

Message 6. Thanksgiving in Kenya Nov 25-29

I trust that all of you in America gave thanks on the Thanksgiving day holiday. Here in Kenya, turkeys are not common, but Agneta managed to find one. It was carried in a gunia (gunny sack) on the back of a motorcycle. When the wiggling sack arrived all the children of the neighborhood gathered in curiosity and watch the enormous tom turkey being released from the bag. When it spread its tail and gobbled at them they were fascinated. Abigail roasted the bird over a wood fire and it became like roasted goat. Here we had a ceremony, where we prayed in thanksgiving, (including prayers asking for God to end the pandemic) and then I was asked to explain this American holiday. Since it started the first year after the white settlers came to America and they had learned from the native Indians of the land how to survive in the new land, we included cooked winter squash (called pumpkin here), turkey, green beans, and cranberry juice. Knapp (Agneta's grandson named after my middle name) said the cranberry tasted like medicine (a taste very different from any other fruit he had ever had).



The next day, Agneta, Roselyn, and I met with some of the leaders of Kakamega YM about the work in Uganda started by the late Eileen, one of their pastors. We talked over some of the ways they can continue the work encouraging Ugandan Friends. Then I visited Elizabeth Irungu Malenje and her daughter Marian. There Marian baked a chicken plus a chocolate cake, and I made the squash, beans, and brought cranberry juice. The next morning I prepared breakfast- yogurt, cereal, nuts, and fruit, (along with hot tea and left over cake. Feasting two days in a row! What a blessing during these Covid days to share with these long time friends.



*Visit with the women leaders of Kakamega YM in Handidi.*

*Elizabeth and Marian having a breakfast feast.*

Yesterday, I visited Zablou Malenge in Iginga (near Kakamega). Zablou has written an African version of Hill of Vision, (a book written on the history of Friends in East Africa written by Levinus Painter years ago. He is trying to get it published. He also has now started another book on history of the splitting up of East Africa YM into the 20 yearly meetings (1970's-present).

Today, instead of attending a large meeting for worship, Agneta, I and Pastor Shimala from Kakamega went to worship with Gladys Kangahi, former clerk of USFW Kenya, and of Friends World Committee, Africa Section.

She is unable to travel much and can't physically attend her local meeting, so we met with her in her home instead. Agneta also bought a sack of beans, finger millet, and wimbi flour (a kind of dark millet used to make porridge and ugali that is full of vitamins and minerals that has more flavor (like rye bread). On the way we enjoyed watching the baboons in Malava Forest.



*Shimala, Agneta, Kangahi and Gladys, MKB*



*Baboons playing and eating*

This evening I joined my Quarterly Meeting via zoom. It is a joy to learn more and work together helping Dover Monthly Mtg. that provides sanctuary for refugee families, to begin learning more about the Penacook Indians on whose land we now live and try to see how to apologize for what our ancestors did to their ancestors years ago. Also we have a new programmed meeting started by Kenyans in Nashua, NH wanting to be connected to Dover Quarterly Meeting.

Monday is a day of rest, and a time to catch up on internet reports at a local cyber café.

Thanks for all the messages. I keep praying for all that I hear who are struggling with Covid right now.

Marian