

GROWING TOGETHER IN RWANDA

How Elizabeth has spent her time during her first 3 visits to Rwanda in 2009 and 2010

First visit: list of activities, written 14 Feb, 09

30 Jan – 1 Feb: A slow start, with little to do except review my teaching material (most useful) and go to morning service (10-12.15) at the Friends' Church, Gasharu, where Bucura David is pastor.

2 Feb, Monday: Morning and afternoon meetings at Friends Peace House (FPH). Outline programme agreed. Downtown for money and phone card. Go through and apportion gifts with Francine, who works with the orphans at Gasharu as well as running the guest house where I am staying, in the evening

3 Feb, Tues: Visit to organic farm training centre at Gako in morning. Brief and inconclusive discussion about workshop costings with Josephine, the FPH treasurer, then workshop planning with Musafiri in afternoon. Move from guest house to stay with Jeanette.

4-6 Feb, Weds – Fri: Workshop at Shyorongi with Musafiri for 30 young people. (Actually I missed the first day after a night of d&v.)

7 Feb, Sat: (Weekend of severe power cuts.) Outing with Samvura Antoine and 6-yr-old daughter to his 2 hectares of land an hour's drive from Kigali.

8 Feb, Sunday: Quiet day, with long conversations, sotto voce although there's nobody within earshot who speaks French or English, about religion and politics, with Bosco – Jeanette's husband.

9 Feb, Monday: Visit Mwana Nshuti, training school for ex-street children run by FPH, where I am to give workshop later. Attempt with Gaston to sort out sound system. Uninterrupted couple of hours in afternoon with office modem – almost catch up on emails despite v slow connection.

10 Feb, Tues: Day at George Fox College, Kagarama, the Friends' school where Antoine is head teacher. Observe English classes in morning, teach adult class in afternoon, after restaurant lunch with Rwanda Yearly Meeting Executive Committee (8 men) and shopping for seeds. (People are feverishly learning English to keep their jobs as the official European language changes from French.)

11-13 Feb, Weds to Fri: Workshop at Gitarama Friends Church for women's group with Jeanette.

14 Feb, Sat: Morning off. Solange's wedding this afternoon and probably into evening.

15 Feb, Sunday: David B's church for morning service. Afternoon as yet unscheduled. I might manage to borrow Antoine's laptop and modem – much the most efficient.

16 & 17 Feb, Mon and Tues: Committed to David B for garden demonstration projects and presentation of donated clothes to the church orphanage and poor women.

18-20 Feb, Weds-Fri: Workshop with Cecile N for a local Women in Dialogue group at FPH.

21, 22 Feb, Sat & Sun: As yet unscheduled, apart from taking Cecile, Jeanette and Bosco out for a meal at local Resto/Bar on Sunday evening.

23-24 Feb, Mon-Tues: Workshop with Gaston for Mwana Nshuti.

24 Feb, Tues, late afternoon: Farewell and planning meeting at FPH.

Second visit: list of activities, autumn 09

Wednesday September 30th: arrive in time for lunch with committee of the new adult school run by College George Fox Kagarama.

Thursday October 1st: morning visits to homes of 3 women from the village of Karembure who had taken part in my final workshop at FPH in February; in the afternoon visit Solange, a HROC facilitator living near FPH, who had a sack garden behind her house still producing spinach, made after seeing the women's work. (It was her wedding I attended in February.)

Friday 2nd: visit Mwana Nshuti in morning to look at February's work. Go with Musafiri in the afternoon to meet the youth group at Shyorongi and plan a second workshop with some of them.

Saturday 3rd: go for a drive with Antoine in the afternoon.

Sunday 4th: go with Fiacre and Emile, Antoine's sons, to the English language service at Gasharu Friends church at 7am. Go with Antoine to a graduation celebration in the evening.

Monday 5th, public holiday for Teachers' Day: visit Théogène, organiser of the CGFK adult school; go with him to the last hour of speeches for teachers and pupils from several local schools, assembled at CGFK; join some other teachers and Théogène for lunch in a local restaurant.

Tuesday 6th - Thursday 8th: daily workshops with the ground staff from CGFK; daily English language sessions with some primary and nursery school teachers and admin staff (not the science teachers I had been expecting).

Friday 9th: workshop with around 15 women from Gasharu church (my first time of working with Bonheur as translator).

Saturday 10th: workshop continuation. Teach 'Amazing grace' for English service tomorrow. Evening meal with David Zarembka (AGLI coordinator) and Gladys Kimonya, his wife.

Sunday 11th: Gasharu church. Restaurant meal with Jeanette, joined by Musafiri.

Monday 12th - Tuesday 13th: two day workshop with Shyorongi youth group.

Weds 14th - Thursday 15th: two day workshop with Churches Mobilisation for Poverty Reduction women's group at Friends Peace House, Byumba (an hour's bus ride away).

Friday 16th: free day (but including meetings with Josephine and Solange).

Saturday 17th: shop with Antoine in the morning and cook for the family in the evening.

Meet with David Zarembka at David Bucura's house in the afternoon to discuss future plans.

Sunday 18th - Tuesday 20th: to Nyakarambi/Kirehe to stay with British Quaker VSO, Dorothy Nelson, and visit 2 state primary schools, looking at their gardens and 'One child, one tree' projects.

Weds 21st - Thurs 22nd: two day workshop with Churches Mobilisation women's group at Bihembe.

Friday 23rd - Saturday 24th: two day workshop at Kagarama with women who expect to pass on some of the techniques they've learnt from me.

Sunday 25th: church early.

Monday 26th: follow-up session with CGFK ground staff. Session with 4 CGFK science teachers.

Tuesday 27th: meet with Josephine at FPH in morning to discuss programme expenditure. Evaluation meeting in afternoon.

Weds 28th - Thursday 29th: fly home via Nairobi.

Third visit: what have I been doing? (Early 2010)

January

24 (Sun) left England

25 spent long day in Nairobi

26 arrived in Bujumbura before 2am. After sleeping, planned programme for the week.

27-28 bag garden workshop with Kamenge church and Friends Women Association clinic women

29-30 ditto with teenage HROC group

31 (Sun) church at Kamenge

February

1-2: workshop with group at Kamenge Friends church

2 (Tue): fly to Kigali

3: plan programme for time in Rwanda

4-5: revisit projects from October, discuss budget; briefly meet Laura Shipler Chico, who worked with AGLI in Rwanda for 3 year and is now employed at Friends House, London.
6: visit Kigali genocide memorial
7 (Sun): Eng language service at Gasharu Friends church
8-9: morning workshops with CGK workers, making keyhole gdn, afternoons w teachers
10: revision workshop with church women at Kagarama. Supper w Ruth & Krystan – young Mennonite Canadian development workers at Fds Peace House.
11-12: make keyhole gdn w Byumba women. (Stay overnight)
13: drive to Gisenyi with David Bucura for wedding of Zawadi – HROC worker
14 (Sun): morning off. Meet w Dave Z in afternoon, then visit Antoine's family
15: bus to Cyangugu with Antoine
16-17: morning bag garden workshop with Kamembe women, afternoon sessions w teachers
18-19: bag garden workshop with Cyete women
19 last bus back to Kigali
20: to Nyamirambo (the most multicultural district of Kigali) for lunch w Ruth & Krystan. Free day basically
21 (Sun): bus to Nyakarambi to visit Dorothy & Vern (see 18-20 October)
22: Kigina school visit w Dorothy
23: Global Schools Partnership working group w Dorothy and local teachers, then bus back to Kigali
24: budget meeting w Josephine. Then herb garden work at David B's with Ruth & Krystan
25-26: keyhole garden workshop w Bihembe women
27: free day – shopping and meet Solange to discuss October project
28 (Sun): Church at Gasharu, visit Antoine to confirm plans for next week.

March

1: drive to Kidaho w Antoine. Session with workers then teachers at Fds school there
2: drive from Kidaho to Butaro. Ditto
3-4: bag garden workshop w Fds Church women at Rugarama
5: meet Joseph – Twa HROC facilitator – to plan for October, then drive back to Kigali
6: budget meeting w Josephine. Evaluation and planning meeting
7 (Sun): fly to Nairobi, then home early Monday. Phew!

For detail to flesh out this skeleton, see Elizabeth's blog at <http://growingtogetherinrwanda.blogspot.com>