

**JOURNAL FOR OCTOBER 7 TO 13, 2007**  
**Sister Rosita Aranita, CSJ**

October 7, 2007: Father Aloys left for Nairobi five minutes before a heavy downpour occurred. He will be at a seminar for several days and is expected back Friday or Saturday (10/13 or 10/14).

October 8, 2007: After doing some computer work, Angie and Anika set out by foot to Kanam at least 8 kilometers away after we had lunch. I walked to Kandiege to get a motorcycle to Kanam where Mary's Norwegian guests were staying. After a half hour wait, Elfis came by and packed me off to Kanam where Mary was waiting alongside the road. Mary had dispatched two motorcycles to pick Angie and Anika up. They did not know that the Norwegian guests were at another home up the hill at least 4 kilometers more away. When they arrived, we all set out by motorcycles for a homestead in Kowuor. The path down to the homestead was rocky and a bit eroded so we went down cautiously. Mary fell from her motorcycle when her driver could not negotiate the eroded path. Luckily, she was not hurt. The Kanam Cultural club was assembled at the compound under the trees and in the cooking hut. We went to the main mud hut to wait for the Norwegians who were being entertained at a nearby primary school.

There were six guests. An elderly couple and their eldest daughter who are dairy farmers, a middle aged couple who are journalists, and a woman who is a secondary design teacher. Shortly after they arrived, we were served a traditional African meal that was a little more elaborate. In addition to ugali, stewed chicken, and kumuwiki (chopped greens), there was a beef dish, mung beans, pineapple slices, pineapple/banana fruit salad and rice. We introduced ourselves and learned a little more about each guest and they about us.

After washing our hands, we were all ushered outside to chairs under the citrus tree for some mutual entertainment. The African women started up singing and dancing to which the Norwegians joined in with the dancing. Svetlana had tied a sash with rows of dangling coins and did her belly dance. Svetlana is from Moscow and was working on an island belonging to Norway where she met her journalist husband, Tor. Tor is an editor of a local newspaper. He promised to write an article about our water project. Angie, Anika and Mary joined in the dancing. I sat because my butt was paralyzed from the motorcycle ride and I had pulled my lower back a few days before this event.

The Norwegian contingent reciprocated with the Father and daughter violin duet and Svetlana's short belly dancing lesson. Ragnvild (pronounced like Runway) did a waltz with her African partner. Both sides presented gifts to each other and made short speeches. It was a fun afternoon. When this ritual was over, we started to walk downhill back to Kanam. The trail was at least 4 kilometers long to Mary's Kanam home. It was dark by the time we took our motorcycles home to Raruowa. Angie and Anika had to ride on one motorcycle with Elfis. My driver stopped at intervals to wait for them just in case their motorcycle would have problems. I hung on to Daniel's jacket all the way ducking foliage and shielding my face behind the driver's helmet.

While waiting for the second motorcycle to drop Angie and Anika, I learned that Daniel worked for someone else who owned the motorcycles. He had to turn in 500 schillings a day even if business was poor. In addition, he pays for the gas he uses. Daniel supports his siblings and elderly parents. He was formerly a student of Mary's at St. Alfred Alara Secondary School in Kanam.B

October 9, 2007: Bishop Colin Davis drove Sr. Frances Cassidy's four wheel truck with all of us jammed into the double cabin. He dropped Mary off in Kadel so she could catch a ride to Homa Bay while the rest of us proceeded on our way to Kisumu. Bishop got to Kisumu in record time (11/2 hours). He entertained us with jokes and short, pithy humorous stories along the way. Bishop drives like a pilot zooming and overtaking any vehicle in front of him. Sr. Frances talked non-stop between Bishop's jokes.

Our first stop was at Sollatek to pick up our solar equipment. The shop was closed for lunch so we all went to do our errands while Bishop tended the truck. We all returned to the shop shortly after it opened. The Bishop gave me the check for Sr. Frances' order then left for the Immigration Office to get his passport to Italy. We had to wait for a runner to get the inverters and all the paperwork to be filled. Sr. Frances was short one inverter because the supplier had not delivered the shop's orders on time. The next day was Moi Day, a holiday, so the order could not be delivered until Thursday.

We then headed to do our household goods shopping at the Downtown Nakumatt and Sr. Frances went to Alpha House to purchase science supplies for St. Lucy's. when we emerged with our bags, Bishop had half of the storage filled with goods that the Asumbi Franciscans had begged for him to take back to Asumbi. We squashed all our purchases in then went to our overnight accommodations at the Mill Hill Fathers Center. We repacked everything in the parking lot there before checking into the hostel.

The Mill Hill Fathers Center is very modern compared to other religious houses we have stayed in the past several weeks. Each of us had a large private room with a bathroom with electricity and running water, a real luxury for us. We joined other guests from Holland and England at dinner. It was interesting to learn about each guest over soup, bread, cheese and fruit.

After breakfast, we paid our overnight charges and left for the Swan Building so Sr. Frances could get her computer/phone modem programmed. I directed her to Beamann's Communications where my computer was programmed. I read in the truck while Bishop went to the internet café. Angie and Anika went shopping for infant wear for Anika's namesake, a newborn niece of Fr. Aloy's. we then left for the open market downtown to buy fruits and vegetables. Sr. Frances' bargained in Kiswahili like an old pro persuading each vendor to throw in an extra item. In all, the produce in Kisumu seems to be at least 20 schillings cheaper than at Homa Bay. Our last purchases were fuel for the truck and a full propane gas cylinder for our house. Bishop flew quickly back to Raruowa. He and Sr. Frances stopped over at our house for tea before leaving. Bishop left for Asumbi

where he is chaplain to the Franciscans of St. Joseph and Sr. Frances went to the school to unload school supplies. We put our goods away then collapsed.

October 11, 2007: Angie and Anika were both in bed ill from some bug that they may have been picked up in Kisumu. Anika may have an allergic reaction from the bedding there or from the seal on the gouda cheese. She is allergic to almonds which may have been in the seal. Angie was having hot and cold flashes and had a bad stomach.

I prepared lunch for the electrician and his bodaboda driver. I now know how to handle a pressure cooker to do beans of all types and vegetables. It cuts cooking time.

I finished the water proposal for St. Irene Educational and Mother Amadeus' Health Complex in Mombasa operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Mombasa before Tom, the electrician, came to install our second solar panel. He did not use the second inverter or charge control saying that one inverter and charge control could take care of two solar panels. We are saving them in the event we can have another panel or two installed in the near future for computer class. It is great to have more power! We can now work on our computers and charge our cell phones without draining the power drastically and still have light at night. The best thing about solar power is that it is clean and you don't owe anyone anything for using the sunlight.

We had picked up some information on solar pumps from Sollatek. The initial cost is a bit hefty(200,000 ksh) but is cheaper to operate than oil based fuels in the long run. We may use the technology for the few borehole projects we now have.

October 12, 2007: Mary and I prepared lunch for our meeting with the Adiedo leaders, Joshua Agutu and Samuel Odhiambo Ongere. Mary did the chapattis and Mung bean dishes' I made cole slaw and Mexican rice then recycled the pumpkin soup. The soup was extra hot because I threw in four hot peppers. We fed eight of us including Judith, our housekeeper and Lucy, Father's housekeeper. Lucy likes to eat with us especially when Father is away.

We met over the newly written proposals for the rain catchment and borehole systems. We spent much of the time on budget items trying to lower the budget as much as possible. It was helpful to have two people with working experience of installing rain catchment systems. Mary and Samuel both knew a lot about materials needed and prices. We did not have the same experience with boreholes. Our questions will have to be answered by Gwako Ministries who did the estimates for drilling and holding tanks/tower. I tried to get Nicholas Koriko to give us a definite time to meet with the Kisumu Rotary Club officers, but he had not gotten a commitment from them just yet. Hopefully, we can meet with them next week to see if they would sponsor the borehole project.

Anika changed the budget cost in each line after we reached agreement about the price of the item mentioned. It was a good learning experience for all of us as we listened to the rationale for various items needed. The men were pleased with the budget and proposal

narrative for the rain catchment project. We all had a hand in editing the master copy I drafted. Anika will clean up the entire proposal before e-mailing it to Sr. Irene O'Neill.

October 13, 2007: I woke up early hoping to get my internet system working. There has been a glitch blocking our access to our server. After spending a few hours trying to break through, I gave up. Both Anika and Angie worked on the system in hopes of correcting it. Even with advice from our technicians and Safaricom, we were not successful. It looks like I need to take my computer, cell phone and USB cable to Kisumu to get the system fixed. What a disappointment! Unlike ours, Sr. Frances' internet system is working.

It was a day to clean up the house and read. Saturday is our unscheduled day to do what we want. Mary went back to Kanam to do laundry left by her Norwegian guests. I finished off a brief recounting of General Haraka's demise fighting the British during the Mau Mau rebellion. I started on a South African story about a young man from the countryside working in the gold mines of Johannesburg.