

On Wednesday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of November, I travelled with Roselyn Amugune to Mbale to the home of Margaret and Matthew Musalia. On Thursday, Margaret hosted a meeting of several of the Kenyans who usually travel with me to Tanzania. Pamela Ngoya was not able to join us, as she had just dealt with the funeral of her sister from cancer, and had to get back to work in Njoro. We made a number of phone calls to various women leaders in Tanzania and found that they are planning to go ahead and hold their women's conference the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> of December, possibly the only one in the world that will be held in person in December. (Most Kenyan USFW's are being limited to a one day event and those in North America have been held on line via zoom.) Tanzania does not report their Covid statistics to the World Health Organization, so no one knows their status. Likely the majority of cases are in the big cities, like Dar es Salaam. We confirmed they are meeting in Nyangwe, a thatch covered meetinghouse near Mugumu and since no Kenyans will be attending, Dorcas Otieno will be their main speaker. We decided to write a letter to them all, and to send some contributions to help them, since none of us could travel to Tanzania. We will all be praying for them as they are a newer USFW group, still learning how to organize conferences, but also out of concern for the threat of Covid, which is not as common in the Serengeti, but still a threat.



*Roselyn making special chapatis for us*



*Roselyn Amugune, Margaret Musalia, Janet Mulama*

On Friday, Matthew drove us to Herman Otioko Jaika's home in Gavalachi (near Vihiga). We were interviewing Herman, as he was one of the pioneer Kenyans who started the work in Turkana, and served there for over 25 years in the desert. Matthew found his sharing so interesting, that he decided to stay with us, rather than just drop us off. Herman has been sick for some time, but he and Ruth his wife were elated to see us, since Margaret and I had known him for close to 50 years, and Roselyn knew his wife. Afterwards, we feasted on some ripe guavas we found hanging on a tree outside his front door.



*L= Herman  
R= Matthew and Roselyn using  
long forked sticks to fetch the  
guavas from on the tree.*



Ruth and Herman Otioko



Roselyn, Herman, and Matthew

We then went to Salt and Light Academy to see Leunita Mugofwe. Leunita was off praying at the local hospital for patients, a ministry she does each Monday and Friday. We found her daughter Brenda at the school. Brenda was excited to see us, and she talked in very fast American English (she did her university studies in USA and had worked there a while). We then drove on to Leunita's home and were very warmly welcomed by the whole Mugofwa family. Due to rain, we couldn't stay for supper, so Leunita and Brenda gave us a live chicken instead. Afterwards, Leunita called me and shared how reading the Advocate and Blueprints (publications of USFW International) I had given her, filled her with joy. Matthew then drove the back road, showing us Mbihi Girls HS (where he is Chair of the Board of Governors), and his local meeting Mbay Friends Church. He also showed us the old mission house in Vihiga and the new enormous building they are constructing. I was surprised to learn of a church called Mbay, as that word in Swahili means "bad," but evidently it is named after a person named Mbay, which in the language of the Maragoli's means "roaming or active".



New Vihiga YM building.



Mbay Friends Church

On Saturday, while Margaret and Matthew were busy with the funeral of a neighbor, we went to Kakamega. I spent the afternoon visiting with Dorothy, the woman who had been taking good care of Eileen Malova over the last few years. Then was picked up by Pastor Shimala of Amalemba Friends Church. I attended their two services the next day, the 7am one for all (in Swahili) and the 9:30 one for youth (in English). They all wore masks and took our temperatures before entering, and then sat distanced from each other. In between the two services had a talk with Paul Kisiangani, the Clerk of Kakamega YM. I have been invited back to share further with all their leaders, as they want to help continue the work that Eileen Malova did with me in Uganda, who was a member of their church. It was wonderful to find a local congregation supporting their own member to do ministry in the neighboring country, rather than expecting people from USA or elsewhere to provide all the support.





*Paul Kisiangani, Marian, Wilhemina, (woman leader)*



*One of the three groups of youth outside church*

I returned to Kalenda and Agneta and James had just returned from a wedding in Nairobi where they were giving support to the widow from this village whose daughter was getting married.

Today was our day of rest, to wash clothes (by hand), and I sewed repairs on the grandchildren's clothes, as well as prepared reports of our journey. Enjoyed two zoom meetings this week, both at 9PM, but it was a way to attend the business meeting of my home meeting and to attend the business meeting of the QREC Africa Archives Committee.

Everyone here is praying that the Covid Pandemic will end soon, and is also praying for a peaceful end of the political rhetoric in USA as well as for an end to the political violence in Uganda.

Thanks for all your support and messages. Marian