

JOURNAL FOR OCTOBER 14-20, 2007
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October 14, 2007: Angie and Anika set out for Kanam 8 kilometers away to picnic on the side of Lake Victoria. Mary had gone back to her home in Kanam to wash her guests sheets the day before. I attended the Raruowa Mission mass at 8 a.m.. We now have about 20+ primary, preadolescent and secondary girls dancing at mass. The St. Lucy's girls always wear their uniforms to mass. The other dancers donned worn out dancing costumes. This Sunday, the preadolescents did a new dance that requires kneeling and bowing. They are quite accomplished and move synchronizely.

At the end of mass, Fr. Aloys introduced his adoptive parents from Mbita, his former parish. I spent the rest of the day relaxing and reading until Mary arrived with a large tilapia she had purchased from fishermen at the lake. She scaled and gutted it then quartered the fish for frying. A sauce of tomatoes, garlic and onions garnished the dish. Angie and Anika arrived dusty and foot worn from their 16 kilometer hike. We all had dinner together after they took showers.

October 15, 2007: We began the day with our staff meeting which begins with noting the next two weeks' schedule. We then fleshed out an agenda for our Wednesday, Raruowa Compound Water meeting that the heads of the various institutions will attend. A discussion of how to allocate the rest of this month's St. Joseph Worker budget focused on our need for our own chairs. Mary knows a wholesaler in Homa Bay where they may be purchased. I had already spent 68,000 ksh purchasing the second set of solar equipment and investing in a phone/modem internet attachment for my computer so had already exceeded budget expenses for the month.

We then talked about how our 4 wheel vehicle that will be delivered to Mombasa would be brought over to West Karachuonyo where we live and work. Angie, Anika and Father Aloys will fly from Kisumu to Mombasa when Sister Bridgitta Samba calls us to let us know that she and the generalate center driver have picked up the vehicle and brought it to the center in Mombasa. The three will then pick up the vehicle and a driver for the Mombasa to Masai Mara jaunt. Fr. Aloys will then direct the driving from Masai Marai to our home. The journey may take two days of driving with some rest time in Masai Mara to visit the National Park. The donor has about \$200 left for gas for the long trip. We will have to budget in money for airfare, food, vehicle registration, insurance and other related expenses.

Jackton Ogweya from the West Karachuonyo Water Commission arrived just as our meeting ended. He and his technician had traced a leak in our water pipes between the dormitory and the athletic field. One of the trucks used for the renovations of the head mistress' house had run over a vulnerable part of the connection between the main pvc line and our galvanized pipe to our compound. They had worked out a budget to fix the leak. We had not gotten any lake water for two weeks and were desperate to get our overhead tank filled so Mary and I split the cost of the repairs which amounted to 7,000 ksh. The school had two of their workers dig up the pipe line. A new galvanized pipe

arrived by bicycle. The technician readied the ends of the GI pipe to reconnect with the pvc mainline. This time the connection was on a level area of the play field to prevent future cracks. The work was completed the next morning.

Maurice Otieno came by to thank me for his recent eye surgery. He can now see out of his left eye. He will need 12,000 ksh to rectify damage to his right eye. I told him I did not have the money and will need to find a donor for that surgery. He will probably need close to 17,000 ksh for added expenses for transportation and food. That would be about \$254 U.S. dollars.

Tom, our electrician, arrived to install the head mistress' solar system. I opened all of the doors to various parts of the renovated house which require light bulbs because Sr. Frances Cassidy was called to assist Kandiege Secondary School to set up for KCSE exams for the one girl who had to do the Home Science tests. The school had tried to get help without success, but found out that Sr. Frances was a home science teacher and called a day before the exams were to occur. Tom works swiftly and had the system up and running before evening. Francis Ogola happened by and took a tour of the house. He just reported on a meeting he attended for Fr. Aloys when he was gone to a seminar.

Angie and Anika were summoned to break into a locked desk to extricate Leah's belongings. Fortunately, John and Patricia Gries' tool donation is readily available for emergencies like this. Angie and Anika had previously broken through a locked dorm door days before so the girls could go into their living space. They fix the problem once access is available. Right now, carpentry and home construction classes are on hold until we can get a donation for a skilled teacher. Angie and Anika will assist that teacher if their schedule allows.

By evening, Mary had dispatched Sr. Frances to buy two loaves of bread in Kandiege and I had already paid Janet Nyatol for three loaves. We ended with 5 loaves for the week. In the morning, there was no gas or bread in the surrounding markets. The trucks arrived by afternoon to bring supplies.

October 16, 2007: Three of us hopped into Fr. Aloys' truck with a bed full of people headed for a funeral in Kanam. Father had Angie drive us to Kadel where we waited for Serafine Mambe before taking a bus to Oriang. Anika was sick so stayed home for the day. We visited the Oriang Womens Pottery Group's facility along the Kendu Bay road. A woman minister of parliament had obtained UNIDO funding for the facility in the 1980's. It was one of the economic development projects that endured the test of time. There was a large, domed brick kiln and the first circular one that is now unused under an outdoor shelter. Three people were seated on a bench next to the kiln hand building bud vases for an order. Groups of large water jars that were flawed stood on the outside lanais around the building. One of the women greeted us and became our tour guide. She showed us the two types of kilns that had mounds of dry grass piled around them. The grass is piled around the bisque ware. When the grass burns off, the firing is done.

The group has diversified their products. They do water jars, kitchen ware, decorative pieces, lamp stands, cigar pipes and building bricks. They harvest clay from the group's farm next to a river. They also harvest a red dirt that is a natural glaze near the lake. The group used to collect used oil in Kisumu to fire their kiln when they had access to a truck. Now they only use wood which they must pay for to obtain what they need. These purchases cut into their profit. The group has 20 members most of whom are widows supporting their children and other orphans. The group needs help in creating new markets for their goods. They begin work in the morning at 7:30 a.m. and work to noon, break for lunch and return to work until 4 p.m..

We will return to buy some pottery when we have our own vehicle. I am eyeing some beautiful water jars that have relief work on them. We also need a ceramic water jar for our house. It would be healthier than the plastic containers we now use.

On the way to our next visit, we stopped to chat with a roadside vendor of baskets. The young woman weaves half of her bags from natural materials and obtains woven plastic baskets from another person. She is sole manufacturer and proprietor of her business.

We walked a ways after leaving the roadside vendor then caught a crowded bus for Kanyandheim to visit a weaving facility located at the top of a hill. The facility was built by NORAD money from Norway in the 1980's. Ancient models of threadmaking spinners and looms were purchased in Norway. Some of the women were sent to that country to be trained. A kilo of cotton is weighed and given to each member. When she finishes a cord of 2 ply thread the woman is paid 250 ksh. The 2 ply thread is then augmented on another spinning machine to 4 ply thread. From there, the thread is wound around a loom stand.

October 17, 2007: Mary, Judith our housekeeper, and I prepared lunch for directors of our compound programs, the convent and rectory. The compound has Rarua Primary School which is government operated, St. Lucy's Girls Secondary School, the Home Craft Center, the Kenya Water Project, World Vision, the Clinic/hospital, the convent and rectory. After introductions, each representative described the condition of their facilities and assessed what is needed. The compound buildings were built over 50 years ago by Father Koch, a Mill Hill missionary. They are now in disrepair and must be renovated to accommodate more students and clients. The Home Craft center/Kenya Water Project House, the Home Craft Director's House, St. Lucy's faculty housing, and the Head Mistress' house have been recently renovated.

St. Lucy's Girls Secondary has 3 (64watt) solar panels which supply light at night. The system needs to be expanded for better lighting and computer classes. The dorms, dining hall, kitchen, and classrooms all need to be fully renovated, There is much dry rot and ant/termite damage in all the woodwork and pitted concrete flooring. The buildings need reroofing. All fascia boards and gutters must be replaced. The school has 2 (6,000 liter) and 4 (4,500 liter) plastic tanks for rain catchment and two functioning underground, cement cisterns. Two large cement cisterns are cracked and one of the functioning ones needs to be cleaned out. The kitchen needs a new roof, gutters and a 10,000 liter water

tank. The 2 corrugated tin shower rooms are dilapidated and the latrines are homes for snakes. Three girls have recently contracted typhoid and a number of girls have had recurrent malaria attacks.

The faculty housing's solar panel is old and needs replacement with several strong panels and systems. Each of the faculty housing needs gutters and its own water tank.

The rectory has a huge crack through the living room and prep kitchen. It's two underground cement water tanks are also cracked. The 4,000 liter water tank is intact and supplies the rectory with water. Most of the rectory gutters are intact. A water tank in the attic may be activated to distribute water throughout the rectory by gravitational flow if there is a pump from the holding tanks to the attic tank. The water pipes for government water still needs to be connected to the intact water tank or other needed, plastic holding tanks(two 10,000 liters for the north and south sides of the building.).

The Home Craft Director's house needs new solar panels, new gutters and another water tank (10,000 liters). Both tanks need to be connected with government water pipes. The Home Craft Center needs additional gutters on the north side of the residential unit and an additional 10,000 liters tank. More gutters are needed on the east side of the kitchen unit..Water from the east gutters should be directed to the existing, above ground, cement cistern. The south side of the Kenya Water Team's residence needs fascia board and gutters and a tall, 3,500 liter tank in the court yard. The large 15,000 liter, cement tank needs to be hooked up with the government water pipes and may need a solar pump to the tower 3,500 tank which may need to be replaced with a 6,000 liter tank to provide more gravitational force to fully supply the craft center building. The inner court tank may be replaced by a new 3,500 liter, tall tank.

The church will be demolished and a new building erected east of the present building. Meanwhile, water from the present church should be directed to 2 new 10,000 liter tanks in place of the two dilapidated, stone cisterns at the entrance. New rain catchment systems will be attached to the new church. The church hostel now accommodates a night watchman, the World Vision driver & wife, and its accountant. The 4th unit is available for church guests as are the additional rooms in the rectory. The hostel needs major repairs to the bathrooms for showers and toilets. The drainage is poor from the present water outlets from the hostel. A makeshift latrine is presently situated in the back of the hostel. This latrine needs to be demolished and filled up.

The church now needs at least five new latrines for parishioners.

The hospital/clinic is in very bad shape. The pediatric unit has been condemned and the rest of the building needs renovation because of major cracks in the foundation. The existing toilets and restrooms need to be renovated, new rain catchment systems constructed on the entire building and more water tanks with larger capacities situated on the east and west sides. The doctor's house has been rented out to the manager of World Vision. The staff house is in dilapidated condition and requires much renovation and installation of an entire rain catchment system. The tanks need to be reconnected with

the government water pipes. There are two units in the staff house, one is presently occupied by Margaret, the nurse for the clinic/hospital

The last building is the convent. It has 8 bedrooms with a wash basin/sink, 2 bathrooms, a visitor's restroom which is not functioning, a dining room, kitchen, front room and chapel. At one time, there were Franciscans who ministered in the parish institutions. Now one sister teaches at Rarua Primary School which is government operated, one is the housekeeper, and another one was missioned by her congregation to work with orphans and widows. The pastor does not know what arrangements were made with the Franciscans of St. Joseph and the Bishop about the use of the convent.

The convent has a 15,000 liter underground cement cistern. The sisters draw the water out by a bucket. Gutters on the west side of the convent feed the underground cistern. The north and east sides of the house need gutters to feed a new 10,000 liter tank. A solar pump for the cistern and holding tank would direct water to the attic tank so water can be used throughout the house. The woodwork throughout the house is badly damaged by ground ants/termites and needs to be replaced. Part of the present guttering needs to be repaired. The house needs some roof repairs and exterior and interior repainting after the ground has been treated for termites and ants..

Each director/representative will receive a summary of the meeting. The next meeting on October 31st will focus on prioritizing improvements to the water system for each institution on the compound. Budgets will be worked on if previous estimates have not been done.

Lunch for meeting attendees followed.

October 17, 2007: In the morning, Fr.Aloys dropped me at Adiedo where I met Joshua Agutu Opap and Samuel Odhiambo Oguru. We boarded a bus to Kisumu to meet with Nicholas Koriko at EABS Bank. We gave Nicholas the background to the borehole project in Adiedo and gave him a copy of the proposal. We went to the post office then to a commercial postal service after the government clerk said we needed a customs stamp on our cd package. We ended up using the commercial service because there was less hassling over bureaucratic details.

We returned to the bank and waited for Nicholas to wind up his morning work./We then went with Nicholas to the Kisumu Rotary Meeting at the Simba Restaurant for a luncheon meeting The cuisine was Indian, chapattis with paneer or chicken masala with a tomato/onion/green pepper salad. An English couple who make frequent trips to Kenya presented their water project in Oyugis. They are helping each household to build home water purifiers with large PVC pipes reinforced by cement walls and filled with layers of gravel and sand. They asked for a Rotary match to their donation of 200,000 pounds for their project. After the key note talk on the commercial airways business by a Rotarian, I gave the background of the Adiedo borehole project, the status of matching funds, and appealed to the club to sponsor the project so the international Rotary match could be released. My appeal seemed to get a sympathetic hearing. We left the restaurant and

were dropped off at the bus station. We got seats and reached our destinations in good time. I took a pikipiki to Raruowa.

October 19, 2007: Angie, Anika, Mary and I had a lunch meeting with Ezeckial Kusaka, the West Rachuonyo Water Engineer. We learned that the peninsula has two circuits of main pipelines around Homa Hills, one at a high elevation and the other lower down. The system dates back to the 1970's and has gone downhill over the years. The district received a 5 million ksh allocation to repair the 90 kilometer pipelines. Repairs have reached Abundu. A water committee and liaison are chosen by villagers where water stand pipes are repaired. The liaison collects the fees of 2 schillings for 20 liters which is turned over to the water district office. 20% of the fees are returned to the liaison as lunch money. The liaison reports maintenance needs, watches over the system, and looks for parts of the system that have been stolen.

The water district provides technical assistance free of charge. It oversees all IFAD pond/pan improvement projects. Ezeckial said that IFAD is committed to these improvements in West Karachuonyo for the next 7 years. Services to NGOs and villages are available. Any certified CBO can write a letter requesting Community Development Funds (CDF) Minutes of meetings are scrutinized to see if the CBO is truly a community project or if it is a family request before funding is allocated.

We talked about how to plan water systems based on population numbers. The simple formula is to project what is needed by multiplying 5 liters per person/day by the number of people in a designated area and by the number of days in a month/s or year. Ezeckial will have a map of the pipelines made for us when he goes to Kisumu. We will apprise him of our water projects from time to time.