

JOURNAL FOR WEEK OF AUGUST 30 TO SEPTEMBER 9, 2007

AUGUST 30, 2007: The day was spent catching up with my journaling and completing a financial report.

I also packed for our Kisumu trip.

AUGUST 31, 2007: Sister Frances Cassidy gave us a lift to Kadel in her new 4 wheel drive. She and the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph were on their way to Asumbi for a final profession and jubilee ceremony for 14 sisters. The choir from Raruowa were to leave from the parish compound for the same ceremony. Fr. Aloys was to pack them in his truck. When we reached Kadel, we were able to board a bus for Kisumu immediately. We bumped along until reaching the new road in Kendu Bay. When we reached Kisumu, we took a tukutuku (3 wheel motorized cart) to Gwako Ministries Internet Café downtown. I called Laban when we finished at the internet café. He was 45 minutes late so we decided to have lunch until he arrived. Laban came 20 minutes later dressed in a cream colored suit. He had just addressed the members of his church who had gathered for a conference on family life and Christian values at Mission for Africa(MFA). Laban joined us for lunch then we left for MFA.

After resting for 30 minutes, we went to the hall to speak with the women from two womens groups, MFA and Kanyakam. After introductions, I described the process of editing the grant proposal and told them that the new projects for income generation would be sent to foundations and other funders. Some basic legal and financial attachments need to be included before this could happen. I described the process for applying and the time period of most foundation considerations.

After the talk, we toured the chicken house. A new set of fryers and broilers now occupied a new coop and half of the older coop. We spent the rest of the day resting and watching TV trying to catch the news.

September 01, 2007: Since I had already addressed the womens groups, the morning was spent taking photos of the staff, the orphans and conferees having breakfast. We left to shop at 9a.m.with Laban. At Nakumatt, Angie and Anika shopped for household items, I for food, and Laban for necessities for the orphanage. After loading all our items, we headed for Raruowa speeding to beat an oncoming rain storm. The roads from Kadel to Koyier were still a bit wet from the previous night's rains, but we were able to navigate the last lap without getting stuck. Shortly after unloading, Laban set out for Kisumu fearing another heavy rain would lock him into Raruowa.

September 02, 2007: After Fr. Aloys celebrated the 8 A.M. mass, we went with him to the Alara Center chapel to celebrate another mass for people in Kanam. I took the opportunity to update the people about the progress on the water and latrine project. Mary had done a proposal for the Kanam water project for the three sublociations. I had asked Dennis Ombok to see if his plastics company in Mombasa could make the latrine composting units. On the way to Mary Lieta's home in Kanam, we stopped off so Father Aloys could bless the site for a new house for a couple from Kisumu. Mary, Leah and

Serafina Mambe had fixed a traditional African dinner for us. On the way back, we took all the curtains that Serafina had made for our house and for Sr. Frances' newly renovated house. We spent the rest of the day putting up our curtains. We ended the day with sharing of the heart and discussing community business.

September 03, 2007: My morning ritual is to take a cold shower, boil containers of water for drinking and tea, empty the trash and bury the garbage to compost it every second day. We decided to have Judith Oburu do our laundry, clean our house and make lunch on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Maurice Otieno would clean and plant on the compound including our immediate yard. I had Maurice use the pile of small stones in our backyard to make a spiraling gravel walkway in our side yard which we plan to fence off to keep the sheep and cattle out. I hope to revive my gardening aspirations when we do fence off the side yard. I am also hoping to restore the outdoor earthen oven for baking.

Monday mornings between 9 to 10 A.M. are reserved for our team meetings. Sr. Christopha came back in the afternoon to complain about Judith and Maurice now working for us. I told her that she has to pay them decently and treat them fairly if she wants to keep her help. She was unhappy, but understood what I said.

I contacted several people on our water project list to verify phone and e-mail addresses. Everlyn Anyango Mbui came in the early afternoon to collect her supply allowance for the second term of the Nyere Early Childhood Development School she is attending. I promised to follow up on the tuition for the first term that was supposed to be wired from St. Paul to the Nyere Catholic Diocese.

September 04, 2007: Fr. Aloys drove us to Kadel where we got on a bus to Homa Bay. After downloading and answering our e-mail at the internet café, we went with Dominic Ombok to a fast food place before taking a taxi to Kalanya Primary where representatives from the three sublocations of Migoya: Kalanya, Kanyango, and Kanyadiel were to meet at 2 p.m.. The meeting took place at 3:20p.m.. After the opening prayer, Dominic reported on the census forms that had been completed then appealed to those who had not completed them to turn the forms in as soon as possible. He announced that each member not on the board would be assessed 50 schillings each month. Board members would pay 100 schillings per month to set an example of commitment. The following payments have been made or will be made by the newly formed CBO:

- 1,495 Ksh to register as a Community Based Organization
- 10,000 Ksh for a drilling permit
- 3,100 Ksh to post a public notice
- 3,600 Ksh to use the government machinery to drill the borehole

The CBO will set up a bank account soon. The hydrologist recommended that each borehole in each sublocation be at least one kilometer apart. The CBO will sponsor womens groups in its target area, as well. Dominic suggested that a tree nursery be a project so that the hills could be reforested to restore the ground water table. I told the women that it was up to them what they want to do for income generation. They will

have to have a plan, a budget and responsible financial accounting before we can send their proposals to funders.

The last item of business was to collect dues from each sublocation. 706 Ksh was collected that afternoon. We took leave of Dominic and returned to Homa Bay where we boarded a rickety bus which had to have a tire changed before leaving. Fr. Aloys picked us up in Kadel. It was nightfall when we arrived home.

September 05, 2007: Angie plans to spend Mondays and Wednesdays helping out at the Raruowa clinic. She spent the day in Koyier and Kadel at the well baby clinics. Anika continued to organize the proposals and related data. Mary and I spent most of the day rethinking the water systems for St. Lucy Girls Secondary facilities, the rectory, the convent and the Home Craft Center facilities. To help me visualize the improvements, I did sketches of each building with the recommended renovations. Estimates will have to be done by Silvans Molo, our contractor.

I prepared dinner for us and our guests: Fr. Aloys, Lucy his housekeeper, and Jackline Odhiambo, a teacher at St. Lucy. We had invited Fr. Aloys to have dinner with us when he can. He doesn't like to eat alone in the rectory. Lucy helps by bringing a few dishes to augment our menu. Mary and Serafina went home to Kanam after restringing the curtains so did not have dinner with us.

September 06, 2007: The girls from St. Lucy's returned from their August break yesterday afternoon. They began their day with mass at 6:30 A.M.. Those who did not have fees did not return on time, but drifted in during the following week. Fr. Aloys spoke to the girls about being punctual and about learning to manage their time well.

I spent the day revising the Soko Village Water Proposal and completing our contact list. I have been referring all sponsorship requests to Angie and Mary Lieta. Their Scholarship Committee still needs to meet to set up criteria for selection, application form and documents required, and procedures for assigning scholarships. The Marit Womens Group is in process of establishing a bank account so monies collected in the U.S. can be transferred here.

At lunch time, Mary arrived from Kanam announcing that her eldest son had her old roof dismantled, but the ceiling over her room was intact so she was able to sleep at home. She was happy that her son who like to drink made the decision to move away from his drinking partners.

September 07, 2007: George and Serafina from the Apamo B Womens Group and HIV+ Outreach Program dropped in to see us in the morning. They updated us about their progress on income generation and having those who are HIV+ organize themselves as a CBO so they can begin their own income generation. Since the area has received more rain than usual, Apamo's cotton crop did not do well. It is their biggest money crop to support their members and outreach program to orphans and HIV+ persons.

On the positive side, their flock of chickens have increased from 8 to 22. Most of the maize, cassava, and bananas either are sold or given to sick patients. George said that Lynette at Kandiege Health Clinic/Hospital coordinates all services to HIV+ patients in West Karachuonyo. Angie will make contact with her to learn about other programs in the area.

I asked George and Serafina to organize Kobuta Village to dig out the sediment from the Siburi Pond, build up the berms so when the pond overflows the water will not erode the road, dig an adjoining pond just to water the animals, fix the road between the pond and the Councilman's house. George will speak to Tabitha who owns the quarry to confirm the use of small stones from the quarry to pave the road. George will get back to us when the date for the village meeting is confirmed.

At about 1p.m., Josuah Agutu and Samuel Odhiambo arrived by bicycle from Adiedo. We had lunch with them, Fr. Aloys, Maurice and Judith. I was finally able to reach the new president of Homa Bay Rotary, Judy Oyugi. She said that the club did not sign off the last form for the Adiedo Water Project because it still had not completed an international project. She did not know when the forms could be signed and suggested we look for another Rotary Club to take over.

We have two alternatives to complete the Adiedo Water Project: 1) To find another Rotary in Kenya to take over the project; or 2) To divide the project into segments to be picked up by other Rotary Clubs and turn back the matching funding for the borehole project. Both men felt that rain catchment water is better for drinking and that the borehole water be used for washing and a back up for drinking during drought times. They felt that they could do the rain catchment systems faster and more cheaply than the borehole project.

Anika will contact the Uganda Rotary District to obtain referrals of reputable Kenyan Rotaries. Joshua and Samuel will contact people they know in Kisii and Nairobi to find Rotary members. I left a message on Bob Morse's cell telling him about the situation with the Homa Bay Rotary Club and our alternatives. He did not return my call. Samuel then told us that he had to deposit 1,000 schillings into our bank account to keep it alive. It costs 300 Ksh per month for bank services.

Both men will set up a village meeting on 9/26/07 at 2 p.m. to update the people about what is happening.

September 08, 2007: Nicholas Koriko, a Kisumu Banker whose family roots are in Koliech, and his cousin, Elijah Molo came to meet with us about 9 a.m.. Elijah works for Give Us Wings in Nyaoga and has been involved with meetings with government entities to lay water distribution pipelines from the purification station to Nyaoga. After some discussion on why the government water projects failed, we came to the conclusion that four villages near the water purification station must be organized, people educated, and ground rules and maintenance plans laid to make the water lines successful. Uninvolved

villagers and dissident political parties have previously destroyed pipe lines to sell piping or to destroy the credibility of project proponents.

We agreed that the following steps need to take place:

- 1) Organize village meetings in Mwranga, Nyaoga, Koliech and Abundo’.
- 2) Have leadership chosen and CBOs established in each village;
- 3) Have a lawyer research the laws on pipe easements and procedures for planning; include research on how to deal with private landowners along the easements;
- 4) Have an engineer do estimates on what it will take to pipe water to four villages;
- 5) Present data to villagers and involve them in planning’
- 6) Go ahead with researching and planning water catchment systems in each village;
- 7) Seek Rotary Funders in the U.S. to fund the water catchment projects;
- 8) Negotiate with the government on funding for pipelines;
- 9) Implement piping plan.

Shortly after the men left for a funeral, we went over to the shaded meeting area for the Koyier Village Meeting. The village elders, subchief and Francis Ogola had participants from Koyier A and B seated. Other people drifted into the meeting. Since it was the first meeting, it was an informational one for the villagers. Koyier is about 2 kilometers square and has about 1,700 residents. They wanted to improve 2 ponds in the area for people and animal water. They will study their community to see where a borehole may be dug and where rain catchment systems can be installed.

During droughts, men must water their animals at the rivers ten kilometers away. Women also walk long distances looking for water. When we left, the villagers remained to meet about organizing themselves. Rose Anyango from Oriens and Simeon Onyango from Adonyo Villages invited me to their villages to talk about getting safe water.