which is a four-day journey by foot. This is where families send their mats, charcoal, and goats to be sold in the market.

Please remember Eripon in your prayers. Your love and support are not only giving him a tomorrow but making his future bright with possibilities.

country information

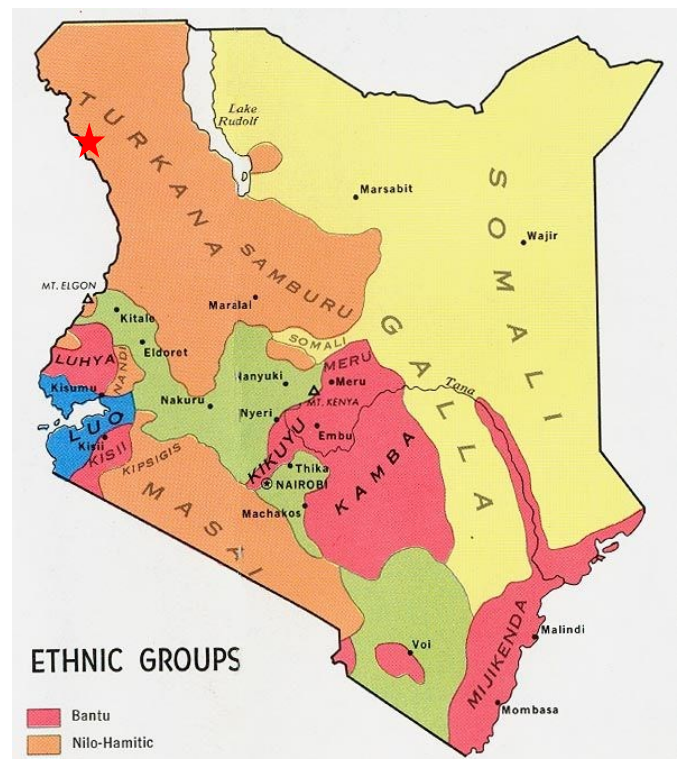
The country of Kenya is located in East Africa. The two national languages are Kiswahili and English. Many residents of Kenya are trilingual including the mother tongue of their tribe. Even with all of its modernization, Kenya is still very tribal. A sense of Kenyan nationality comes second to a loyalty and pride for one's tribe of origin. This has caused much strife and conflict politically with the growing urbanization of the country. Unlike most of the rest of the educated population of Kenya, most of the Turkana people only speak their mother tongue. This is due to the severe isolation from the rest of the country. Nairobi is the nation's capital and is in the southern portion of the country. As you travel northwest through Kenya, the land becomes more arid and sparse until you reach the desert of Turkana. Many Kenyans will not venture out into this area of the country and many speak of Turkana as if it might belong in another country. Despite all of the urbanization found in Kenya, in general, it is still very rural in comparison to Western culture. Advertisements are still painted on building walls, livestock is kept just outside the houses and apartments, and the roads are barely covered in cement in the more advanced areas of the tribe. Nairobi is home to one of the world's largest slums and poverty is evident everywhere. The exchange rate in Kenya is roughly 160 shillings to every \$1 American.

Eripon lives with his parents, 2 sisters, and 2 brothers. His family gathers and sells firewood to others in their community and beyond.

community information

The Turkana people are still known to war with their neighboring tribe to the south, the Pokot, as well as their sister tribe across the border in Uganda, the Karamajong, and tend to be a semi-nomadic tribe. The women are incredibly hard-working and among the most giving people you could ever hope to find. Most village, including Natelo, are located near lagas (dry river beds). These lagas are the only source of water for the communities. Families live in manyatas (straw huts) made by hand with 2-3 manyatas joined by a fence of grass, creating a family's boma.

Bread of Life is just starting their ministry in Natelo thanks to our recently graduated missionary training students. We can't wait to see what God does as His Spirit permeates the lives of the people of this area and radiates out to those in neighboring villages who have never heard the Good News.



BREAD OF LIFE MISSION