

Date: Monday, January 30, 2012, 4:19 AM

Dear Friends,

Yesterday we all went to church at the new Kipsaina Brethren church, about 15 miles away. Nadine and I started walking, almost 3 miles, before Jere and Debra picked us up, then in an already full van we crammed another 8-10 people, at another stop on the way. Thankfully, some were small children! The church building was a house, about 12 ft by 20 ft, old metal roof, and slabwood walls. The wind and weather have removed the mud chinking, so with the door open, there was some breeze. New metal roofing is still shiny, and doesn't absorb heat like the old metal does. The service was about 2 1/2 hrs, with music, a short sermon, more singing, a longer sermon with the children out for "Sunday School" (in the shade of a little tree, that they all fit under!) and more singing, all music with clapping. Then we adjourned to Gilbert and Alice's house, (some walking and some riding in the van) for lunch, which was kadetti; (sp?) beans, maize, and potatoes, (all cooked together) seasoned with salt, tomatoes, and onion, and served with white bread. And chai for dessert, piping hot! Pictures are all from pastor Gilbert' house, both the outdoor kitchen, and the inside of the home. They have a very nice patch of sweet potatoes!

We were home about 3:30 or 4, after dropping off all the other riders on our way. Time for a nap! Then Nadine and I began to prepare for the evening gathering here, with Jere and Debra's whole family, (10 now, but Jotham doesn't eat much yet!) all of Hosea and Florence's family, (Jero, Colie, "adopted son" Dick, sister Nancy, home briefly between semesters) 18 for supper. Florence had left a big pot of beans cooking over her firepit all day, and they were ready for the addition of onion, tomatoes, and tomato paste. Nadine cooked up some meat, and peeled sweet potatoes. Florence, Nadine and I did 3 batches of tortilla dough, and because we had 2 chapati pans, (a cast-iron "skillet", concave, with no sides, made to sit on top of the charcoal burner) the tortilla making went just as fast as we could roll them out! Debra made a pan of brownies with marshmallows and a little instant coffee, and of course chai. After cleaning up the dishes, we had some wonderful singing, 4 part harmony, and both English and Swahili. The evening ended with fervent prayer, in multiple languages, and hugs and kisses all around.

Today we've done the laundry, and I'm packing to leave early tomorrow morning. Because it's a 6-8 hr drive back to Nairobi, they will all go, and get all the big city errands done. This afternoon, we're going to visit Tartar falls, (a natural stream that's used to generate electricity-"stima") just because it's pretty.