

A report of the trip to Kenya, starting November, 2021 to February, 1st 2022

I would like to thank everyone who was involved one way or the other in making this trip a success. I most definitely saw the hand of God in both the good, the not-so-good and the (simply put), awe inspiring moments throughout the trip.

1st trip: Nairobi-Kitale

This is/was a trip that was undertaken to confirm/disconfirm the purchase of the property for Edith Khamadi, a widow whose story we shared earlier and who we decided to help resettle.

My main for choosing to go by road was/is because it had been long since the last time I had travelled by road in Kenya and out of curiosity, I wanted to see the changes (or lack therein) to the area. Well, I was both shocked and stunned. For the most part, the road network in Kenya has gotten better (hence safer) over the years and it was a delight to go from Nairobi to Eldoret without having to worry about potholes and gully on the road. However, the fun ended there. The road from Eldoret to Kitale is a nightmare, with gaping holes and narrow strips, which makes driving in that part of the country a death wish, especially considering how drivers of most Kenyan public vehicles drive.

God gave me a safe passage, and for that I am grateful.

Now, I was able to see the property we bought for Edith





The property has 3 houses, and a small woodlot, with clean documents.



We couldn't buy the trees, and so we instructed the previous owner to remove the trees. This is a Eucalyptus woodlot, which means that when the previous owner harvests the trees, there will be a ratoon crop, which Edith can harvest later if she chooses to, or she can choose to uproot the entire crop and grow her future crops for her family.

After that, I was able to travel to Vihiga to see Edith and get an idea of her current living conditions/environment, and the images are not very flattering.



Edith lives in the same room with her grandchildren, though they occasionally use a room borrowed from their relatives.



Their living circumstances are not good and honestly, not good for human habitation.

We were able to hand over the deeds for ownership of the farm we had bought for her.



Here we can see Edith proudly displaying the documents and the keys to the houses on the property.



Next the trip was to Bondo, where we met the Ramula Usire widows (Bondo widows' self-help group).

Since the meeting was after a long time (due to the travelling restrictions occasioned by the Covid 19 pandemic), I decided to make the meeting meaningful, by coupling it with a training. I was fortunate to get a brother who was willing to train the widows free of charge. Brother Samuel Onyango did a three days training on financial literacy and business management, in anticipation of the widows reviving their businesses.

Here are the images of the training



One of the widows making a presentation.





After this, we did a one day training on Village loans and saving scheme, which is a training aimed at helping the widows know how to mobilize resources locally. This training was done by a pastor friend called John Omollo. The reception was beyond my expectations and the widows asked to have a full training. This full training is scheduled to run from the 14th to the 19th of February.

