

Kenya Trip October 21-November 6, 2020

Thursday October 29

Thursday morning Titus took Ed and I to finish our tour of the farm and then we headed back to Thika, arriving mid-afternoon to get ready for our extended stay away from Randy and Bonnie's home. Again, Randy broke out the grill and made chicken for supper.



Friday October 30

We left Thika by 7:00 am to head for Embu, where we were scheduled for me to conduct a seminar, and for Randy to make a presentation for Africa Association of Bible Schools. Randy has just been named director for AABS in Kenya. This ministry is run by J.C. Ebersole, another Petra Church missionary. J.C. has the vision of starting a Bible School in each of the 47 counties in Kenya, having numerous Bible Schools in other African countries.

The seminar and AABS presentation was to take place at 11:00 am in Pastor Antonio's church. We arrived about 10:30 and started to set up in the church which was still under construction - having no windows and a dirt floor. It started to rain even before we were ready to get started, and we had a challenge to get a sheet set up so that I could use the projector to do my PowerPoint presentation.

It took a while to get everything situated, they moved our seats a couple of times so that we had plastic underfoot and were out of the weather. Several times others had to move as the wind direction changed and rain came in at different places in the building.

There were about 50-60 people in attendance, about 20 of them pastors who were also there to hear the presentation about AABS. After a time of worship, and each of the pastors having an opportunity to get up and introduce themselves and say a few (ha) words, I finally was able to start my presentation about an hour after planned - not an untypical African occasion.



I did my Basic Animal Care presentation, which I have developed over the years into a very simple presentation of several key principles from which I can expand in as great of detail as appropriate for the audience I am speaking to. It addresses areas such as nutrition, forage quality and many management aspects.

Those attending the seminar were extremely attentive, and we had some very good discussions throughout the seminar. I spoke for about an hour and a half, more than planned, but hours short of what they would have liked. I also brought along copies of very basic feeding rations I had developed for any animal species, as well as more detailed rations AgConnect Ministries has acquired for hogs and poultry. We also had made copies of some of the info in the Practical Farming and Gardening booklet developed by AgriService Moldova. All of this literature was greatly appreciated by those who came, and I was struck by how hungry for good information those people were.



After another great round of special music and worship, we went upstairs - again in the semi-open - to eat lunch with the pastors before Randy talked about the Bible Schools. It was getting colder and wetter, and temps were heading into the low 50's, as well as getting much later than we anticipated, so Randy kept his presentation shorter than planned.

There was a lot of interest in what was involved in starting a Bible School. There are many, many churches in Kenya, many started by individuals who use them to make a living, collecting tithes and offerings from their congregations primarily for their own benefit. Kenya is considering requiring all pastors to have some kind of accreditation before they

start a church, so this is an opportunity to provide 700 hours of training with graded tests and required documentation of completing the studies. After successfully completing the course a diploma is issued along with accreditation. Before the end of the trip, we knew that there would be several Bible Schools that would be starting in Kenya early next year.

When we were finally able to leave Embu, it was to get one of the visiting pastors and the lady who did the special music situated in a motel room for the night before we headed to where we would be spending the next 3 nights. They had traveled about 6 hours to get there, and didn't want to drive all the way back home that night.

I was able to get to know Ann Lawrence a little bit, and she gave me a book she had written -After The Scars - describing how she and her family lost everything they owned, ended up in a refugee camp, and how God had worked in her life so that today she is a nationally known Gospel Singer, has her own daily TV show and is in demand all around the country. It was quite an honor to have her attend the event, sing several songs, and she also asked a lot of questions during the seminar. She wants me to come sometime and talk to her husband who has the desire to start his own dairy farm and market dairy products like yogurt and cheese.



We were traveling in 2 different vehicles, Randy's team member Jane had come the day before to get things set up and do other arrangements prior to our visit in that part of the country. Randy asked me if I would drive Jane's vehicle to where we were staying and I was agreeable, having along my International Drivers permit.

I did say that this would be my first time driving on the left side of the road - intentionally- and in the rain at night on Kenyan roads where many people would be walking, driving motorcycles

and other vehicles often without any lights, and very poor road markings. I realized that Alex was also along, an experienced Kenyan driver, so I suggested that it made more sense for him to drive Jane's vehicle than me, so that is what we did.

I'm not sure if that was the best choice, but I could relax and not be concerned about driving off the road or hitting another driver or person. As we traveled we experienced some very heavy rains, and early in the trip Jane lost the windshield wiper on her side of the vehicle. Randy offered to drive her vehicle and have me follow in his, but Jane said she was good to continue. As we followed, very slowly, there were times when she was driving all over the poorly marked road. We later learned that Alex was steering from the passenger seat because his wiper was working, and he could almost see in the heavy downpours, while Jane was operating the gas and brake, but couldn't see anything.

We were able to make the 45 minute drive in about an hour and half, and arrived at our destination about 9 pm, 4-5 hours after we had anticipated. We were staying with Benjamin and Naomi Mwangi, and had a late supper prepared for us by Dorcas, a lady who was along to prepare meals for us. Then we were shown to our rooms, where Ed and I were to share a room, which had a very small bathroom attached and barely held 2 beds. We both could have stood up beside our beds, but neither of us could have maneuvered at the same time.

I chose to sleep on a couch out on the balcony, which had a roof overhead but was open to the elements. I knew that it wouldn't be an overly enjoyable experience for both Ed and I to share the room, as I sleep hard for a couple of hours, and then am up multiple times throughout the night, often reading for a time before I go back to sleep.

The arrangement worked quite well until about 11:00 pm as I was reading, and then the power went out and I wasn't able to read the book that Ann Lawrence gave me. I tried to read with my flashlight, but with the start of the rainy period, flying termites were out in swarms and covered the pages of my book as I tried to read. So I just sat there in the night enjoying the clearing skies as the full moon started to appear. I did get several good hours of sleep that night, and was in good shape for the next day.