

## Kenya Trip, 15<sup>th</sup>–26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### Monday 15th January

Julie, Geoff and I set off on our trip to Kenya on 15th January 2024 at 10.20am. The aim of the trip was to see all the work that has taken place over the last few years with the Grace 24 Project and assess and plan for the future. Our hope and objective was to see if it was viable to pass on more responsibility to Claire and Kennedy Mukala who live on the edge of Kusumu, in Kenya. Claire and Kennedy are clearly more knowledgeable and informed to support the Grace 24 project. They understand the culture, the people, the traditions and also the corruption and have a real heart for the poor. We would still aim to take responsibility for fundraising.

We left on a cold January morning and took a taxi to Fareham and then National Express to Heathrow T4. We were travelling Kenya Airlines economy, an overnight direct flight, but appeared to have slightly upgraded seats which gave more leg room. Thank you Lord! We arrived at Nairobi around 6 in the morning and it was still dark.

Nairobi airport is a bustling and developing airport. There are many people from different nationalities passing through as it is a 'hub' airport as well as a destination. When you leave Arrivals you are immediately greeted by random people trying to help you with your luggage and relieve you of your money! They are probably best avoided whilst you take time to get your bearings and plan your next move.

We had time for a drink at Nairobi airport before locating our departure gate for the short flight to Kisumu near Lake Victoria. At Nairobi you are immediately aware that you are in Africa. It's warm and humid and the sky is blue. A welcome change from the cold and grey of the UK. We no longer needed coats and jumpers! In the air above us were large birds of prey circling on the thermals along with a variety of other birds circling the area in search of a meal.

The flight to Kisumu in western Kenya is just over 30 minutes. Going by bus would take 7 or 8 hours! We are fortunate to be able to afford this. Jesciah and her family would have to take an uncomfortable bus trip, probably overnight, to visit Nairobi, the largest city in Kenya. Nairobi has a current

population of around 4.3 million people with a lot of development underway.

When we arrived in the small airport of Kisumu we were met by Kennedy and a driver - Elfias. It was good to see Kennedy and reassuring as he has lived in Western Kenya all his life. He is married to Claire who was brought up in Fareham but now lives with Kennedy near Kisumu, a 30 minute drive from the town in a remote rural area with a large hillside plot that they are developing. We drove to our hotel at Sosa Cottages which is reasonably close to Claire and Kennedy.

### **Tuesday 16th January**

We have previously stayed in some very basic accommodation in Kenya but Sosa Cottages was lovely. We upgraded at little cost to a villa that all 3 of us shared. Sosa Cottages is a gated complex and has beautiful gardens to walk around, along with gym and pool, although we didn't use either. We had just had nearly 24 hours of travelling so we were happy to spend the rest of Tuesday just chilling.

In the grounds of Sosa Gardens a political rally was going on in a marquee. A very smart helicopter was parked up in the distance that the leader of the ODM party was using. First impressions are that both politicians and Pastors of big churches are held in high esteem and are well paid with all the trimmings of nice car, gated houses and smart clothes. We were glad when they all went home after lunch as the noise ended. The hotel is pleasant and secure so has a lot of conferences going on through the day.

### **Wednesday 17th January**

We were due to be collected at 10am to be taken to Claire and Kennedy. The driver didn't arrive, which is totally normal for Kenya. We were fairly chilled about it but the hotel manager seemed annoyed and was calling the driver to see where he was. Kenyans are a very proud people and the manager wanted us to be well treated. Anyway, about an hour later a completely different driver turned up and said he would take us to Claire and Kennedy's place. Well - near to it.

After 5 minutes driving the driver pulled over on the side of the rather rough road alongside market stalls and small shack where a man was dispensing petrol as he needed fuel. He said his M-Pesa (form of payment) wasn't working and asked us for money. We said we didn't have any and he

went off and found another way to get fuel. Whilst we were stationary a few folk called out 'Musungu' (a term for non blacks). A beggar tried his luck asking Geoff for money. If we had given money to one person we would have had crowds around us in a short time. The driver later tried to raise the price of the journey with Kennedy but I'm not sure he had much success!

After 30 minutes the driver came off the main road and then drove down a very rocky un made-up road until we eventually saw Kennedy standing by the side of the road. It was then a 30 minute trek down a rocky and uneven hillside path to Claire and Kennedy's house which is in a beautiful location on the side of a steep hill. It was a misty day so visibility was restricted but we were told that on a clear day you can see Lake Victoria.

Claire and Kennedy have worked very hard to turn their plot of land into a family home. It is very basic but very welcoming with lovely views of the countryside out to Lake Victoria. They have numerous springs nearby providing water and limited solar for electricity. In my initial view they appeared fairly 'off grid'! Claire and Kennedy have built a 2 bed-room house but they also have a lodge down the hill a little where Claire's parents, Brian and Celia are staying. They have been there a few weeks and are hoping to extend their visa but are currently negotiating through a maze of Kenyan bureaucracy.

Brian tells me they normally only go to town once a week because of the walk to the road. Brian had a large graze on his leg where he had previously slipped on the rocky path.

Claire and Kennedy showed us round their house and grounds and we were amazed how much work they have done although they have very ambitious plans to develop everything further. We brought various gifts with us from the UK including children's books, clothing and a very large jar of marmite for Claire and a kilo of M and M's!. Claire and Kennedy have local children coming to them almost every-day as they offer unique hospitality and a nurturing environment. Local children can borrow books and they are helped with their reading and education.

Claire and Kennedy have a lovely family and the children are happy, content and endearing. The children seem so appreciative of small things and relate really well to adults who give them any attention. They eat

everything and leave nothing. It is sobering when you see the waste in most western households.

Claire and Kennedy support their local church community and do a lot of work with the children. They are planning a baptism in the next couple of weeks and Claire is hoping that their large paddling pool may still work! Shoreline Church are currently offering regular monthly financial support to Claire and Kennedy in view of their work with Grace 24 and their own ministry.

We enjoyed a bar b q lunch with everyone and we shared with Claire and Kennedy our hopes and plans for the trip.

Claire home schools her own children at present and Tiana who is only 6 appears remarkably bright. She drew pictures of Julie, Geoff and I and I hate to say it but the resemblance is good!

Before we left Claire and Kennedy showed us round their land. They are planting trees and crops all around the houses. They have 2 ponds where they are breeding Tilapia fish for eating. They have built a children's playground with swings, slides, monkey bars and trampoline. Kennedy has built paths all over his land and the lodge they have built for guests is brilliant. They are hoping to build more accommodation and have facilities for local people to come and stay. I think they are amazing and they are real pioneers in all that they are doing - well done guys!

### Thursday 18th January

We went out to Kisumu for the day with Claire and family. We met on the lakeside of Lake Victoria at the Impala Park. It took a while for Julie, Geoff and I to get in as we had to process it online via E Citizen. Kenya still seems to make very simple things unnecessarily complicated. The lack of people in the park probably reflected this along with how they have let the park get run down over the last few years. There were animals there but the whole park appeared tired and run down from when we last saw it.

We all took a boat trip out to Hippo Point on Lake Victoria. Kennedy very quietly and efficiently negotiated a sensible price with the local guys. We saw lots of interesting birds but no hippos today! But how lovely and peaceful to spend time on the Lake.

We went to a nearby hotel where we met Brian and Celia and had lunch. After lunch we went to the Kisumu arts and crafts market with the local traders all desperate for us to come into their little shops. Their shops are makeshift wooden shelters with corrugated roofs. Inside they are selling all sorts of decorative arts and crafts items. Some they have made, others come from elsewhere. Oh dear, this is a bit of a honeypot for ladies who like stuff and can be persuaded by local traders, so we lost Julie and Claire for some time. Brian was looking a little agitated trying to get folk back to the matatu van. My thoughts - it is what it is so just let it happen!

Our journey home is in the Pastor's 'matatu'. This is a common form of transport in Kenya. A mini bus that can hold around 10 people but generally has many more along with livestock and the roof piled high with all sorts. They often have names and logos painted on them. On the way to the airport we saw one named 'the Jesus team' - 'don't drive faster than your angels can fly'. Most of them look totally unroadworthy and would be condemned in the UK. Kenya's roads are full of potholes, dips and stones and travel can be challenging. Having said that the main A1 road between Kisumu and Malava is now much improved. The matatu was old and struggled to get up the hills. The fumes gave me a sore throat that lasted a day or so.

### Friday 19th January

We left the Sosa Cottages to travel to Malava which is further north and is near where the Grace 24 Project is. We now have John as our taxi driver. Wow, John has a nice comfortable car and this looks promising. When we went to put our luggage in the car boot I realise that most of the boot is taken up with a large 'bass speaker'! How does that make any sense? Anyway we all get in ok and our luggage just about.

John is not a slow driver and the drive up the A1 is interesting. There are very old trucks passing us in the other direction with sugar cane loaded high and wide, a large pig strapped on the back of a motor bike, bikes with wide loads attached, precariously passing by pedestrians and other traffic. Along the side of the road are numerous shops/corrugated shacks selling all sorts of things- tables, chairs, coffins, fruit, veg etc. We also saw a few livestock markets and people bringing their cows and goats to sell. At every opportunity John would overtake the mix of bikes, tuktuks, motorcycles and ramshackle vehicles on the road. Sometimes he weaved in and out causing

us to take a sharp breath as we had several near misses. Everywhere were pedestrians, women with large loads on their heads, children in basic school uniforms with bright white socks, young men sitting in groups chatting. In Kenya they still have a lot of children so the population looks young compared to the UK. It is uncommon in Kenya for most people to live into old age.

Although John's driving was a little 'scary' we did at least arrive in very good time. It would have taken at least 2 hours more in a matatu.

We arrived at Malava Forest Lodge, a large concrete complex with lodges in the spacious grounds on the edge of Malava Forest. It is very rural and peaceful and the staff were very friendly. Geoff, Julie and I had 2 lodges next to each other opposite the main building. There are baboons and monkeys coming from the forest and looking for food. They wander around our lodges along with cows tethered to long ropes.

Our lodge is quite basic. The toilet door won't close. The toilet is leaking and the lid is falling off. There is some wildlife crawling across the ceiling but there is a mosquito net over the bed which offers some reassurance. Once again Geoff seems to have the better room which he takes some delight in pointing out to us!

We contact Jescah and see if she wants to come up and see us and we arrange a guide to help us going through the forest.

Jescah is looking good, although Julie is aware that she is suffering from a number of health conditions that need ongoing medication. It is lovely to see her and she has a warm smile and infectious laugh. We go for a walk through Malava forest accompanied by a guide. In the forest there are baboons and Columba black and white monkeys. On our way back 2 children pass us carrying a baby. Jescah picked up that the baby was sick and they were taking it to a clinic. It was a little concerning as it would soon be dark and they would probably be late returning.

The guide stops us at the 'sacred tree'. When boys are circumcised father and son visit the sacred tree and stay overnight. Tradition says that if you damage the sacred tree you will die. There are numerous traditions that even the Christian Kenyans can still be caught up in.

In the evening we ate at the Malava Lodge. They have a basic dining room opposite our lodge. The young girl serving us was called Winnie and later on we gave her a Bible and a small credit for her mobile. We were going to go to her church on the Sunday but when the time came someone died and church was cancelled at late notice.

The Malava lodge often hosts small conferences and has a few other guests from Kenya. There was also a group of three young Americans from South Carolina visiting. They were all young and single and belonged to a community church with links to a church and orphanage in Malava. For two of them it is their first time ever travelling abroad and they had what they considered a very tiring and arduous journey. They were keen and enthusiastic but to us they appeared a little naive. They were being chaperoned by a well to do Pastor who was suited and booted and driving a nice Nissan 4x4. He was clearly managing their stay and taking them to places he wanted them to see and support. Jesciah later told us that the school they support is extremely expensive. I think to date the Americans had received a sanitised and managed experience. I think they were a little shocked when they saw our videos.

### **Saturday 20th January**

We visited the Grace 24 Project. It is a couple of miles outside the village of Malava in a rural location. Using my iPhone I was able to spot it clearly on google maps. To get there we came off a made- up road and then on to a red dirt track for a mile and then the project has its own red dirt track of about 100 metres leading to the house and the land. It is easy to spot, painted in bright green and yellow colours. There is a large blue iron gate marking the entrance and the children spot us before we get there. It is great to see in person the end product of ongoing prayer, fundraising and selfless generosity from Shoreline Church and others. Generous gifts and Pudding Sundays have enabled a community of people to survive and thrive.

For Julie and I this is quite emotional as we have had some real highs and lows in supporting this project. In the early days of taking it on we knew that Jesciah's husband was not always that honest, open or trustworthy. We paid for him to go on a YWAM course for leadership and Bible training in Uganda and he completed this with flying colours. In 2015 Julie and I

spent time with him and Jescah to encourage them as a couple. Unfortunately, as everyone knows, he lied about the building of the house and sent us false photos. Jescah was too frightened to say anything. In 2018 he then went off with another woman and took the money with him, including funds for his own children's school fees. If we are honest Julie and I felt like giving up at this point as it was so disappointing and we felt that we had let the church down. However, the lesson for us was to press on, overcome disappointment and trust God that he would redeem the situation.

When we first see the Grace 24 house in the distance I feel quite emotional. It is actually there and it looks great. In fact, it looks much better than we had imagined. It stands out in the midst of beautiful green countryside and looks stunning.

The Grace 24 house is quite large with 4 bedrooms a large lounge, kitchen, toilet and numerous out houses that accommodate others. The floors are tiled and the walls all painted bright colours that made me feel a little faint. Some of you may know that I don't do colour!

Outside is a covered cooking area, storage sheds, gatehouse, roundhouse still being finished and toilet block. There is a borehole that pumps water to a large water tank. There are a range of animals including 2 dogs, a cat, turkey, ducks, chickens and more. Alongside the house is a large shamba/garden where they are growing a range of crops that feed the household and others. The soil is rich red and fertile and things clearly grow quickly in the climate. The surrounding countryside is pretty with green hills and forestation. Further down towards the river Jescah has another piece of land where she is growing Napier grass.

It is good to meet Jescah's children. Josiah, Jescah's son, is away in Nairobi and has just started a course in general agricultural science. This includes work experience. He sold his livestock to fund this course which is for just over 3 years.

Joy is 26 years old and is at home until the end of the month when she will return to her job in Nairobi. Joy is desperate to better herself and we funded her to do a diploma in customs admin but she has so far been unable to secure a job. She told me that for every job in Kenya there are



numerous applicants. When in Nairobi Joy does retail work. She also is a prolific crocheter and has made and sold some amazing outfits.

Jemima is 20 and also desperate to improve herself. She wants to do Nursing training but it is expensive and the funds are not available yet. Claire has taught Jemima some basic healthcare procedures and she can now do malaria testing in the community and also supports her mother in managing her diabetes better. Jemima is bright and motivated and I sense she has been through periods of depression over her circumstances. We later talked to Jemima further and hope to fund her doing a six month health certificate at a Private hospital.

There are also numerous other children and adults around today, about 20 in all and later on we have lunch together.

Jescah takes Julie, Geoff and I on a tour of the house and grounds. It is really impressive and we are relieved to actually see it all there and looking much better than we had imagined. There are still jobs everywhere you look though!

They are constantly vulnerable to people stealing their livestock and possessions. In 2012 I left a guitar with them but that was stolen. Jescah has had her dog poisoned several times by people trying to break in. Her other dog was chained up as he has been vulnerable to being poisoned. Joy said that she has been robbed and burgled on 5 separate occasions in Nairobi. She has little to nothing, and in Nairobi only rents a tiny room. It is very disheartening for Jescah, especially when you are trying to help people.

Jescah takes us out in the community and over a long walk past various other houses and small communities she shows us 12 toilet blocks that Grace 24 money has paid for. Previously people did their business in the bushes and this can be the cause of disease and infection. You can tell that Jescah is held in high esteem in the community, and we later found out that the church wanted her to take on a Pastor role.

Jescah showed us the piece of land where she has been growing Napier grass for the cows. She was shocked to see that the grass had all been cut and taken and she had no payment for it. Further along the path she talks to a local worker and he tells her that it is the Pastor looking after the

Americans who has had the grass and has not paid her. Later that evening at the Malava lodge when the Pastor returned the Americans from their day out, we raised our concerns that Jesciah had not been paid. The Pastor appeared very embarrassed as we had raised this in front of the Americans. However, Jesciah later told us to her surprise that she had been paid almost immediately after our concerns were raised.

Back at the house several of the older ones were looking after Joseph and Blessing, two twin babies currently left with Jesciah after their mother died. It is a long and sad story but no one was able to care for them and they came recently to Jesciah with severe malnutrition. Over the period that we saw them they made remarkable progress and when we left baby Joseph and baby Blessing were starting to walk round the furniture.

It is Kenyan hospitality to feed your visitors with a feast and when serving drinks they must always be full to the brim otherwise you are being disrespectful. So, although we had a good breakfast we were going to get a big lunch. Jesciah has various means of cooking. Outside there is an open fire under a shelter. One of the boys is cooking a milk porridge for the twins. Indoors they have a charcoal/ wood burner on the floor and on a workbench they have a spirit burner that is cheap and easy to use for frying. Two different chickens were being fried. A soft one for us and a different one for the Kenyans. Food is very well cooked in Kenya - not sure if this is about killing any possible germs or just how they like it!

We brought with us a large quantity of rice, milk, sugar and other food items along with personal gifts. This was much appreciated.

So, for lunch there were 2 different types of Ugali, wholemeal and white. Ugali is made from ground maize and is a staple food of Kenya. It looks like play dough and they roll into balls with their fingers and dip it in sauce if they have it. There is a huge saucepan of rice, an onion, garlic and tomato sauce, and Skuma-wiki, a green spinach type vegetable and very well fried chicken.

There were around 20 of us and the children sat politely round the room on chairs and on the floor. For them this is like Christmas, a feast they rarely have. It seems appropriate for Geoff, Julie and I to serve them all. So, we spoon out huge clumps of Ugali and rice onto their plate along with all

the other foods. The plates are piled high with two or three times the amount of food I would have! Children in Kenya never know where their next meal is coming from so they are immensely appreciative and well mannered. They mostly completely clear their plates other than the tiny ones who couldn't possibly eat their own body weight!

### **Sunday 21st January**

We were ready and waiting to go to church with Winnie, one of the Malava Lodge workers we had made friends with, but she called us on her mobile to say that someone had died and church was cancelled. She was very apologetic. We decided to sit outside in a covered hut and watch the Shoreline online service. The signal came and went but we managed to mostly stay with it. Technology has made visits to remote places more manageable these days and it is easily possible to maintain communication with back home. Julie called our Grand-daughter, Eden on video and had a chat and showed her baboons wandering around looking for food. It is strange to think that years ago travellers to Africa would have no contact with their home country for weeks on end, maybe the occasional letter.

Early in our stay we obtained an African SIM card with data and then loaded credit onto an app to enable us to pay for things. Whilst in Africa the exchange rate has been good.

### **Monday 22nd January**

We visit Grace 24 again. Julie is beginning conversations with Jesciah about our future plans for Claire to be more involved.

Geoff and I have a few jobs to do. Jesciah had been unable to get into her filing cabinet as she had lost the key. We made various attempts to pick the lock but were unsuccessful. In the end Geoff used a machete to prise open the drawers and we take the locking mechanism out. Inside it is a little disorganised and Julie, helped by Geoff, sorted everything into neat files. Julie explained to Jesciah how to file things appropriately. All the children now have their own file.

Jesciah told me that the only shower they have is giving only scalding or freezing cold water. We had a look and it was clear the thermostat was no longer working. The toilet also leaked badly from a cracked pipe feeding in cold water. It needed a new part. It had been the cause of some damp to

the outside of the building's render and we advised Jescah to get quotes to have the toilet fixed and the shower replaced. They are actually very reasonable and we agree to fund this.

A little later Jescah's church pastor and a district pastor turn up to welcome us. They arrived together on an old motorcycle. We share greetings and they talked about their work amongst the people. One is called Evan and the other Samuel. They are lovely men and they are not paid for their work. They clearly have a good relationship with Jescah. We donate to them a box of Bibles, some in Swahili and some in English. They are thrilled to have them and Evan is fixated on reading the Swahili version. He is straining to read and I lend him my glasses. His eyes light up because suddenly he can read. He says you cannot get glasses like this in Kenya. I later say that he can keep them and you can tell he is deeply moved.

We had some fellowship together reading from the Bible and worshipping together. I taught them an easy English praise song that I wrote and they lead us in a worship song in Swahili. It is very moving and it feels like a spiritual bond has been made. Before they go we take photos, and they wanted us to make a formal presentation of giving the Bibles. We are much more informal than they are but we respected their wishes.

Soon it was time to say goodbye. We arrange for Jescah to come with us the next day to meet with Claire and agree a way forward together.

## **Tuesday 23rd January**

We head off for Kisumu with Jescah where we are meeting with Claire at our new hotel.

The Wigot Gardens is on the edge of Kisumu and is high up. It looks down on the flat plains of Kisumu town and out to Lake Victoria. It has nice gardens and we all have lunch together. Jescah orders Tilapia, a freshwater fish from Lake Victoria. She eats it all including the tail and sucks out the juicy eyes and mucus.

Claire, Julie and Jescah sat together and went through all the plans of how things will now be managed. Julie will continue to fund raise, but Jescah will now liaise with Claire regarding all her needs and the needs of the Project. As Claire lives in Kenya she understands how things work and

often has good ideas on problem solving and saving money. Kennedy is also able to negotiate in Swahili and visit schools and challenge anything that isn't quite right.

After a long lunch and lots of discussion it is time for Jescah to return with the driver to Malava. We all say goodbye and exchange hugs and kisses. Julie and I look at each other and wonder if this might be the last time we see Jescah face to face. It has been a very worthwhile trip. It has involved a lot of planning, expense, vaccinations, visas, hotels and prayer but God has as always been faithful and good and we have achieved lots.

Kennedy has been an absolute blessing through our trip. He has booked and paid for our accommodation in advance with funds that we have sent and saved us money through his negotiation. He has organised transport and kept us safe throughout. He has called us to check all is ok and his presence has been reassuring. Well done Kennedy you are a diamond.

### **Wednesday 24th January**

We meet up with Claire, Kennedy and family at the Wigot Gardens. The children are all excited to get in the pool and have a good time. We are less excited about the pool as we have seen parties of young school children come and go all using the pool and having a good time. I think it is looking a little 'soupy' and we don't want to take any chances as we are about to have a long trip home.

We have a lovely lunchtime together beside the pool and Kennedy has the Tilapia fish. I tell him he has weakened as he abstains from eating the head and tail!

Claire has invited Chris Wheat to join us. Chris has been doing work in Kisumu with 'To Kenya with Love' for many years and he lives in Kisumu. Claire's children clearly adore Chris and call him Grandad. He has a lovely relationship with them. Chris looked after Kennedy when he was a youngster and you can see how this has benefitted Kennedy over the years having such a good role model. Chris's elderly parents, now in their 90s, live in Pinewood Close off Burnt House Lane in Stubbington- small world isn't it!!

Chris is the 'Missions coordinator with 'To Kenya with Love'  
- <https://www.tkw.org.uk>

Chris is hoping in time to get Kenyan citizenship, as is Claire. I think they may also be thinking about Chris having accommodation on Kennedy's land. Chris was telling me he has problems sleeping at night as it is noisy where he is living. I talked to Chris about ear plugs and I gave him a new pair I had bought with me as spares. I always use them as they help me to sleep. Even the grandchildren can hear Julie snoring at night!

Eventually the time comes to say goodbye and a friend of Alan, the pastor, has turned up with a matatu to take everyone home. It has been a great time and we are sad to go. The days seem to have just flown by.

### Thursday 25th January

We got up early this morning to fly from Kisumu to Nairobi. Kisumu airport has improved massively over the years and it is much more efficient. When I first came to Kenya I think the terminal was more like a hut.

In Nairobi we stay in accommodation near the airport ready for our early flight the next day. There is a great rooftop terrace bar and restaurant looking over Nairobi. I even manage my only swim in a pool on the ground floor. We are in a very run down area that is being redeveloped. There is poverty and poor people all around us, alongside developments of new apartments. I wondered what Nairobi would look like in ten years time? Our accommodation was a tower block with a high security gated entrance. The Kenyan girl serving in the bar told me that it was safe but we didn't venture out that late afternoon or evening, I think we were too tired and wanted to relax and prepare for the next day

### Friday 26th January

We left our accommodation and room at 6.50am. A driver took us to the airport about 15 minutes away. It took longer as the traffic was busy. We also had to go through a checkpoint along with hundreds of other vehicles. All passengers have to leave their cars and go through a scanner and checkpoint and then re-join their vehicle after the police barriers. Our driver told us that security is high because of the terrorist threat from Somalia. Kenya is in military conflict with Somalia on its borders. Our driver said that Somalis have been arrested trying to get through. It seems increasingly that there is now conflict in so many places in the world.

We boarded our Kenyan long-haul flight. Sadly, no upgrade this time.

A late breakfast soon arrived. Sausage curry with beans in a green sauce. No thanks, at this time in the morning I'll stick with fruit, coffee and a croissant.

### Thoughts on our trip.

We have been blessed and are privileged to have been able to support these small projects in Kenya. I think they say that if you live in the west then you are in the top ten per cent of wealthy people in the world. If you own your own home and live in the west then you are certainly in the top 5 per cent of wealthiest people in the world. We may not feel wealthy but that's how it is. In view of that I think we have a responsibility as Christians to in some way help the poor. Jesus preached the gospel to people, but he also met their physical needs alongside this with a heart of love and compassion.

What we are doing at Shoreline in supporting these projects is just a drop in the ocean but it has made a big difference to some people's lives and we feel blessed to have been part of it.

Kevin

Friday 26th January 2024