

Kenya Trip October 21-November 6, 2020

Thursday November 5



Alex, the veterinarian, came to Randy's house and we had breakfast together and talked a lot about what we had seen, possible ways to work together, sharing contact info. Since I'm back in US, I have answered several questions from Alex about some specific ingredients he wants to include in his premixes, he wanting to know my advice about using them and what best ways to recommend them.

Alex will be a great addition to Randy's team, and is the kind of person who has a heart for others, wanting to help them to do better. He is also a humble teacher, taking time to explain the things he knows. I was pleased with his knowledge and experience, and he is teachable, there being a number of things that he had some knowledge of but not fully understanding the science behind them and how and when to implement them. I believe we will continue to have many conversations in the future.

Then Jane came and we talked about the things that went well, what could be improved in possible future events, but all agreed that the trip was much more successful than any had anticipated or hoped for.

About noontime Ed and I packed our bags and got ready to head to the airport. On the way we stopped to visit Pastor Joan at Christ Assembly Worship Church. Randy helped build the



church building this summer during the shutdown because of the COVID pandemic. He drew up the plans, welded the first truss, and managed the work of erecting the building. It was such a blessing to the church, as they had just lost the lease on the property their previous building was on. Another God story that you need to hear from Randy. And Pastor Joan's daughter was there with her 3 month old daughter they named "Bonnie Splendor" in honor of Randy and Bonnie and their help with building the church building.

We got to the airport in plenty of time for our 11:00 pm flight, and Randy went to park while the rest of us went to see if we could find out which terminal we were departing from. A policeman saw our indecision and came to help us. He said, "Follow me." and he parted the waters - making other people move themselves and their stuff out of the way, so that we could make our way to where we needed to be. We had a great conversation with him as we waited for our driver to join us before we entered the ticketing area. He was surprise to see that our driver was white, rather than a Kenyan.

Ed and I had no problem getting our tickets and passing security and customs. The Business Lounge in the Nairobi airport was open, so we enjoyed a couple of hours of good internet service, sitting on very comfortable seats before we needed to board the airplane. There was little travel restrictions and both flights home had enough empty seats that we both were able to sit in areas that allowed us to have an empty seat beside or between us.

We arrived in Newark early Friday afternoon, and while I was disappointed that my Global Entry was shut down because of COVID, ours was the only plane going through customs, so it didn't take long for us to clear customs. Because I said that I had been on farms and in close contact with animals, I was subjected to an additional screening through the agriculture section. They checked my bags to make sure that I wasn't bringing anything forbidden into the country, made sure my shoes were clean, and quickly released me.

We made the drive home in good time with the only delay some construction near Allentown. From the time I got up Thursday morning in Kenya and got to bed at home Friday night, I had been up over 45 hours. I did get several good hours of sleep on each of the flights, but was so glad to be back home in my own house. It was a very enjoyable, rewarding and profitable trip. I don't know what the future holds for future involvement, but we will submit it to much prayer. I do believe there will be a future for AgConnect Ministries in Africa, starting with Kenya.

Some thoughts about Kenya:

It is quite obvious the amount of evangelistic work that has been done in Kenya over the past 100+ years. I saw more churches in Kenya than in Lancaster County! One time while we were sitting in traffic in one of the cities, On the right I saw Wonder Touch Ministry, Tender Hearts Ministry, Prevailing Word Church. On the left I saw People's Church, Voice of Triumph Church, Full Gospel Church of Kenya. While many of the churches were small, there are some very large, very nice, very active churches in Kenya.

There is also a hope and a desire in Kenya for Kenya to Rise Up, and become an important contributor to the world. Many people I talked to had the vision and drive to become successful. Education is highly valued, and there are many very hard working people who are making a difference, and believe that with some help that Kenya will prosper. In fact, Kenya is often referred to as "Little America".

The other surprising thing about Kenya was the great diversity of the country - From Rice to Tea . . . And Everything in Between. You could be in a very lush, productive area, and drive 5-10 minutes and be in a desolate area. But the primary constraint is water. Even in these desolate looking areas, when they had water, the crops were impressive. I saw many places where water lines were being laid, and for very small fees, landowners could tap into the line and have water to irrigate their fields.

The other very obvious thing was the hunger for knowledge, anything that would help them to do better. Many of the methods need to be greatly changed for the smaller farmers. There are some very successful large farming operations in Kenya, but we didn't have the opportunity to visit them. That wasn't the purpose of this trip, but to find out if it would even be feasible to develop some practices that would improve the lives of the very poor people who live in more remote areas. I am looking forward to the direction that God has for me, for AgConnect Ministries, and for Randy and Bonnie, and Prepare The Way ministry and their Community Empowerment project.

