

One week in Rwanda with granddaughter Hannah

One busy week in Rwanda!

On arrival in Kigali at 0700 on Wednesday January 16, there was Charles with the 31 year old Toyota Land Cruiser, which we share. I drove straight off to Butare without stopping in Kigali. We had Tilapia for lunch at the Ibis Hotel with Charles and Manasse. Hannah and I then went on through the Nyungwe Forest for the three hour drive to Cyangugu, where we found the Bishop's wife, Esther, had filled the kitchen with fruit, eggs, bread and milk. Hannah was pleased with her 'en-suite' room!

On Thursday we set off early for the boat to take us to Nkombo Island where the diocese has a twice a week feeding programme. Hannah enjoyed giving a big mug of high protein porridge to 785 children, who would otherwise have been malnourished, as the soil is poor on the densely populated island.

On Friday we visited St Matthews School, where builder John has just finished the girls' dormitory, and the Jill Barham School where the Head told us they too have to be ready for the government Inspection this year and need a boys' dormitory. This is scheduled to become a Polytechnic. Then we went to the Health Centre, which was buzzing with patients, and finally Peace Guest House, where we found all 16 Bishops staying in the Annexe, which some of them had not seen before! We joined them for supper in a marquee at the Bishop's house.



On Saturday the Bishops were all taken by boats to the north of Nkombo island, where they dedicated a new church – a third on the island. Hannah and I went with our builder John on the 3 hour journey through the forest to the parish of Bweyeye, where he is building two more pastors' houses. We had lunch in the pastor's house after he had shown us the big new church which he wants me to dedicate. The reason, he says, is that I bought the land on which it is built, many years ago, and I ordained him in 1995! In the evening we joined all the Bishops and clergy for supper in a new 'tourist' guest house at Gisakura on the edge of a tea estate and the forest. There, the Bishop made a big speech thanking us for the work we do to raise funds for the Church.



On Sunday the Boys Brigade band led the procession of Bishops, clergy and Mothers Union from the old cathedral, down the road, to the new cathedral. Before setting off, the Provincial Dean led some prayers changing the Dedication from cathedral to Bible School. The new smart cathedral is dedicated to 'Christ The King'. The three hour service with Holy Communion led by the Archbishop of Rwanda, was joyful and went smoothly. Bishop Lawrence Quigg from North America, who had raised the money for the building,

preached. When a choir from Shyira Diocese did their dramatic song, the Archbishop joined them on the floor in their dance! Lunch for 2,600 invited guests followed in the various marquees round the church.

Early on Monday morning, Hannah and I drove off in the Toyota for the six hour journey to Kigali, where we settled in the Chez Lando Hotel for the night before a very early start for checking in at Kigali International Airport. The RwandAir flight left right on time at 0800, getting us to Gatwick by 1710. We then drove through snow back to Battle!

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