

Second Letter Home
from the SFA Kenya Projects
July 17, 2015.



Here we are sitting on our little porch at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Mukumu. It is just approaching 5:45. It will soon be too dark to read outside and the mosquitos will chase us indoors.

We have had some interesting days since our last communication. Unfortunately emptying a container has not been one of our activities. The container is still in Mombasa and every day or two we get asked for a different form to have filled out or another permit to apply for. We have now come to the realization that the container will not arrive until after we have gone. It is so disappointing. All the projects and schools that we visited should have received items that had been packed specifically for them.

We certainly have filled our time since we last wrote. It is hard to believe that tomorrow is going to be our last day in the Kakamega area. We leave for Nairobi on Sunday morning – and then fly out Tuesday night for home.

Last week we were warmly welcomed to see one of our latest projects – a facility that sells paraffin to the Chevosso community. Liquid paraffin is used to light household lamps. Rachel, the property owner, also runs a small shop so that when locals come for paraffin they may also purchase some small necessities such as salt, sugar, matches etc. and vice versa. It seems like a perfect match.

On Friday we had the distinct pleasure of driving to Kisumu to visit with our friends at Mill Hill Guest House. Sister Bernadette joined us there for a scrumptious lunch. We were really pleased that Father Hans was on hand. We also enjoyed meeting another NGO group visiting from Britain. Needless to say we had to stop and shop a little bit at the Maasai Market while we were in town.

We once again visited the Shanyinya Community to officially open their new latrines. In the past we have installed a well, purchased a cow and a poultry project and recently supplied tables, chairs & uniforms for the ECD School situated on the church property. It was wonderful to see everyone again.

A day spent with our Education Sponsorship students is always a great day. After writing letters to their respective sponsors most students agreed to video a short message as well. The students are all doing well. They were appreciative of the hearty lunch that was served and pleased to be going home with a couple of mosquito nets.

Shamoni Primary is the name of the school where our newest students are situated. What a pleasure it was to be greeted at the gate by two rows of girls singing and dancing their way up the driveway, dressed in traditional pleated khangas. The entertainment went on to various songs, poems and plays. A tremendous talent and effort was shown by all participants. Again students wrote home and some agreed to be videoed. The lower primary students got mosquito nets to take home. While there Wendy showed Susan and Esther some pictures of the snow fall at home of the past winter. One of the photos was of a snow man and Susan expressed concern that it was Wendy and that she had stayed out too long!!!

Wait till you see some of the wonderful items that were made by the Khayega Sewing Group. Nice placemats, table runners, aprons & a couple of tops.

Luckily time permitted a quick visit with the Maisha Mapya Support Group. These women are all Aids/HIV survivors and it was amazing to see how well they are all doing thanks to Susan's counseling and support. They are the recipients of our first cow project. Be sure to check out our next newsletter to read their testimonials and success stories.

This brings us to today – and our last “official duty” of this trip. We were honoured to visit the Chevoso Dispensary and Chevoso Primary School – the location of Joshua's 2nd Well. There were so many dignitaries and politicians on hand to hear Joshua's story. This well will certainly change the lives of many, many individuals in this extended community.

It was also a real pleasure to see Bishop Emeritus Sulmeti – he stopped by to say hi. He has not been well and made a quick visit to the Hospital for a malaria check. He doesn't have malaria at the moment but needs to rest.

Tomorrow we are hosting a catered dinner here in our home away from home to say goodbye to some of our Kenyan friends. We are not brave enough to attempt cooking ourselves – especially since we only have running water in a small bathroom sink!!

We are leaving Kenya with mixed emotions. We accomplished a lot while here but did not get to do the main activity that we were here for – distributing the great items in the container. It has been decided that all the contents of the container will be locked in a secure area until we can return to handle the distribution.

We have a few appointments while in Nairobi – one is a visit to Kibera. This is one of the biggest slums in the world and we are going to be hosted by the group “Shining Hope” who run a school for girls inside the slum.

Before we know it we will be on the plane heading home.

Thanks for reading our notes – we hope you have enjoyed them.

Bye for now,
Wendy & Michele