

Message 1. Safe Arrival in Kenya. 15 September to 19th September, 2025



View out the bus enroute from Nairobi thru the Rift Valley. Golden sashes and books. Staff of FTC

Greetings from Kenya! In Nairobi, it is dry and dusty, but I understand in western Kenya, there have been many heavy rains. Jacaranda trees are covered with their purple flowers at this time of year.

I was suddenly notified by the airlines at 8:30 a.m. of the day before my flight was booked, that my flight to Nairobi was canceled by them due to strikes in Amsterdam and Paris. The choice was to either fly a day early or possibly get my journey delayed by several weeks. What a frenzied morning, as I very quickly finished my packing (and forgot several things), and notified various neighbors and relatives who could do some of the chores needed at my house to free myself to travel so soon. Janet, my nearest neighbor, was able to take me by 11:30 a.m. to the bus station so I could get to the airport for an evening flight.

I was able to reach Boston, and flew via Amsterdam to Nairobi. On the long last flight, the time went by quickly, as I sat between one younger man who has been traveling in Kenya and Jamaica for 35 years, helping many schools and helping people learn how to keep records of integrity concerning grants received. The other was a woman who had been just two times for her NGO, but was fascinated to hear each of our stories about mistakes we had made over the years, how we travel simply at grassroots level, and how we have learned from people of many different cultures and tribes.

In Nairobi, I slept at a hotel near Easy Coach and woke up by 9 a.m., refreshed. Haggai and Patience Injairu came to see me from Thika and together we walked around the big city, finding replacements for most of the things I had forgotten (e.g., some phone charging cords, notebook, plus some food for breakfast in the bus the next day). I spent the day going across Kenya on the bus. The driver never turned the bus off from the time we left (even at the several places they stop for 15–20 minutes until likely when it stopped for the night in Mumias). As a result, on the way up the escarpment the bus overheated. The driver then left the bus running and gathered bottles of water to cool the engine. However, I reached safely at Cheptulu and Robert Wafula, Principal of Friends Theological College came to fetch me. I spent an hour or more sharing with Robert and Nancy Wafula, who were eager to learn news of the USA (having spent years there themselves). I spent the night at Margaret Amudavi's staff house and had yummy ginger tea and sweet potato with sesame sauce for tea, and ugali (maize meal) and greens for supper.

This morning, I attended morning chapel with the students at FTC, and then delivered a pile of books and materials for FTC and its library, and also delivered some archival books and materials for the Africa Quaker Archives. Then I wrote up a computer list of all I had delivered to the college and the archives. The golden sashes will add color for their graduation gowns, and books were mostly Quakerism books, plus ones about Women in the Bible and famous Quaker women to encourage the many Quaker women ministers here in Kenya.

This afternoon, Abner Injairu plans to collect me and take me to Agneta's house in Malava. After a weekend plus a few Zoom calls of organizing for workshops, I plan to travel to northwest Uganda for the Quaker Earthcare Witness Tree planting and education project, so will not be able to send another report until I get back to Kenya the end of the month. Thanks for all your support.

In gratitude,

Marian