

Message#8 Kenya Travels- Dec 17-20, 2024



Pamela in Pam's robe.



Dragonfruit



Snow back home outside my kitchen window

On Tuesday, the 17th of December, I began my journey back to USA. I travelled with Agneta from Kakamega via Easy Coach to Nakuru. There Pamela Ngoya and her husband, Abraham, collected us from the bus station. Pamela was delighted to see us. She has been fighting breast cancer. She has one more session of chemo/radiation therapy treatments to go, and was feeling better than she had been. She has lost her hair (a common reaction to radiation/chemo therapy for cancer,) but otherwise was able to be up and around some and eager to see us and hear the news of the Kenyan women who are travelling in ministry. A friend of hers had come to make some food for all of us. She even shared a dragonfruit, which I had never tasted before. We had a wonderful day of fellowship and prayers. She was especially eager to hear news of Tanzania. (as she has regularly been travelling in ministry among Tanzanian Friends, and had gone with me the first time I went there). She was one of the five Kenyan woman pastors who received one of the ecumenical robes from the late Pastor Pam Cole, who served many years on my New England support committee. They were all delighted to receive such a gift from a fellow woman pastor.

The next day, Agneta returned home and I travelled on to Nairobi by Easy Coach. One of Pamela's sons met me and arranged for an Uber to take me to the airport. The flight to Amsterdam didn't load until midnight. I was so tired, that I fell asleep even before the plane rose up in the sky, and didn't wake up until after six hours of sleep- (and missed the late night meal). I was very grateful to sleep, (as it was more needed than food).

On the flight from Amsterdam to Boston, the KLM staff at the airport suddenly changed my ticket after I had cleared through everything and put me in the back of the plane, 11 seats behind my ticket. My bag was put in an overhead bin 13 seats on the other side of the plane. Evidently, Delta Airlines were not communicating with KLM that dealt with security and ticketing. I arrived at Boston, and waited for a bus to Concord, NH. My Kenyan phone could do email, but not work as a phone, and the American phone had refused to charge up. I am grateful for the long, but safe journey back to New Hampshire. Wendy, my niece in law came to collect me, as Janet my neighbor had Covid. I phoned Janet, but haven't visited yet, as to avoid catching Covid.

When I got home, I ate some soup and tea, took a hot shower, and went to bed. The next day, I went through all my mail, and started unpacking my bags, and then went to our Candlelight Carol Service at our 200+ year old meetinghouse. What a warm welcome and a wonderful way to enjoy Christmas, singing

the familiar Christmas carols by candlelight. Despite the slippery two inches of snow, a good number of people showed up and we sang with great joy and thanksgiving and filled the small meetinghouse. Our clerk made luminary containers out of ice, which she put into white paper bags, so the wind would not blow out the candles. These bordered the path into the meetinghouse. Afterwards we shared bountiful finger foods that everyone had brought.



Luminaries marking the path.



Table full of food to share.



Inside during the singing

I now am back at home and have the wood stoves going, as the temperature dropped to 0 degrees Fahrenheit. (minus 16 degrees Celcius) last night).

If any of you want me to come visit your meeting, do contact me. I expect to return to Kenya in late September. May you all have a peaceful Christmas- so much needed all over the world.

With much gratitude,
Marian