

Message 5. Nairobi 15-22

Happy Thanksgiving to my American supporters.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, I travelled to Kaimosi and to Malava to meet with Zelika Galavu and Elizabeth Mulimi and then with Getry Agizah , all of whom were not able to attend the Women Travelling Ministers Workshop, as they were busy ministering during that time. They were glad to catch up on what we had covered and are eager to be a part of the ongoing group. On the 17<sup>th</sup>, Agneta and I travelled by Easy Coach to Nairobi. Each time we travelled by Bolt or Uber in Nairobi, I had to guide the drivers how to reach our destinations, as many streets were missing their street signs.

On the 18<sup>th</sup>, we held a workshop on the Quaker Archives in Quaker Homes, the guest house/mini conference center that Judith Nandikove has been constructing out of a former school building, and located right next to the Jomo Kenyatta Airport and the Railroad Station for trains to Mombasa. Five men came to the workshop, three younger ones, and two wazees (older men). The younger ones came on time, so while waiting for the elders to arrive, I was able to show them the power point presentation I had made for the Women's Workshop about three Quaker women, Elizabeth Hooten, Sybil Jones, and Priscilla Makhino. They were fascinated to learn about these women and to hear that a number of the Valiant Sixty were young people in their late teens and twenties.

Judith then welcomed all, shared how she had visited various archives when in England and USA, as well as Kenya National Archives, to see how to create and preserve materials, and I shared how the QREC Africa group had started creating an archive at FTC and Agneta shared how she has now conducted nine oral interviews of older Friends. Then each person shared the part of the archives in which they were interested or had skills to assist. David Kikaya shared with us about the connection that Quakers in Kenya and in Britain had with Jomo Kenyatta, a bit of history many of us. Jane Matasio as one who works in management of records, she had felt called to write her Master's thesis on How Friends can create an archives. (long before most people were thinking about archives) and then taught all the methods we have developed for collecting the written and oral parts of African Quaker history. Although she shared after a delicious lunch prepared by Judith, no one fell asleep and all were eager to learn more and help out. John Nawafula's father had just published a book on the roots of African Quakerism, and John has video, and publishing skills to offer. Others had skills in communications, in writing and editing, and others could help us discern which older Friends to interview. We had expected to continue into Saturday, but all were eager and we managed to finish, with the plans to create a whats ap group to help coordinate as we go forward in collecting, interviewing, and getting the history written by African Quakers. The archives working group will not be under any one of the various yearly meetings, FCK, or FUM, as it is meant for all Friends in Africa.



*Older and younger attendees listen attentively to Jane Matasio, archival advisor on the methods to use*



*Archival workshop in Nairobi*

The 20<sup>th</sup>, we accompanied Judith to the prayer day for her youngest child, Aquila who is about to finish grade 8 . After the prayer service, the parents met with their children and most had “tailgate” lunches together. Judith had brought pizza and yogurt (favorites of youth in Kenya), but others had cooked up traditional dishes of rice and chicken. Nairobi is very different from rural Kenya, as even the uniforms for the girls are trousers instead of skirts! Her older daughter Natalie will go to Australia for College in Feb.



Aquila seeing the pizza in the car      Judith with daughters Natalie and Aquilla

On Sunday, the 21<sup>st</sup>, we visited the unprogrammed meeting at Ngong Road. They have developed a library for Friends to use in Nairobi. It is also available for use by the Nairobi campus of FTC. A Friend from Wales visited and brought them some Quaker books. They were eager to hear about the Africa Quaker Archives Project.

I also met with Edna Bondi and Carol Sore who travel regularly to support women in southern Tanzania, who had missed the Womens Workshop. Since Edna is named after Edna Bond, one of the early Quaker missionaries to Kenya, she is also interested in helping on the archives project as well.



*Ngong Road Unprogrammed Meeting.*



*Edna Bondi and Carol Sore meet with me*

On the way to and from Nairobi, I enjoyed the beautiful scenery. We stopped to buy produce in the highlands, and enjoyed the bright green of the tea plantations common between Kapsabet and Kaimosi.



*Bags of peas, not exotic fruit*



*Source of my favorite beverage (tea bushes),*

Thanks for your prayers and messages. Agneta travelled back with 2 large turkeys to feed her large family for Thanksgiving and Christmas. One almost disappeared with a piki driver, but it was rescued. I will celebrate Thanksgiving with Elizabeth and Marian on Wednesday and with Agneta and family on Saturday, since Thursday here is not a holiday and everyone is busy working. Saturday evening, we will head to Busoga, Uganda. Pray for safe travels. (We will not be going to western Uganda where there is Ebole.) In much gratitude,  
Marian