

I knew if I spoke too soon, something would happen. After we boarded the plane right on time in Brussels, just after I wrapped up the main letter, we sat on the tarmac for an hour and a half. Just as the usual start-up announcements were going, the pilot came on to apologize and explain that we were going to be held up for just 15 minutes to accommodate travelers making connection from a plane that was late arriving from London. No further explanations came as the wait stretched to six times that. Not bad, though. I still think this was by far the shortest door-to-door transit we've had, although getting to the guest house after 11 pm wasn't quite as delightful as arriving earlier than usual as scheduled, and in time to do something for dinner.

So, I hoped to get another paragraph in since I already put in that petition for Kathi's knee. Hence the addendum. It seems that combining an aging brain with an all-nighter to get last minute things done before an attempt at 4am departure and not making it out the door until 4:30 doesn't combine well to produce full awareness while donning travel clothing before running out the door. Maybe the extra work of struggling into those really stiff, extra supportive support stockings designed to keep feet from becoming balloons during all those hours of air travel was part of the set-up for brain failure, but it was not until she was walking into the airport in Sacramento that she suddenly awoke to the fact that she had not donned her unloader knee brace that she has worn consistently for the last four years to slow the collapse of her lateral knee compartment and keep bone off of bone. Starting a 10-week door-to-door sojourn sans brace is a bit unnerving. Please pray for unloader angels to come alongside and keep that pesky knee from deteriorating and causing any pain or problem.

We had a nice visit with our friend Moses Floe, who came along to help with Kathi's day of provisioning. And, happily, a knee brace of sorts – elastic and hinged with supportive bands – was found at a well-provisioned pharmacy. It's not an unloader brace, but it was surprising to find anything (the pharmacy said they didn't sell very many) and will provide some measure of support. Tomorrow we will head for Yekepa, stopping along the way to buy more provisions (rice, flour, and chicken in Ganta and produce from roadside stands), assuming they will fit in the car. In the past we have used a Toyota four-door pickup, but this trip we have a large Toyota SUV of some sort. It is much more luxurious than the pickup, which has been rolled down an embankment into a creek, and then stitched back together. Its ride is a little rough, and the backup warning bell rings constantly, but it has a larger carrying capacity, albeit unprotected from rain.

And more – Oct 4, 20205 (Didn't get this out the door before there was more to tell 😊)

We were treated to a stay in the "master suite" at the ABCU guest house this time. How do we rate? After arriving about 11pm on the 1st, provisioning went well on the 2nd, and we had a smooth ride to campus on the 3rd, with a stop for rice, flour, and frozen chicken in Ganta. An email the evening of the 2nd informed us, oh, by the way, House 6 is not available for you to move in until Oct 8 (this is Africa – TIA – so we'll see) because the bathrooms are being remodeled and are not available. So, you will be staying in House 1 until then (the Founder's House, and the master suiter besides, so not bad). Next morning email message: oh, by the way, the refrigerator in House 1 went out a week ago, so while you are staying there, you will need to keep your food in the refrigerator in House 6. Not to worry, though; there's a small icebox in house 1. Meanwhile our things that we left here are locked up in a spare room in House 4, and the science materials are spread between the home and office of the other science teacher, and none of those things can move to House 6 until the dust settles 😊

A few photos from last year:



Camp 4 clinic trained traditional midwives & Officer in Charge



Camp 4 labor simulation practice



Kathi with Officer in Charge, Loguatu Clinic



Loguatu workshop participants August 2024 (organizer, Anita, in front – flowered dress)



Midwives presenting Kathi with live chicken



Henry Garsaynee (left) & Moses Floe (middle in blue) at Daiwudu (Henry's school) history fieldtrip