

Message 6- Nov. 23-29 Greetings from Uganda

This week, a team came to Elizabeth's to build a fish pond. They first had to cut down two large trees. The trees were sawed up into timber, the roots removed to be made into charcoal, and the rest cut into firewood. They dug the pond by hand using shovels, jembes (hoes) and a wheelbarrow. They expect the pond to be lined and by the end of next year start producing fish, as an income generating project.



Starting to dig the pond



Sawing log into timber



The large fish pond

On the 23rd, I cooked up a thanksgiving meal with pumpkin, stuffing, cranberries, and a chicken for my hosts. Marian (my namesake) baked a cake. We spent time in prayer, with each of us thanking God for all our blessings before eating. After we had finished, she took a plate of slices of the cake to the team digging the pond. All were thrilled to receive it. Two of the men had never ever tasted cake in their lives!



Marian's cake decorated with barnyard animals for which we are thankful.

On Thanksgiving Day, Marian cooked up a meal and invited several of her agemate friends (20 to 30 year-olds), who are going through hard times such as death of a sibling, sexual abuse from relatives, or not being able to get jobs (despite being well trained and educated). I was asked to give them some words of encouragement. They were really excited to be invited. We had so much fun sharing stories until it was late, so they slept on the couches overnight and left early in the morning, each with a piece of cake for breakfast. What a blessing to share with others on Thanksgiving, rather than just feasting ourselves.

On the 26th, I went to Agneta's in Malava to celebrate Thanksgiving. She had bought a turkey and I again enjoyed cooking for them. Later that afternoon, Agneta and I travelled toward Uganda. The next morning, being a Sunday, few people were travelling and it was hard to get a matutu. Instead, God sent us a large sugar cane lorry (semi-trailer) that offered us a ride. We sat high up in the cab in front and got to the border in good time- We felt we were travelling First class! We crossed the border on foot in Busia and drank local ginger tea while waiting for Stephen and Rose Wamboka from Mbale, Uganda to fetch us.

We then drove to Nangoma in southern Uganda, not far from the shores of Lake Victoria. This is a village where we have been trying to get the Friends to start working to support themselves. We had not told anyone we were coming. It was a joy to find a worship service in progress with about 40 people of all ages gathered and a newer woman pastor, Rachel giving a good teaching sermon about Elijah and the widow. All of us challenged them to work hard and build a meetinghouse, as they had 100 acres of land that was being encroached upon by settlers, since they had not shown any development. They then showed us a pile of posts they had collected and some adobe bricks that they had been making. Unfortunately, they had had rain that destroyed some of their bricks. We told them to continue making

bricks, but also start building a small temporary building that only needed 20 iron sheets. Then, when they got ready for the roof, we would get others in Uganda to help with iron sheets for a roof. The bricks would then be built up outside the building to slowly create a permanent larger building.



Agneta and Stephen listen to Pastor Rachel who pointed out the pile of bricks, while Rose in red talks with other leaders.

We left Uganda and returned to Mumias that night. This morning, we boarded the local bus that uses a short cut rural road from Mumias through Shianda and Kabras to Eldoret. They lifted up large gunias (gunny sacks) full of shoes and clothing that were piled on top of the bus along with large parcels of blankets. These were dropped off at Nambacha, where they have their weekly market day on Monday. We were able to go all the way to Kalenda Junction, and walk down to Agneta's home. As soon as we reached her home, her grandchildren and orphans were delighted to be served the Thanksgiving cake for lunch. We stretched the meal out for two days.



*Msamaria mwema bus as it was being loaded.
The gunny sacks are the height of the men.*



Agneta and I riding in the bus

I returned to Kakamega, and am now getting ready to go to Tanzania for the next ten days. You can pray for safe travels of the two teams of women going to a National Sunday School Teachers gathering, ministering in Mwanza with Dorcas Otieno, and then helping at the Tanzanian USFW Conference being hosted by a new meeting in Royra district between Lake Victoria and Tarime, Tanzania.

Thanks for your messages and support.

In gratitude,
Marian