

Sunday/Monday, May 23 Uganda Update

One of my favorite places and pastor's to visit in Uganda, is Seeta Nazigo. Ten years ago, Kefa Sempangi decided he wanted a legacy that was more than being a member of Parliament from the Mukono area. He then, with some other pastors, set a goal of planting ten new churches in that region over the next decade. Number seven is in the works, but the year long covid lock-down slowed progress. Kefa himself was very ill with covid. The number three plant was Seeta Nazigo and I had the joy of being part of the initial open air crusade that drew together the original core of the church.

The pastor is Moses Odokoje, who is a well motivated young man. Since his graduation from Senior Six (high school) he went to medical training and became a nurse and pharmacist. Then he was converted and has since graduated from Westminster Bible College. Most pastors in Uganda must be bi-vocational and Moses raises chickens and sells eggs. I did not take any photos of his chicken operation, but it is quite impressive with nearly 2,000 chickens in various ages to keep his production fairly consistent. In the early months of the covid lock down, he could not sell the eggs, therefore he could not buy chicken feed, so to help the folks in the Seeta Nazigo area, he gave away many chickens. His production is slowly returning. He pastors the church, oversees the school, and has an egg production business.

We left the guest house around 8:00 a.m. but were late arriving as it was raining. When we left the paved road, we found ourselves behind a large truck carrying a full load of bricks. He was driving very slowly on a one lane muddy road with no chance to pass. He knew if he pulled to one side to let us go by, he would likely slide into a rut and become stuck. Additionally, our vehicle was not four-wheel drive so for nearly forty-five minutes, we drove about 20 miles per hour. We finally came to a fork in the road and thankfully, he did not take the one we needed.

As soon as we arrived, I began to teach Sunday School and then morning worship followed. They did not use a sound system and had only native drums and to me, that made the music beautiful. They sang in both English and their native tongue. In Uganda, it is often hard to tell when Sunday School ends and worship begins as there usually is no detectable transition. The service ended at nearly 2:30 followed by a meal (I love village meals). Moses then took me on a tour of the newest school building that is being built on a as funds available basis.

We then went to visit his chicken/egg production and a little after three headed back to our guest house. Many who live and work in Kampala, go to their home village on Friday evening and return on Sunday. This creates a regular massive traffic jam. Coming through Kampala on a Sunday morning is almost nonstop. That same trip can take up to three hours on Sunday afternoon. We made it back to the guest house at 8:00 p.m.

After nine, we went to Entebbe town to **Test and Fly**, to take our third covid test in fifteen days so that we would be able to fly from Uganda to Amsterdam and on to Atlanta.

Monday morning we had a heavy thunder storm which kept us at the guest house for several hours. I then went to visit the local government official who oversees our NGO (Non-governmental Organization = non-profit). It was good for her to see someone from our group and to hear about all we do to help us maintain a healthy relationship. Many NGOs were not renewed in the last cycle. We also went back to **Test and Fly** to get our covid tests results and we were thankful they were negative.

We left Monday night at 11:30 for Amsterdam and then on to Atlanta. Our flight from Amsterdam was on an Airbus A330-300 which seats 293 passengers. There were 27 of us onboard for a Tuesday night arrival in Atlanta. Each flight attendant had three passengers to take of.



View of folks during Sunday School



Me preaching with Moses translating



The "old folks" there wanted a photo with me, turned out, only the gentleman in the blue jacket, was older than me.



The newest school building progress