

01-24-13 - Kiminini - Shanty Town Visit - Bible College Graduates - Wings Ministry Training



Today was another amazing day! We started out early and drove about 30 minutes to the shanty town orphanage. As we drove down the very rutted road to the orphanage we waved to people along the way. Then we got out and were escorted by the staff to their living area and the large church area. As we walked along we invited the neighbors along the path to join us. We were so pleased as quite a few people walked along and ultimately joined us in the church.

We sang, dramatized Noah and the Ark with all the little children, and had a lovely visit there. Pastor George Ludisi, the Dove Ministry Director, played the "turtle" who was so slow and almost "missed the ark".

The children and neighbors loved it all. So did we.

Then we went on to Kiminini, where we visited the International Gospel Education Ministry headquarters. We were greeted at the lane to the headquarters by students with banners, singers, and a joyous crowd. They escorted us to the office, and outside a huge tent had been erected for the hundreds of people who had come from as far away as Nairobi, and then many towns an hour or more away. There were 9 graduates there, and several others who had also completed the 18 month course.

I was invited to wear a black graduation robe and hat with tassel, like the other graduates, and I was even given a red stole to wear! Then our team was introduced to the graduates, and then we processed for at least a mile through the center of town. We walked along the main highway, and a police officer helped keep the traffic from hitting us. I was amazed at how fast some of the cars did pass us by.

It was a joyous procession. Hundreds of people walked up the lane and down the highway, and school children and street vendors waved to us and followed us along. I felt it was a little like Palm Sunday, when people lined the way and rejoiced as Jesus passed by. Everyone was excited to see the graduates, and of course people called out mzungu (white person), "I am fine!" and "How are you?" It was so cute to watch the children, who should have been hurrying home for lunch, who instead walked along with us and smiled shyly back as we waved to them.

Then we walked back to the huge tent, similar to what we would have in the States. Then the graduation ceremony was held. Certificates were given out to many, including all of us on the Wings' team. Song leaders lead music, people danced, and it was the most glorious celebration.

After the graduation ceremony I did a Wings training for all the participants. There were at least 100 children from the neighborhood school who joined us, and they crowded into the front of the area. They loved singing, especially shaking my hand, and at times I bet there were 12 – 15 children reaching out to shake my hand. The children were the "boat" in the parable of Jesus calming the storm, and laughed and enjoyed it all.

We had such a special day. We're having some internet difficulties so I will send this out now so I don't lose the message.

We are seeing a Kenya that most Kenyans will never see. In fact the woman who owns this guest home said she wished she had gone with us as she had never seen what we saw today.

We have a fabulous team. Everyone works together and are so wonderful with all the people we meet.