

Message #2 Visiting in Kenya. Oct 30-Nov. 5

Greetings from Malava.

On the 30th, I went to Handidi to the Conference Center that the USFW Kenya women have built. I met with my Kenyan support committee upstairs on a shaded verandah overlooking the Nandi escarpment, a rural area outside the city of Kakamega. I forgot to take a photo!

In addition to being a support committee for me, it is also a time when a number of very active Quaker women in leadership can come together and support each other as well.

Getry Agizah from FUM had just arrived that morning from the sessions of Tanzania Yearly Meeting that were held in southern Tanzania near the Malawi border—a 3- or 4-day bus ride or drive from Kenya. Linet Mmbone Tokiko, the librarian for the new Africa Quaker Archives from FTC, had just returned from the archives workshop held last week. Margaret Musalia shared about her visiting older women in Tanzania and Kenya, Zelika Galavu shared her ministry in Turkana, and Agneta Injairu shared about her recent ministry in Uganda. As each shared, we listened intently, encouraging each other. In the process I learned where they wanted me to help them. We also found it important to work collaboratively with USFWK, FUM, FTC, and with the local women's groups where we travel in ministry. Attached is my updated itinerary for the rest of my time here this year.

From Handidi, we travelled to Kakamega, and Miriam Were collected us and took us to her home. We had a good visit with her and her husband, Humphrey, who retired as a government Agricultural Leader and is now enjoying growing his own crops. In the morning on the cool verandah by the beautiful hibiscus tree, we taped Miriam sharing about growing up as a Friend in Lirhanda and how it helped her go on to be the first woman in Africa to be trained as a medical doctor, and develop preventative medical work.



*Hibiscus tree*



*Miriam and Humphrey.*



*Agneta taping Miriam*



*Admiring Humphrey's maize*

This past weekend, Agneta and I traveled down to Chango, near Vihiga, to visit the home of the late Joseph Kisia, a well-known and well-traveled Friend. His siblings were excited to see us and we shared about the formation of the Quaker Archives, so they would be able to welcome the younger Friends who will be coming to interview them and others in the area. Three of the Kisias are now living in USA, and Miriam had visited my home in NH several months ago.

On Sunday we awoke early and attended their village meeting. It was a joy to hear them singing one of my favorite hymns, *Ubuyanzi*—the Love of God. I found they, like many other Friends here, were not familiar with travel minutes, the document that introduces who the traveler is and why they are traveling. I had to explain to them how to endorse the minute, as a way of accountability to my home church, proving where I have been.

We then traveled by piki, matatu, and piki to Ikonyero near Kakamega to see Clare Makhino, daughter of the late Priscilla Makhino, with whom I used to travel. Her husband has just become a pastor and had a brand new interdenominational church. They and their daughter were delighted to see us, and we shared with them about the archives that includes some their mother's writings.

We also travelled to Lubao and visited Rosemary Amugune Mutsami, who had just lost her mother, shared a cup of tea and encouraged her and prayed for her. Due to the funeral, she will be missing the annual gathering of the travelling women ministers meeting next week. Finally, we reached Agneta's home very tired. Agneta immediately went into her *shamba* (garden) and plucked some *likhovi* (cowpea leaves) for supper.



*Sunday school building-Wamuhila Friends.*



*Woman pastor.*



*Paul & Claire Makhino with me and Agneta*

I have been resting and catching up on reports and email/whats app messages. Came into the town of Kakamega to send this message to all of you.

Thanks for all your support. Meanwhile, I and many others in Kenya are praying for peaceful elections in USA and that one who is a capable leader is chosen. It is on the TV and radio nonstop here.

In gratitude,

Marian

Draft Itinerary, Africa Ministry, 22 October 2024 to 19 December 2024

- 22 October: Fly from Boston to Amsterdam
- 23 October: Fly Amsterdam to Nairobi - arriving late in evening-night in Jamia Hotel
- 24 October: Easy Coach to Kaimosi
- 25 to 26 October: Africa Quaker Archives at FTC, Kaimosi, Kenya
- 27 or 28 October: Rest in Malava at Agneta's in Kalenda
- 29 October: Kakamega—Internet/phone work, go to Elizabeth Malenje's-Ebwambwa
- 30 October: Meet Kenyan support committee in Handidi
- 30 Oct.–1 Nov.: Visit Miriam Were and interview her
- 2–3 Nov.: Visit in Chango area Travel around Kenya helping on oral interviews
- 4–6 Nov.: Rest
- 7 Nov.: Visit Gladys Kangahi sister in Shihendu
- 8–9 Nov.: Quaker Women Traveling Ministers Gathering in Kitale
- 10 Nov.: Meet with archivists in Kitale
- 11 Nov.: return to Kakamega or Malava
- 12 Nov.: Travel with Margaret in Tanzania; visit Kisangura H.School
- 16 Nov.: meet with USFWK Executive in Vihiga, share about archives
- 17–19 Nov.: Visit Busoga and Mbale, Uganda, find active SS teacher
- 20–21 Nov.: Rest
- 22 Nov.: FTC Graduation, Kaimosi and visit Pauline re RSWR
- 23–24 Nov.: Meet with Afr. QREC to plan April QREC training with Melinda Bradley
- 24 Nov., evening: meet with Claire Makhino in Kakamega
- 26 Nov.: Rest
- 27 Nov.: visit National Sunday Schools Assoc., Central YM
- 28–29 Nov.: Thanksgiving with Injairus and with Malenjes
- 30–31 Nov.: Visit in Lirhanda area
- 1–2 Dec.: Rest in Kakamega or Malava
- 3–8 Dec.: Tanzania USFW, Mugumu, Tanzania
- 9–10 Dec.: Rest in Kakamega or Malava
- 11–15 Dec. Uganda USFW- Busia, Uganda
- 16–18 Dec.: Nairobi: visit Suzy Ndanyi, NCCK, archival assistance, visit Pam in Nakuru enroute?
- 18 Dec.: Fly to Amsterdam
- 19 Dec.: Amsterdam to Boston and home to NH