

My Trip to Kenya

Blog of Matushka Marina Holland

Part 11

Thursday, January 31, 2019

The men returned last night from the funeral of Bishop Athanasius at 2:15 AM. The whole event was quite spectacular. 5000 people and 100 priests attended. They stayed in a hotel at which that FM stays at least once a month; the usual charge is equivalent to 15 US dollars. When they saw a FS, a “mazungu”(white person) they tried to charge him \$75! But FM stepped in, and the price dropped down to \$30. Still not \$15, but better than \$75. FM himself was also charged \$30. Perhaps that was because of the very large number of people there and limited room availability. FS said the rooms were very clean and simple, with a twin size bed and a small bathroom, the whole of which also functioned as a shower, as in the bathroom in our room at FM’s house. The bed had mosquito netting suspended over it. They were in Kisumu, which is considerably more hot and humid, and lower in elevation than Kinangop, so they have much more problems with mosquitoes.



The food served was excellent, especially the Nile Perch which FS had. He does not eat meat, but he said meat was abundant. The whole hotel experience was very nice, he said, except one of the clerks tried to cheat him. She approached him saying she needed to discuss the bill for these 12 other people who were with him. When he told her he had only come with 2 other people, and he knew no one else there, she left him alone. It may have been a simple mistake, but he had the distinct feeling she was hoping to take advantage of him.

Enroute to the funeral they saw a wild baboon in the middle of the street! They also saw a domesticated camel on a ranch along the road. They visited another orphanage, St Tabitha, which was considerably more impoverished than St Barnabas. There were round huts like this:



When he got home, FS made a hotspot for me, as I had not had wi-fi access for a couple of days. His hot spot is the only way I get wi-fi, and often it is very slow; I call it a luke-warm spot when it’s slow! I sent several brief messages by whatsapp, and then got back to sleep.

The next morning after breakfast I headed back to the school. I shared with class 1 the same Frogs and Lion and Mitten books that I'd shared with other classes. The class was delightful, as it always is! I admit, it is my favorite class.

I moved on to class 2 and used the same Frogs and Lion books. It was interesting: class 1 was fascinated by the pictures of frogs, while class 2 was dramatically disgusted with the pictures, but still wanted to look at them again through partially covered eyes!

From there I moved on to class 7. First we used flashcards. I divided the room into two teams and we had a competition. I used simple subtraction cards first, so they could get used to the concept. Then we moved on to multiplication facts. They had a lot of fun with that. After that we used the atlas and discussed different kinds of maps. I had them use the dry erase boards and create a map that shows the orphanage, or their neighborhood, or village, or whatever area they wanted to use. The teacher said they had drawn maps before, but the students had a bit of a blank look on their faces. They did understand it, though, as evidenced by their drawings. Later two of the girls came by the office where I was working on the computer. They wanted to say hello and thank you. They had been in the class 7 map class, so I asked them if the map lesson was difficult or simple. "Very simple," they said shyly. "What have you drawn maps of before?" I asked. "Kenya and Africa," they answered!



The head teacher asked me to help with the kids who need some remediation in English reading and writing. There were class 1 through class 3 kids, and they were working on words that end with "ck". Teacher Monica first reviewed a list of about 10 words ending in "ck", sounding them out loud: "d-u-ck, duck". She and the kids did each word aloud perhaps 5 times together. Then she reviewed the meaning of each word. At that point I took over. I acted out a word, or gave a description of what the word represented, and asked the kids to tell me which of the words on the board I was describing. They provided the word, then I asked for volunteers to come up and show me which word on the board was that word. We'd sound out the word to which the student pointed to see if the student was correct. Sometimes they were correct and sometimes they weren't. When a student was wrong he was not laughed at, but clapped for, for trying and learning! Then I came up with new "ck" words that weren't on the list to challenge them. They did quite well!

When they grew restless – after an hour – we played head-shoulders-knees-and-toes. I thought I was quite clever finding this way to give them new vocabulary, but they already knew the song and game! We switched to follow-the-leader, and once I was not the leader it became a free-for-all!

I headed back to the house. The kids were there with Ann, the home helper. 7 ½ month pregnant Papathiya had left with a motorcycle delivery man to do some grocery shopping! I would have loved a picture of that!

This File:

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