

Until next time,
Aloha,
Rosita

Dear Sisters and Friends,

Thanks for the article!

Send any donations to:

Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet,
St. Paul Province Kenya Water Project,
1884 Randolph Avenue,
St. Paul,
MN 55105-1700

They can wire me the money at designated
contacts here in Kenya.

Hope all are well!

Love,
Sr. Rosita

A two week diary of an American Nun in Kenya

*Today in Africa 25 million
girls are not in school.
The USAID is making a difference.

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4 million text books
600,000 trained teachers

Its getting done.
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Water is an issue.

*[Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/education/2007-04-24-laura-bush-africa_N.htm?csp=34]

Please consider a direct donation.
Address labels and consideration for
prayer requests for the sick and dying
are also enclosed. Aloha and may God
Bless you and protect you forever and
ever. Amen. -PMWG

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The United Nations Educational, Scientific and
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Kenya: Water to Lighten WOMEN'S Load

According to the World Health Organization, over one billion people in developing countries do not have access to a safe water supply. Safe water means water which it is safe to drink and which is available in the home or within 15 minutes' walking distance. Almost without exception, women and girls are the water carriers in any given community.

One Kenyan study found that women and girls carry from 20 - 25 liters over distances of 3.5 kilometers, for one or two hours daily and as school-age children are often used for this task, class attendance is reduced.



The village of Kobong in the Siaya district in northern Kenya has a population of approximately 5,000 inhabitants. The area is dry and poor: rainfall is unpredictable. Although considered a "lake shore community", technical problems in bringing the water to the village, and groundwater salinity left householders dependant on four impoundments or pans. A number of these did not contain water for several seasons because they silted up and were abandoned.

Under the auspices of the UNESCO project, the Kenyan government and the village women joined forces to fund the cleaning of the existing pans and the building of a new, larger water impoundment with a capacity of 57,000 cubic meters. The whole operation cost an estimated Ksh640,000 (\$US67,000), of which Ksh300,000 was raised by the Kobong women's Group in Nairobi. Poor rainfall in 1997 meant that the Kobong community had to wait to see the fruit of its efforts.

The rainy season in November 1998 was more promising, but it is still too early to tell to what extent the new dam and clean pans will be able to serve the village. There are other immediate benefits; the availability of heavy machinery in the district encouraged a Danish donor organization to fund the cleaning of two other water pans near Kobong. More important, however, the endeavor showed how community members can move mountains to improve their quality of life.

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**REPORT FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 8-14, 2007
SISTER ROSITA ARANITA**

April 8, 2007, Sunday: Everyone slept recuperating from the long Easter Vigil Service which commenced at 10 p.m. and ended after midnight. After two hours of sleep, both priests woke early to make their Easter Rounds at the 12 centers where they celebrated mass for each Christian community in the remote rural villages. Fr. Gregory woke up at 4 a.m. and Fr. Kennedy at 5:30 a.m. to begin their rounds. They returned from their rounds in the early afternoon and concelebrated mass at the parish church in Raruowa at 2 p.m.. The faithful from the villages nearby gathered and crowded the church.

Earlier in the morning, Mary Lieta and I put a raspberry cake mix together and baked it in the solar cooker. Mary is gradually getting the knack of regulating the heat from the solar cooker so the bottom of the cake was only slightly burned. Sr. Christofa made some pineapple custard which we slathered onto the cake for a topping. The priests were so tired that I sent slices of the cake to them to revive them. They came by the house later remarking how delicious the cake was and how it perked them up. We had shared the cake with Lucy and Rosemary, housekeepers for the priests and sisters, and with Mary Lieta, St. Lucy's principal.

Easter ended with sharing stories with friends at the dinner table.

April 9, 2007: Spent Easter Monday resting and reading the mysteries I purchased from Nakumatt in Kisumu.

April 19, 2007: I met with Josuah Agutu, Samuel Odhiambo, and Esther Opap from Adiedo at the Raruowa convent after lunch. We agreed on two basic budgets for 6 homes with a total of 7 tanks. A week from today, the group will have the budgets ready, a list of vendors with a list of items to be purchased from them, and a bank account for Adiedo Village Community.

Later that evening, I communicated with Sister Irene O'Neill about needing 6 different Rotaries to fund each of the segments for installing rain catchment systems for Adiedo. Budgets, a list of vendors with itemized purchases, and the bank account number and data will be e-mailed to her.

April 20-21, 2007: Worked on Mission for Africa Rain Catchment Proposal and the beginnings of the Kolunga Village Proposal which still needs specific plans and estimates for a borehole and possible rain catchment systems. Mrs. Mwaya came to ask for help to wipe out an outstanding debt for her daughter Joan Akoth Mwaya. Joan has not been able to obtain her certificate from the The Kenya Institute of Management for her business degree because she is unable to pay the last 15,000 ksh or \$215.00. She needs the money to be sent to:

The Business Office of Kenya
Institute of Management Kisumu Center,
Tivoli Cinema Centre, 1st Floor,
Court Road/Jomo Kenyatta Highway
P.O. Box 1083-40100, Kisumu, Kenya

Telephone: 057-22424 E-mail: kim@kim.ac.ke
Website: <http://www.im.ac.ke>

Joan Akoth Mwaya's receives mail at:
P.O. Box 241, Homa Bay, Kenya

April 13, 2007: Erica and I waited for Sr. Constance and the taxi to arrive. We met the taxi at the gate and began our journey to Kisumu. We arrived at St. Clare Orphanage at about noon to film the children and the orphanage facilities. After some lunch, we took Sr. Philomena with us to see and film the 12 acres where a Montesorri College, Womens Hostel, orphanage and nursery school are to be constructed. It was located on the side of a hill about a mile or two from the Mission for Africa Orphanage. A quarry operation had cut a steep incline only 25 or 30 feet away from the 12 acre parcel east boundary. I was told later that underground rivers could be tapped for water in the area.

We rushed off to visit with two womens groups who had gathered since morning at the Mission for Africa Orphanage. Laban and his staff have recently gathered widows around the orphanage. The large group of women were organized into two groups: The Odhier Womens Group has 20 members who have 42 primary children and 8 secondary youth who are fatherless. The Mission for Africa Womens Group has 30 members who have 30 primary children and 15 secondary youth who are fatherless. Most of the widows are HIV+. Both groups farm their shambas and sell their produce for self support and the support of their fatherless children. They sell used clothing for additional income.

Both groups have similar needs: The need for safe/clean water, financial assistance for their fatherless children; and financial assistance to begin more lucrative microenterprises. After some discussion, the groups chose what enterprises they want to pursue. The MFA Womens Group want to start a

Stephen at the Akamba Bus Station. The girls and Stephen were to board in the evening for Nairobi where they are to catch their plane to Norway. Their partner school in Norway funds the entire exchange trip. Sr. Christofa was going to the St. Paul Health Clinic and I to the Cyber Link Café. I e-mailed my weekly report and documents and downloaded my other e-mails before the electricity went off.

I met Srs. Laetitia and Ann Prisca at the convent. Both are nurses. Sr. Laetitia is a '99 graduate of St. Lucy Secondary School and her family lives in Raruowa Parish at Oriens near Kendu Bay. She is at Asumbi Health Clinic and Sr. Ann Prisca is at the one in Fandango Island. Sr. Ann Prisca told me about the lack of money to pay staff at the clinic because of the poverty of the people who could not pay fees for care. She lives with two other sisters on the island. One is a housekeeper and the other teaches at a primary school. Since they have practically no land to have a garden, food is bought with the little money they can put together. She was on her way to a meeting in Rongo.

April 18, 2007: I made arrangements with Joshua Agutu to meet on April 19 about the rain catchment segment. After working on weekly reports, Frs. Kennedy and Greg, Srs. Conrad and Jamescina and me went on our way to have a birthday lunch at the Tourist Hotel Resturant in Homa Bay. The past Thursday was Sr. Conrad's 31st birthday. We sat under a large umbrella under a tree on the hotel grounds to enjoy the breeze from Lake Victoria. We each ordered from the menu and enjoyed our lunch. I mailed blueprints and estimates for the Koliech Orphanage and the Kisumu projects for

compound. Constance went on her way to catch a matatu back to Homa Bay. I waited across the street in front of the Chancery building to wait for my ride to Mumias to attend Serafina and Aloys' daughter's wedding.

Fr. Kennedy had a punctured tire in Kadel that delayed him. We got to the wedding at St. Peter Mission when the couple were pronouncing their wedding vows to young girls squealing and adults clapping. Frs. Kennedy and Valentine who both knew the bride Jacqueline dressed in their mass cassocks and stoles and went up to the sanctuary to join other concelebrants. Small cloth banners were strung over the assembly. The dancing girls were all dressed alike in their bright pink polka dot dresses. They certainly were well trained in their high stepping synchronized movements.

A large assembly crowded 3 quarters of the church. It was a very joyous celebration with the choir leading the assembly, the dancing and cultural rituals. The groom is draped with the brides' train as a sign of their covenantal joining after the vows are recited. Besides a ring bearer, another young boy bears a lighted candle symbolizing Jesus Christ's presence in the newly weds' lives. Guests are acknowledged at the announcements and asked to address the assembly. I was surprised to be called up. I had just gotten to know the bride's parents who are active in the Kanam Village community. The bride and the groom are both school teachers.

After mass, Frs. Kennedy and Valentine, Srs. Modesta and I, and Mary Lieta were summoned to visit with the pastor at the rectory. We had some sodas and talked a bit before going over to the reception at the school hall. I learned