

Sister Heather's Diary and Apostle Cliff's comments

Tuesday 14th. July 2009. After much planning, organizing etc., we left home 2:30 p.m. for our trip to Kenya and South Africa, with our son Mitchell taking us to the airport. Uncles, Noel and Graham and our second son Nicholas, were there to see us off. Pleasant trip to Brisbane, arriving 6 p.m., to be met by Evangelist John Weder and taken to his and Marlene's home to spend the night or part there of.

Wednesday 15th. Out of bed 3 a.m. to catch 6 a.m. flight to Sydney. Stretching a friendship there, getting up so early. Breakfast on the plane to Sydney, not too bad. We found our way to the shuttle bus to go on to the International Airport. One and a half hour wait for flight to Johannesburg. Plenty of room where we were sitting on the plane, spare seats around us. Phoned Andrew and Nicholas and left a message for Mitchell as we were leaving Sydney. On board we were welcomed with champagne or orange juice, also received a gift pack and a pair of grey pyjamas each. May need them in Kenya. Arrived Johannesburg a little after 4 p.m. South African time. Midnight Australian time. Met by all of the Erasmus family and Officers and Members from the Church in South Africa. Great to see them all, especially familiar faces. They drove us to our hotel for the night and after showering etc., we met in the hotel restaurant for a meal together. We weren't very hungry as we were given a light dinner on the plane an hour before we landed. Up to our room by 9 p.m. and tried to phone the family. Mobile to mobile didn't work. Slept soundly for a couple of hours and thought it must be time to get up. Tried phoning home again. No go! Cat napped most of the night. Time zone not adjusted yet. Phoned Nicholas at his office on the land-line phone before we left the hotel.



Rearing to go



A friendly welcome Johannesburg

Thursday 16th. Out of bed 5:30 a.m. to prepare for next leg of the trip. Nice breakfast, taste as good as ours. Mini bus to airport. Asked the driver the temperature. He said it was minus one degrees, but he thought it was much colder. May reach eleven today. Thirteen degrees when we arrived here yesterday. Massive building expansions going on for the "World Cup" 2010. Soccer! A couple of hours wait at the airport, but at least we can relax a while. We are the only ninnies carrying our jackets. Good flight to Nairobi, taking four hours. We came through customs into a sea of black faces. Brother David and Brother Isaac met us, they seemed like they knew us, so off we went. A couple of hours drive to our

accommodation, a Seven Day Adventist Hostel. On the journey our vehicle kept breaking down in the middle of peak traffic. Found out next day the mechanic couldn't believe we had driven on to our accommodation as the clutch had broken and ground up the bearings. Well we did have a prayer before we left the airport. Brother Andrew Ombati and his wife were there to meet us. We arranged with Brother Daudi (David's Swahili name) to have dinner with us in the dining room. The Hostel being Seven Day Adventist, no meat, fish, chicken of any description or tea or coffee (caffeine). The bed went creak, creak, every time one moved. With the creaking and the after effects of stewed beans, it seemed a very long night. It is an old establishment, but very clean and safe, with a guard on gate duties.



Welcome Nairobi

for Church items and to bank to change money. Time ran away and as some members had to go to work, it was decided not to have a full service but only a non communion service. They rent a very old, small building on the outskirts of the city. Approximately thirty attended and were all very attentive. They like singing hymns and put everything into their singing. After the usual welcomes etc., drinks and loaves of sliced bread were served for all and later a full meal of rice, vegetables and chicken pieces. Back to accommodation and H.J.'s leg became very painful and she said she was cold. Hope it's not swine fever. Panadols and ointment were administered. Not eating at dining room tonight. Bro. Daudi will have to settle up tonight as being a S.D.A. place they close on Saturday. He advises the van is O.K. to go at eight in the morning. Bus has been arranged to take some of Nairobi community to Kisii for United Service on 2nd August. Hot shower and tuck H.J. in creaking bed. Certainly they did not give us the

Friday 17th. Phone Kristy very early here, to inform all, we were in Nairobi. Had breakfast and Women from the Rift Valley were there in traditional dress. Brother Daudi escorting us shopping to buy communion utensils and so forth. Service 11 a.m. today. Met a Church member, Brother Bennett, who is training for long distance running. Hopes to make the Olympic games.

(Apostle Cliff filling in) - Chased around the city honeymoon suite.



Service in Nairobi



Bro. Bennett training for long distance Olympic Team



Women in Traditional dress

Saturday 18th. Leg much improved. Packed up and ready to leave Nairobi by 8 a.m. Mini bus waiting at wrong guest house so we eventually got away by 9 a.m. Some of the road a nightmare, other parts quite good. Travelled across the Rift Valley, very dry and dusty. Once we were in the western highlands, a real picture with fertile farm lands. Stopped at a roadhouse for lunch. Similar style to the Philippines. Cast iron pots with food in. No filled in walls. Out house, a hole in the floor. Not another thing. The black hole of Kenya.

Stopped at Kisii for goods etc. Also visited a member, originally from the Rift Valley, with a broken leg. Arrived at Ogembo 4 p.m. Orphan children lined up in uniformed dress to sing for us. First time most had seen white people. Also for us to see such black people. Filipinos only had a slight tan! We were met by some of the members and it was good to see Brother Selwyn. I think he was happy to see us too. We had the grand tour of the Orphanage and Church and our accommodation. Guess what? Another squat job! It is going to be a struggle with a bung leg etc., etc., etc., When in Rome!



Visited displaced family



Welcome



Group at Welcome



Good to see Bro. Selwyn