

Letter 2 from Kenya 2017

May 4. 2016

Here we are again writing a letter in the hope that we find a reliable internet connection to be able to send it home.

When we last wrote we were in Kisumu for a couple of days before heading up to Kakamega.

While in Kisumu we took a day to explore the surrounding area. We ended up climbing the rocks at Kit Mikayi – an impressive collection of rocks and caves going back millennia. Our guides were anxious to share the lore and history of the rocks – be sure to ask us what we learned!

While at Mill Hill we enjoyed a wonderful evening catching up on activities with Sr. Bernadette of Pandipieri Clinic – what an amazing woman this little Irish nun is!



May 9th

We never did find an internet connection :(We are now in Nairobi and adding to our many purchases of treasures to bring home.

We really had a great time visiting all of our friends in Kakamega. Each year it is a little like coming home.



Our first official project visit was to the Shitochi Goats. Everything there is going along very well. A baby goat had been born the evening before we were there and not five minutes after we left another one was born. Alas we missed a photo of the newborns. We were fortunate though because once again we were awarded a live chicken!!!!

It took us a couple of days to visit all of our education students. First we met with three individual students who are attending nearby boarding schools. They are all doing very well – especially Kingsley who has lofty aspirations of becoming “A Pope”.



We certainly enjoyed a very special day when we joined the Chevoso Group to officially open their new posho mill. It has been functioning for a little while but we symbolically cut the ribbon. There was a tremendous amount of singing and celebrating that day!

A couple of days later we spent time with our original group of students and we were really blown away by their confidence and showmanship as they treated us to dramatic poetry readings and a few songs – mostly in English. What an improvement. They have all grown so much in stature and maturity - even since last year. Check for pictures and videos soon to be posted on our web-site. (Not too soon!)

The Khayega Widows Sewing group have been busy creating more great samples of their work for us to bring home. Some will be available at our plant/bake/market sale on May 20th.

As a farewell treat we invited a few friends for dinner on Saturday. As we stepped out onto the porch to wave goodbye our front door closed itself and locked itself!! Oh my goodness we sure make our presence known. The guards came. Then the owner came – and actually broke the handle trying to open the door. The next idea put into action was for the handyman, Julius, to go home and wake up his young toddler to come and crawl through a window to open the door. How embarrassing!

Sunday night we had another dinner – this time for Susan, Esther, Fr. Paul & John. It was repeat of our North American treat of the night before – vegetarian chili with garlic bread. Yum Yum. Just as we were serving dinner the piercing scream of the smoke detector sounded throughout the compound. None of our guests had ever heard the sound before and everyone was shocked and confused – yet another Canadian happening! After five ear shattering minutes the guards

came to open even more windows and doors. Finally the owner came running and actually ripped the smoke detector off the wall!! Ahhhh the silence was golden. As if all that was not enough we chilled our guests to the bone with ice cream drenched in Maple Syrup for dessert! We doubt they have ever experienced anything like dining with the Canadians! We had a blast.

We had one last Canadian experience to finish off our evening together. We presented John with his first ever birthday cake complete with candle and a Happy Birthday song.

After some tearful goodbyes & lots of great hugs we bid everyone adieu until next year.

We are now in Nairobi and are already reminiscing about our excursions. We head to the airport at 8pm tomorrow night and arrive home on Thursday evening. Thank you for reading a little snippet of our trip – we hope to see you all soon to share the stories in person. We will also share more in the Newsletter coming soon.

We send our heartfelt best wishes to everyone affected by the horrendous flooding and sincerely hope the worst is over.

Take care everyone.

Kwaheri from Kenya