

Message 4. Nov. 7-13- Kenyan ministry

On the 7th, I went around Kakamega doing errands and getting ready for the workshop I was leading at Friends Theological College. That afternoon, I suddenly realized I was missing my smartphone. When I tried calling my smartphone using my old Nokia phone, someone answered the phone! It was the young man from the printers where I had just been. I went back to collect it. As a result of having a young person being so honest and helpful, I now do all my printing and photocopying at his shop- Double Sasha Ltd.

On Tuesday the 8th, I travelled to Kaimosi to FTC. I was able to talk with the Dean of Students, Principal, and several other teachers there about the workshop I was offering and they were really interested. Three of their women staff joined us for all the sessions.

The workshop was targeted to Quaker women who travel in ministry to cultures other than their own. We had two from Uganda, two from Turkana, one from Tanzania, one from Samburu and the rest from Kenya. Several had also travelled to USA or Britain.



Grace and Sabina teach us a Turkana song.



A weaver bird nest blown down at Elizabeth's land

It was a powerful time of each sharing their own experiences trying to minister in different cultures. The highlight for some was hearing the power point presentation on three historical women; Elizabeth Hooten, the first Woman Quaker Minister, (who travelled with and was a mentor to George Fox, and the oldest of the Valiant Sixty).

Sybil Jones- a woman who travelled to west Africa in the 1800's to encourage the freed slaves who were starting to govern Liberia and Sierra Leone- fifty years before the three young men who came and started Friends in East Africa), and

Priscilla Makhino- a Kenyan who travelled widely in ministry in multiple countries more recently.

I donated a copy of the recently republished book on Elizabeth Hooten to FTC, plus a more detailed description of all three women, since the FTC staff wants to be able to share it with all their students in future classes.

We also had sessions on the traditional Quaker way of travel in ministry and how to be held accountable. We also has a sharing session on intercultural issues, and a sharing of creative ways to finance travel in ministry. The last day they decided to form a whats ap group to support each other, to keep in contact and to encourage each other in their various ministries over the coming year. They also decided to each contribute money each month to raise funds both to hold another workshop next year and to support each other. We created QW TEAM (Quaker Women Travelling East African Ministers).



QW TEAM PHOTO along with several FTC women students and staff.

On Friday night I visited Elizabeth Mulimi, and traveled with her to Bungoma for USFW Kenya Executive Committee Meeting. They planted four trees at that site. I found later, that in some African traditions, trees were not be planted by women, but times have changed and women often plant trees to help cut down on climate change. Elizabeth Mulumi updated them about the upcoming USFWI Triennial details.



Evelyn Chonge plants a tree



Women walking back to meetinghouse after planting trees

The four trees were planted by Evelyn Chonge, Clerk, Dorothy Selebwa, Former Clerk, Edith Wekesa, Pastor of USFWK, and the local woman representative to FCK.

A Kenyan version of "quaker grey" shown by two hostesses from West Yearly Meeting.



This morning I was welcomed at Ebwambwa Friends Meeting, within walking distance of where I stay in Kakamega. The service was led by women and with a woman doing the preaching. We had a lot of singing in multiple languages. The youth thanked me for challenging their meeting, as I had walked there several weeks ago and had found no one at church on a Sunday morning. They agreed that at least a note on the door explaining that they had all gone to another meeting, or a note sharing when they normally held services would be very useful if they ever want to invite more people to join them.