

## Message 2. Sept 20-30 Kenya and western Uganda

On the 20th, I went to Agneta's home in rural Malava area to rest. Attended Shirugu meeting on Sunday, and otherwise rested after the long journey to Kenya. On Tuesday the 23rd I met with my Kenyan support committee in Handidi at the Conference Center of USFWK. I was warmly welcomed by these old friends. We each shared an update of our recent ministry—Linnet Mmbone from FTC, Getry Agizah from FUM office, Margaret Musalia, who ministers in Tanzania, Agneta Injairu who ministers in Uganda, and Zelikah who ministers in Turkana. It became clear I will need to go to Tanzania with Margaret to try to help the leadership of USFW there work together. I am grateful, that I finally was able to get a 5-year multientry visa to Kenya, so I can travel between the countries of East Africa more easily. Linet had to leave early due to the hospitalization of her mother, who unfortunately died a few days later. Also Edith Wekesa, the pastor for all of USFW Kenya could not join us, due to illness. We then prayed for each other, and included prayers for Linet and Edith.



*Agneta, Zelika, Getry, Margaret (support com). Alfred, Agneta, Centrine, I, with Sylvia and Apollo Wopicho*

On Wednesday, the 24th, Agneta and I traveled to the home of Apollo and Sylvia Wopicho in Mbale, Uganda. We met up with Alfred and Centrine Wasike who travelled westward with us the next day. Agneta and Alfred stopped in Lira to check on the property owned by Friends in that city, while Centrine and I went on by bus to Kigumba. We passed Karuna Falls of the Nile River on the way. Then took pikis to Nyama Friends Primary School. There we were welcomed by Pastor Emmanuel, clerk of Western Region of Uganda Yearly Meeting, and Leo the new headmaster of Nyama Friends School who has started a new Friends meeting held at the school. We stayed in a vacant teacher's house, and were given mattresses and mats so we could sleep on the floor.

There was a nationwide strike of teachers over salaries, so the next morning, I briefly met the head of the church and chair of the School Board of Managers. Then I taught all the p1-3 children (grade 1-3) which included 89 children. I taught in Swahili and the headmaster repeated my words in a local dialect. James Injairu (husband to Agneta who is a fine arts teacher), had drawn me a skeleton of an acacia tree. Then together with the children put all the important uses of trees as foliage on the tree. Then I taught the p4-p7 students the same lesson. We then had two boys and one girl draw their own local trees, and make a poster to be shared in all the classrooms. This group had 58 children.

That afternoon, Marian met with the H/M and the school's teachers about the lessons we had taught, and shared ways they could improve the school. They were invited to join the Saturday workshop for adults if interested.



*Kids enjoying a tree*



*Part of the kids I was teaching about the importance of trees.*

On Saturday- We held a workshop with adults, including the PTA leaders, leaders of Nyama School Board of Managers, Leaders of the Friends Church, and local government leaders. The eldest leader shared how the school was named Nyama due to the many buffalo and other animals that were there, due to the national park and game reserve nearby. However, as people settled, cut trees for building and firewood, the climate has changed. They learned the value of planting a tree to replace any cut down. They also were encouraged to plant a tree when celebrating the birth of a child, as by the time the child needed school fees, the tree could pay school fees. They are interested in doing more to restore their environment. Centrine gave a hands-on lesson how to make briquettes out of parts of maize and cassava that are not used for food, (Instead of using firewood for cooking). They are eager to learn more on topics such as trees that can provide medicine and other trees whose parts could be sold, as they are near the major Kampala to Gulu highway. .

Alfred shared the core values (testimonies) of Quakers and how our workshop was showing stewardship, community, and equality (all ages, women and men). The adults were interested to find a church that tried to offer practical ways to daily live as Christians, not just to talk about Christ. Saturday night, I answered many questions from Leo, (the H/M) and Emmanuel how to enable the school and the local Friends meeting to grow, and they showed much interest in furthering their work for climate restoration. Then Leo had all the adults plant a tree each on the school compound just before a heavy downpour of rain came.



*Team with Community leaders -Emmanuel and Leo on right. Karuna Falls- on the Nile River*

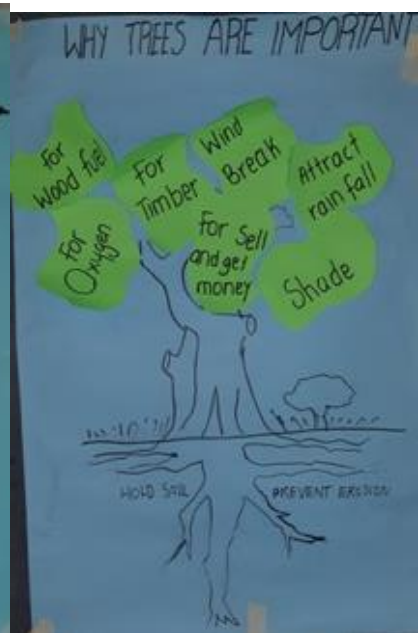




Original poster,  
(a double acacia tree



girls poster,  
a mango tree



boys poster  
cut and paste poster)

Sunday, we visited the new meeting and then returned on our long journey back to Mbale. Agneta and I arrived at her home at 2:30 the next day, washed our clothes and dried them overnight, repacked and headed to FTC in Kaimosi to welcome Melinda and Matt Bradley who had just arrived from USA for the Africa QREC Conference of Sunday School Teachers.. Last night, Agneta and I and 8 others joined a zoom meeting to plan for the Africa Quaker Archives Workshop in November. I am trying to get this completed and sent off to you all before the Sunday School Teachers conference begins.

Thanks for all your prayers enabling us to have long, but safe journeys.  
In gratitude, Marian

*p.s. this got delayed in being sent due to computer breakdown, loss of electricity  
in heavy rain storm and confusion having to download photos from cell phone via email to computer!*



Agneta and I planting a tree with  
help of the two women community  
leaders.