

Volume 6, Issue 1
January 2015

Lake Naivasha Community News

Worth Noting *Deb Snell, Editor*

Dear Friends,

I know lots of you have done this, and probably never pumped yourself up for it by telling everyone in the world that "on my 70th birthday I'm climbing Mt. Longonot"! If I hadn't done that I'm not sure I would have! But I DID IT! And here is the proof! So already I'm thinking about what I'll do on my 80th! Maybe sky-dive?



Maybe Maureen Barratt would join me. She is a real inspiration—maybe she could fly the plane, having been a pilot in her earlier years!

Well, as we all hoped the new Buffalo Mall would be opened before Christmas, the skeptics were right. But, it is moving along—the Tusky's sign is up, the outside looks ready and rumor has it that Java House has said it will open there in February! By the way, Julie Roffey won the contest to guess the opening date because she was the only one who entered! And her guess was WAY OFF! So there we go. Enjoy your complimentary meal at Java House Julie!

Speaking of meals... my son Steven sent me this link from the US. It is worth reading—about the theft of oil from transformers in Kenya, the cost of dealing with it all, and what it is being used for. I'm not sure I'll be eating anymore roadside samosas any time soon!

<http://m.aljazeera.com/story/2014122884728785480>

The new road under construction up to Green Park is a hopeful sign that there will actually be tarmac soon! The engineer supervisor told my husband that it would be a 2 year project, but even now the road is better (after avoiding the graders and dump trucks) and I can make it in 20 minutes from GP to the main road! I was originally one of the hold-outs who wasn't sure I wanted it graded—old Africa is disappearing too fast—but after reviewing the cost of keeping our cars maintained, I'm a believer! Good and bad... and one of the bad things about it is that the traffic will increase—and I have noticed cars and trucks coming at breakneck speeds! So it appears to be an accident waiting to happen. Let's all be careful and respectful as we drive that road!

This issue is a little sparse, mostly due to the Holidays and how busy everyone was with family and celebrations and travel. But I really hope that future issues, since we have such a wide readership (over 600 e-mail addresses!) that those of you living in places like Gilgil, Nakuru, and Naivasha town—the South Lake, will contribute in 2015, especially for the Out and About and Reader Profiles! And don't forget the photos!

We are off to a New Year and the journey will be different for everyone. It will be filled with curves and bumps, struggles and joys, valley lows and mountain-top highs, but mostly I wish for all of you a year with happiness and good health filling in the gaps and a peace that passes all understanding!

Happy New Year everyone!

Deb

EDITOR'S NOTES

Newsletter distribution bi-monthly; **March 1 deadline is February 15.** Inquiries, requests and information to snelldeb@gmail.com

A reminder that I include what I hope is interesting, informative or useful information for readers, but I mostly rely on things submitted by YOU. If you would like to see notices of events, calendar items or things you think others would enjoy or need to read through this newsletter, please send them with a note "FOR THE LNC NEWSLETTER" or they will not be published.





A Note from Tom Fraser, Outgoing Golf Captain, GRVL and Golf Resort

Where has the year gone, in fact where have all the years gone? It was in 2005 when Gordon Strevens invited me to take over as your golf captain, and now 10 years on it is time for me to hand over. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the board, shareholders and members for giving me this position as golf captain. Also, thanks especially to my vice captain over these past years, Tich Edwards, and the lady captain Anna Hern, members who have supported me throughout my ten year stand, not forgetting all the hotel management and staff, together with all the golf course employees, Peter and David who have good and knowledgeable caddies which is a credit to them both.

We have had many competitions during the year and my thanks go to all the sponsors. The wonderful prizes and generous catering is a credit to them all and I know attracted many players. Winners of our mugs, during the year were – David Mousley, Stephen Gichari, Simon Njogu, Justus Madoya, Sue Brendon, Kaleb Smith, well played. Other competitions played and won BY were the PL-G – Stephen Gichari, Wilson - Steve Njoroge, Stroke play - Simon Njogu, Captains Prize - Stephen Gichari and the Dave Wallace – Hippo - Ross Valentine. The normal groups enjoyed their golf days, Lohana, Jaffery, Eden, SGS, Strathmore, , KTB, KGS and Kaboga with a few scrambles thrown in to make use of public holidays.

Stuart Scott has run the handicapping with true professionalism and thanks go to him and all his team, Dave Williams for all his news updates, (with so much going on, a fixture list made at the beginning of the year will naturally experience changes so my thanks to all for your patience), and Gordon Strevens our resident Director deals with many behind the scene issues which are highly appreciated. The golf committee headed by Thomas Fjastad has had plenty to discuss and lots of decisions have to be made to make our golf course the best in the country, the most difficult decision was the No Show – No Prize. It is always a difficult one so to respect the sponsors we request all golfers to attend prize giving to save us the embarrassment. I hope I have not left anyone out and if I have my sincere apologies and thanks to everyone who has been involved in golf this year.

I wish the incoming team all the best and look forward to enjoying my golf with no pressure. I wish you all a very Happy New Year and travel safely wherever you may be this festive season. Thank you all, Tom Fraser



Ladies Golf Events

Gilly Fraser, Incoming Lady Golf Captain

chocolate cake from the hotel. The next event was our Christmas party at Anna's beautiful pool after golf with lovely bitings and drinks.

The Ladies Invitation is 17th February. All the lady golfers invite their friends to come and play in an 18 hole competition. We try to invite ladies from clubs all over the country. It's friendly and not too serious. Most ladies arrive the day before and we have a little drinks party and do the draw, then the next day we play and end

with a luncheon which the Great Rift Valley Lodge caters for, followed by prize giving. We also ask the non-golfers to help with starting by making cookies for morning tea, etc. Please plan on joining us for this day!

We had our AGM with a lovely tea party on the 10th tee. Anna Hern, our outgoing Ladies Captain, was presented with a delicious



A note from Annalyn Hern, Outgoing Lady Golf Captain

The New Year is beckoning! All that is left for me to do is to acknowledge those many people at Great Rift Valley Lodge and The Golf Community for their support on all occasions for Ladies Golf in 2014.

It's been a fun year for me, and together, with the 'golfing gals' I sincerely thank ALL the STAFF at G.R.V. LODGE for being so very helpful throughout! Their willingness to attend to the many and varied requests that I have made throughout the year has been amazing, and I feel a great empathy with them

One of the great 'draw cards' for those from outside Clubs to come and play Golf at G.R.V. Lodge must be the 'setting and standard' of our golf complex. It is without doubt one of the finest courses in Kenya, and everyone I speak to, agrees with those sentiments! I feel this is a very appropriate moment for me as the 'outgoing' L.C. to say to Palle Rune and Stuart Armitage how very fortunate we all feel to have the honour of being able to play and share with others the beauty of the Great Rift Valley championship course. Thank you both for your vision, your enthusiasm and for your desire to bring about so much pleasure for the golfing fraternity!

I wish our new Lady Capt. Gilly Fraser much success and enjoyment in her Captaincy, and to assure her of great 'support' from all of us. Can I also take this opportunity of saying a 'sincere thank you' on behalf of all readers of the North Lake Community to Deb Snell, our Editor, who has shown great tenacity in providing us with such an excellent informative Monthly Newsletter. Happy golfing to all this coming New Year, Sincerely, **Annalyn Hern. EDITORS NOTE:** Thank you Anna ...I was afraid if I edited this out with humility you might hit me with your next golf drive!

The Great Rift Valley Lodge and Golf Resort



Njenga Mungai

Resort Manager, GRVL and Golf Resort

The Christmas Holiday season was filled with activities and entertainment for guests and residents of the GRVL/GR and Green Park. Below are some photos that capture the spirit. We hope to do so much more for the community in a New 2015! Come and join us!



Fun with Santa



Bouncy castles and acrobats



Bingo Night



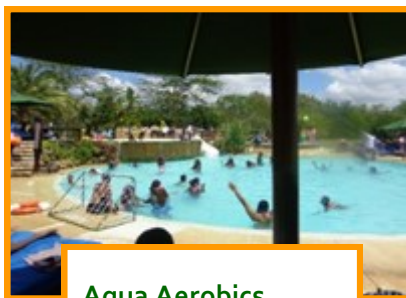
Badminton



Tug of War



Mine Field



Aqua Aerobics



Outdoor Games



Star Gazing



New Year's Cake



Celebrating 2015

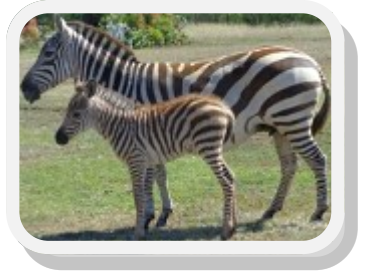
The Environment



Daniel Kilonzo

Naturalist and Coordinator of the Adventurers Club, Great Rift Valley Lodge

On Tuesday, 24th November, 2014, we woke to good news from the Zebras in the resort; one of the Mares (females) had given birth to a healthy foal! We have christened the Foal "Tatu" Swahili for "The Third" to signify that it is the third of many to be born in the resort. The new born is a filly (female baby Zebra). The young one is sibling to pili who was the second to be born (18/12/2012) on the course since 26th February 2012.



Unlike the other two who were born on fairway number 4 and 5, Tatu was born between fairway number 1 and 9. Now we have three introduced ones and three born on the golf course. The number is expected to grow big owing to the fact that there are no predators for Zebras on the golf course. Unfortunately, however, we lost two of our peahens to jackals. The Peacocks are a little smarter and fly into the trees so they are still strutting their beautiful feathers for the guests as they move about the grounds.

The Lodge has also created a new wetland. Pictures next issue!

Faith, Fellowship and Study Opportunities

TRANSFORMING PEOPLE TO TRANSFORM THE SOCIETY

GREENPARK COMMUNITY CHURCH (GRVCL)

POSSESSING YOUR POSSESSIONS

THEME: 2015
UNBLOCKING THE ANCIENT WELLS Gen 26:16 - 22

WORSHIP WITH US 10:00 AM - 12:00 NOON

For prayer & Counselling Call
+254 733 958 831 OR +254 722 375 679
Email: stanley.amukoa@riftvalley-resort.co.ke

GREENPARK COMMUNITY CHURCH

Green Park Community Church is situated within the Great Rift Valley Lodge, 2 kms from the Resident gate within the Green Park Resident area. The church is non-denominational and seeks to embrace people from all religious backgrounds be it Anglican, Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist and evangelicals.

The church ministers to the staff at the lodge plus those who reside in the Green Park at large. The church is under the leadership of **Pastor Stanley Amukoa** who doubles up as the **Resident Pastor & Staff Welfare Manager**. He holds a B. A Degree in Theology from Pan Africa Christian University, Diploma in Human Resources Management from Kenya Institute of Management and currently pursuing a Masters of Arts in Religion from Christian University Global Net (USA).

TRANSFORMING PEOPLE TO TRANSFORM THE SOCIETY



Greenpark Community Church Sanctuary



Bishop Dr. David Oginde Launching the sanctuary.

Bishop Dr. David Oginde, Pastor Stanley Amukoa together with some of the members celebrate the Launch.

Christmas Holiday Events

Lessons and Carols at the Green Park Community Church. Green Park resident Margery Barnes and Pastor Stanley Amukoa planned a wonderful evening of readings read by himself and Peter Low, Juliet Barnes and Greg Snell and traditional carols accompanied by Minalyn Nicklin on the keyboard. On Christmas day the church was full as guests at the lodge and residents of Green Park attended a service. The Resident Pastor delivered a message on *“Healing of Broken Hearts – Why He was Born”*.



Naivasha International Fellowship—Christmas at Malewa



About 200 people gathered at the home of Lisa and Jason Hovingh on the Malewa river to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and enjoy a cup of coffee and Holiday cookies. Shel Arensen delivered a Christmas message interspersed with familiar carols.

Following the service, we all moved just down the road to the Shel and Kym's lovely home also on the river for a barbecue potluck luncheon! The food was great and the fun and fellowship shared made it a perfect Sunday afternoon.



Remembering Wyn Jackson

A service was held at the Green Park Community Church to celebrate the life of Wyn Jackson, a long time resident of Green Park, originally from Nandi and a life member of the East Africa Women's League. Wyn and her loyal caregiver, Mildred had been together for over 30 years. The service was planned by her family (son Barry on left) and attended by children and grandchildren who gave moving stories of their granny. A greeting was also read from Caroline Rune on behalf of the family. Pastor Stanley Amukoa conducted

the service and Minalyn Nicklin led us in some of Wyn's favorite hymns and songs. The church was beautifully decorated with flowers donated by the Lows and Cartwrights. Special thanks to Rosie Schoenemann, Susan Church, Cherry Ritchie and Lesley Donaldson.

A morning coffee reunion saw ladies get together to visit with Moira Lincoln-Gordon (back row, second from left). Moira also was a long time resident of Green Park but is now enjoying the sunny beaches of the Coast! It was fun to chat with her and catch up on her life! Any excuse for a party!





KINJA KRONICKILLS at Lake Oloidien

submitted by our "Resident Roving Reporter"

Due to lack of space our daughter's kukus required to be relocated. I agreed they could come to Kinja and join our fowl gang. Amongst them was a grand and well feathered cockerel. I also had a cockerel, and not wishing to upset the grandchildren by despatching their rooster we agreed to kill off mine and General Factotum would have him for Christmas lunch. This worried GF slightly as he did not know how the cockerel would keep until the Festive Day began. I explained to him about the modern wonders of refrigeration, so all was well. However, I do regret my act of kindness. The Infiltrator has the temperament of the leader of a well seasoned terror gang. He protects his ladies ferociously and I now have to enter the chicken pen well armed with a broom and perilously collect the eggs not daring to turn my back on him. This is a difficult operation with the broom between my knees. Both hands are needed to collect the eggs and to prevent myself from being pecked by mama hen whilst being attacked from the rear by an irate rooster. Needless to say Cocky's days are numbered.

Recently, the above mentioned family and I visited a remote island in Lake Victoria to visit Pater. We drove there and back and I spent eight hours each way in the front seat feeding crying children in the back with assorted crisps, peanuts, jelly beans, mugs of water, bananas and etc. to keep them quiet and stop the oldest one from his continuous lament of how much longer, I want to see Daddy, are we nearly there? The youngest one arrived at our destination well glued into her car seat by said jelly beans. A further forty five minute boat ride took us to the island, currently inhabited by fishermen and boat builders of the Nilotic Suba tribe and one mazungu (Daddy) who looks after the camp. Fortunately for us, but sadly for the staff and islanders, there were no other guests at the time, so the children could make lots of noise and attempt to prove Archimedes principle by throwing large pebbles into the waters of the Lake.

The place is pure paradise. Everything grows bigger and better than anywhere else. The trees are covered in creepers, lianas, vines and exquisite little bats seek refuge from daylight hours in the thick foliage of the mugumo (Fig) trees. The calathea leaves are larger than elephant ears (normally a potted house plant), ferns are higher than a tall man's shoulder, and Thevetia (Yellow Oleander) are in lush profusion with their mass of yellow trumpet blooms.

Needless to say this is a bird watchers' paradise. A boat ride gave us sight of Mfangano's shoreline and our boat driver pointed out pygmy and pied kingfisher, long tailed cormorants, weavers, egrets, fish eagles, hammerkops, wagtails catching a ride on our prow, sicknees and pullovers amongst others. We had to politely stifle our giggles about the latter two species – otherwise known by ornithologists as Thick- Knees (Water Dikkop) and Plovers, but Pullovers will remain my name of choice.

On a sombre note the lack of tourists in Western Kenya is having a far reaching effect on all aspects of life. From the talented soap stone sellers near Kisii, the fruit and vegetable dukas lining the route and the many lodge workers who have been laid off in the area. The local populace are aware of what the problems are and have their own ideas for a solution.

Meanwhile, the delightful Suba people continue to eke out a living on Mfangano and as the boatman said, 'we live in paradise'.

Christmas is past and the notes of the Kindergarten Christmas Play, Santa on Safari, are ringing in my ears. Santa's transport filled with gifts for the monkeys and the Thompsons Gazelle broke down in the Mara. The tourists' trusty guide armed with his Leatherman came to the rescue heartily singing – 'Crikey man, you are in trouble, ee-ai-ee-ai-o, you've blown a gasket and your engines seized, there's dirt in your fuel and your carbs fouled up, crikey man, you are in trouble, your headlight's blown and your tyre is flat, ee-ai-ee-ai-o.' Not very P.C. but our Kenya kids OK it all! We hope Santa didn't break down coming to your house and that the New Year is a happy and peaceful one.



Weather Watch

Margery Barnes

There has not been much weather to watch the last months, as the November rains were very poor indeed, which will undoubtedly add up to a low annual total--- probably only half of those we had for the preceding four years. However some showers have kept things green, and we usually expect a little rain off and on during December. But it certainly hasn't been a good farming or gardening year, though one gathers that there have been good wheat crops in parts of the country. It might be of interest to know that on the solstice, December 21st, the sun is at its furthest point south. All we notice is that the sun rises and sets a bit later each day. Indeed, on my south facing verandah at Green Park, the afternoon sun shines in just now, whereas in six months time it is too far north. As to a forecast for next year, it is impossible to say! But a poor short rains do not presage well for the long rains the following one.



December traditionally brings the dry weather towards the middle of the month, however here by the banks of the river our grass remains green and the white-browed Coucal (often considered a rain sign here on El Karama) has continued to call now and then so nothing is certain!

Lodge Uplift



All rooms have been touched up with new paintwork, new sheets, towels and other necessities. The river dining area stonework has been spruced up and the paving extended in the front to create a comfortable sundowner spot overlooking the river.

Behind the scenes, new water tanks have been added to increase our rain water harvesting capacity, the managers' tented accommodation has been completed and by the end of December a new solar electricity bank of batteries, inverters and panels will have been added to allow for increased use and efficiency in the lodge.

Wildlife



Wildlife sightings have continued to be impressive and varied; we have genet families making evening appearances in the lodge compound, elephant families and also young bulls browsing their way through the ranch and exploring the dams. Lion sightings have been on the increase with one group of

around 10 related individuals being seen with greater frequency thanks to the continued monitoring from the El Karama Ranch Scouts.

The buffalo have been coming on and off, their instinct for the greenest grazing often leading large herds back to these glades and luggas. Leopard individuals are being seen with regularity on game drives and future monitoring efforts will help us to maintain an idea of who moves where and why.



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Facebook: El Karama Eco Lodge
Tripadvisor: El Karama Eco Lodge

Congratulations Ian and Jennie Stoker!
You had the winning bid at Reach for the
Stars on El Karama's donation of
2 nights for 2!



East Africa Women's League (EAWL)—Naivasha Branch

Deb Snell, Chair

As I look back over the year, we have had some very interesting speakers and of course wonderful food for luncheons! Our EAWL member hostesses have very graciously opened their lovely homes to our meetings and what food is better than a "potluck" meal—where members bring their very best! But most exciting to me is the growth in our membership—particularly with new "young" blood, helping to break down the belief that we are a bunch of "old ladies"! Well...some of us may be old-ER, (myself included!) but we share our wisdom and years of membership and are grateful for new thoughts and challenges to move us ahead into a new year.

I'm sorry I don't have a photo of **Nann Barratt**—a member of the Gilgil ladies - who created a fabulous buffet treat for us at our annual Gilgil Club Christmas Luncheon. And she won a well-deserved raffle prize donated by Torben Rune of 2 nights for 2 at Amboseli Satao Elerai lodge! Kym Arensen and I however, tried to look "Christmasy" in red.

Some of our guest topics this past year have included:

- Geothermal Energy in Kenya (update on Ol Karia and other regions in the Rift Valley)
- Naivasha Safe House (for street children)
- Eden Trust (environment camps and school clubs for kids)
- Archeological research and finds on Eburru, focusing on uses of obsidian (American PhD candidate)
- Women's breast cancer support groups and treatment
- Homeopathy

If you are a woman reading this and live in the Naivasha area but are not yet a member, I would encourage you to consider joining us! We meet each month in a members home for coffee at 10:30 followed by a guest speaker and meeting, wrapping up with lunch!

A good time to join us would be for the **March** meeting (Thursday, 12th March) when we will gather at **Frannie Simpson's** home just past the Delamere Shops on the Naivasha-Nakuru Rd. to see her beautiful artwork and gallery. Our speaker will be Pauline Mugure, the senior resource person for a secondary school peer mentor program. If you are interested, contact me at snelldeb@gmail.com and I will be delighted to take you as my guest. It is a great way to meet new people, hear interesting speakers and help local charities! We're a fun group!



Editor's Note: I found these two articles very interesting and thought provoking as my husband and I live and serve as guests in another culture's Africa.

Thoughts on Aid (from a Facebook post).

It's questionable how much good aid money has done for African countries, and it's not just because it has ended up in the wrong hands. Mainly it's because projects are often ill-defined, ill-conceived and ignore any input from the people they aim to "help". A lot of aid, while given in the right spirit, has actually been somewhat detrimental to African development.

For a start, aid money has subsidized some very corrupt governments and crippled efforts to increase government transparency. Real "fair trade" agreements would help a lot more than aid. Steady employment, a stable economy and access to credit would also benefit most people looking to better their lives. Certainly celebrity visits are not the answer. We'd find it a bit odd if a Nigerian superstar came over to Chicago and started handing out money to those on welfare. We all know that it would not make the problem simply go away -- life is a bit too complicated for easy solutions.

There are many unsung local heroes making a difference in communities all over Africa. So it's also unfair to think that the poor in Africa are simply sitting around waiting for handouts. Having said all this, there are some charities that truly make a difference, but it would be nice to see them based in Africa and not in New York or Silicon Valley.

What are key principles of good development? - Greg Snell, while living in Rwanda, 2006.

I was recently motivated to think about what good development is after reading an article where some professor basically said that we need to give up and do nothing more in places like Africa. I just can not buy into that. The litany of our failures he detailed in Africa were true so the question I want to address is, *What are key principles of good development?* I know many books have been written about this topic but I want to cover the key principles.

First some presuppositions.

I believe there is no real distinction in the major principles behind economic development, leadership development and other forms of development. All missionaries are in the development business. Ultimately it is about power and it takes great wisdom to transfer power. Helping people help themselves is one of the toughest businesses you can be in. Whether you empower them to lead a business or a church you take a risk of failure.

While giving up is not an option, backing away from a particular involvement for a time period can be.

The goal in most development is to help people gain control over their lives. That is not a western value. People I have known in Africa for the last 24 years see what we have in the west (better education, medical care, food availability, mobility, economic opportunities) and they want it as well. We have a moral responsibility to help them get what *they* want, not what we want for them.

So what are the guiding principles that make for good development?

Don't start anything new yourself.

Add energy and resources to what is already happening and not just to somebody's dream. Jim Collins, author of *Good to Great*, talks about the fly wheel concept. A lot of little pushes in the right place creates greater momentum than one big push. Three of the graduates of our BA program for pastors in Kenya came to me 6 years ago and presented me with a big push and a large budget they wanted me to fund for their new Bible School in their home area. I found someone to kick in a VERY small amount only as initial encouragement and told them to get going and do something and then people will come on board. Local ownership must be demonstrated first before someone else comes alongside. The school they eventually started (with pretty much nothing) just had its first graduation and now there are a number of partners in the US who have joined in with them. Africa is littered with examples of someone's good idea of what someone else needs.

Don't be afraid to let things die.

I have followed closely a World Vision Area Development Project in Kenya for 24 years. They will tell you it was not one of their best efforts. When they were recently about to close the project the local pastor came to me and asked me to help him raise \$3000 to fund the primary school now that WV was pulling their funding out. I asked him what percentage of the school budget were the local people going to provide? His answer was "None, as pastoralists they don't believe in education." My answer was, "Then close the school and work on building the values behind the need for education first. You can reopen the school when people see the need and are willing to get behind it." He was speechless. Development is more about building values than methods, projects or buildings. Beliefs and values guide behavior. We will do (ourselves) what we value, not what *others* value for us. (comment: But Africa will do what we give them money for if we fund it. Isn't that why so many things fail – because we give the money without doing our own searching for values of those we give it to and then it falls apart?)

Which leads to another principle: **The only thing that should totally be free is relief.**

EVERY form of development must involve cost sharing. Cost sharing does not always mean money. Development organizations

have created scales for measuring other forms of sacrifice like labor, time, materials etc. A friend of mine went to Africa in the early 90's and got motivated to encourage his wealthy US business buddies to give funds for 3 windmills in a dusty dry region of Kenya. Water is a huge issue there. They pretty much paid for it all and it was more or less only a donor driven project. But problems came and my friend began to rethink what good development was. When the women of an area near one of the problem windmills came to him asking for \$5000 for a mill to grind their corn (they had been grinding by hand with round stones on granite slabs) he said, "When you show me a bank statement for \$2500 I will add the rest." Now this was one of the poorest regions in Kenya but these women raised the money and today that mill is still working and the windmills are nothing but a headache. One of the best definitions for contextualization is the exchange of products or services for the means to keep producing them. These can give you an idea to the extent a project is contextualized.

Look for bi-cultural leaders and listen to them.

Development done across cultures needs people who have a good understanding of the other culture. Here in Rwanda I am serving and working with hundreds of people but I have 2-3 Rwandese who I have built a close enough relationship with that they will actually tell me what I need to hear and perhaps don't quite understand. Remember that you can have two cultures that both care for each other and respect each other and one might feel safe being 45 minutes late for a meeting and the other only 10. Those kind of differences must be remembered when deadlines come and go. They can both believe and hold the same principle (in this case mutual respect) but the method or form in which they express that might be different. If a friend in the US wants to give me bad news he will call me or try and see me. Here, my friend might just be quiet. You will need help understanding each other and finding ways to compromise your personal preferences to get to the common ground.

Have a detachment date in mind.

That doesn't mean you can't continue to communicate and even work together but there needs to be an end goal for the transition of power. One of the axioms in development is that the people with the resources control the strings. The goal is resource transition. People in the community need to eventually look to themselves and their own leaders for solutions. That must be in the original vision and planning. My pastor used to preach about his hospital visits and the "ministry of presence." But he also preached about the "ministry of absence." There comes a time when you have to physically back away. I am here in Rwanda for 1-3 years as an agent of Saddleback Church to assist the church in their desire to adapt Purpose Driven principles and implement the PEACE plan (for details go to: <http://www.saddlebackfamily.com/Peace/>). There are no conditions in which I will stay for more than 3 years. None. That may seem arbitrary but it must be. I have to have that and the pressure it creates in me in mind in all that I do to pass on what I have and make the transition of ownership real. Even in good development there will be an element of donor drivenness in the early stages. It is all about transition and development of the values that lie behind the goals of the project.

Don't answer questions too quickly.

Jesus was a great model of development. Normally his answer to a question was another question. Avoid the temptation of showing off with a quick solution. I have been asked many times what I think the African church should do about polygamy and I have always deferred to a local pastor. A wise African church leader once told a missionary, "If you see a spark of a flame of leadership in an African leader don't blow it out, nurture it. Even if you think he is going in the wrong direction do all you can to encourage him as a leader." One of the principles of systems theory is that your first response is usually the wrong one. Think through the ramifications of any potential solution, and then think through it again. Anything/everything you do will impact more than what is first obvious.

Know the difference between principles and methods.

Many leaders in the US church (like Bill Hybels and Rick Warren) and in business have begun to lead with principles that better reflect the way we were designed to be treated as human beings. Just read a book like, *Good to Great* by Collins, and if you are a Christian you will cheer this secular work and its observations about what works. The understanding of quality leadership in the US has grown dramatically in recent years. Africans will tell you it is something they want desperately for their own leaders. Much of the best of what we do in US leadership is principle based because it often reflects on human nature. Now the method might be different in a place like Africa but we need not apologize for what we have to offer as principles. Church leaders here in Rwanda are very excited about getting Rick Warren's books, *Purpose Driven Life (PDL)* and *Purpose Driven Church (PDC)* in their local language because both books are chock full of principles of how God designed us as people (PDL) and how He designed organizations to work (PDC). The local church leaders are well equipped to change any methods that do not fit their context. In life, methods are many, principles are few. Methods change often, principles never do!

One of our main jobs from the west is exposure (not selling, not doing).

We have a wide range of resources to offer the world and it is not our job to tell them what they need but what we have been given. One time Dr. Phil Walker, president of International Christian Ministries, was talking with key church leaders of an African country and said something like, "Now keep in mind that what I bring to you, you sure don't have to accept. Please feel free to use only what you need or want." Now that sounded like a good thing to say at the time but he was quickly reprimanded by a wise and courageous African leader. "Don't treat us like children and apologize for what you are doing. We are adults and know what our people need and what they do not need, so just be bold and share what you have. We will decide what is good."

Look for your own benefits

Most development work involves partnerships and partnership means mutual benefit. If you are from the west and working in a country with an annual average income of \$500 a year, that does not mean that the people you are working with do not have something *you* need. Time and time again we have introduced visitors to the people of Africa and inevitably they go home saying, "I came here to give my help but I got so much more than I ever gave." Our mission organization has developed documents called "strategic partnership agreements" which detail what each party plans to bring to the table for the other partner.

Ultimately it is all about the heart.

That is why it is hard for me to separate development from my faith. Jesus is about changing hearts. Good values and proper beliefs behind development are "heart" issues as much as mind issues. Once the heart is right the brain will follow. In my own heart I want to help the Rwandan church do better than I could ever do myself. I want them to be successful and take whatever we have to offer to another level. In the process they will contribute to our needs as well. In the end I want to quietly just fade away and have the people say, "look what God did through our own leaders."

I must add that as hard as I try I know I fail daily when I try to implement these principles in my own ministry. It is a lot easier said than done and we need to have charity in all.

Greg and I would be interested in your thoughts about this issue. Dialog always informs perspective.

Greg- snell@usa.com Deb- snelldeb@usa.com

ANOTHER KIND OF Food for Thought !



So, do you know why they say most really great chefs are men?

Because they don't have to think about cleaning up!

Here are two yummy recipes I just tried...

ROASTED CABBAGE STEAKS: If you don't like cabbage, I'd encourage you to try this recipe... the "cabbage" taste really disappears and leaves a crunchy, roasted treat.



Ingredients

1 head of cabbage (green)

3 tablespoons (ore more) of olive or coconut oil

Sea Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste **OPTIONAL:** 1 teaspoon of herbs like basil, caraway seeds, dill, etc.

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 205% C (400% F)
2. Slice the cabbage (1/2-1" slices) starting at the top of the head so that the inner pieces form circles within the slices. (tear off the outer pieces)
3. Oil a baking sheet. Place the cabbage slices on the baking sheet and drizzle (or brush with pastry brush) with oil.
4. Sprinkle with desired spices. Roast for 35-40 minutes or until tender in the middle and sides are just starting to turn golden brown.
5. ENJOY THEM! (kind of like onion rings).

CHOCOLATE PALEO (dairy/lactose free ice cream!)

SO simple—rich and creamy and tastes just like ice cream! You can adapt it by adding a banana, some Bailey's or make other flavors.

Mix in a blender 1 can of full fat coconut milk (not cream), 4 tablespoons of honey (or more, depending on sweetness desired), 3 tablespoons of cocoa powder, 1 teaspoon vanilla. Blend until smooth and all cocoa is mixed in.



Pour into ice-cream maker, or if you don't have one, into container and freeze in freezer, removing when partially frozen to re-blend until smooth (this helps avoid ice-crystals).

Serves 3-4

Send me your favorite unusual recipe and I'll publish them in future updates!

WANTED

I am ideally looking for a house girl/aya to help out in the house and look after my two young children Resa and Jolie and the new baby due in a few months.



I am looking for someone with experience and preferably not too young. It would be a great plus if she knows how to cook (or is willing to learn).

We live on Bilashaka Fflowers on the North Lake, just beyond Kasarani and about 7 km from the Green Park gate. Ingrid Zuurbier-Molder.

ingrid.molder@gmail.com



FOR SALE

One owner Honda C70 Cub. Used but runs great. About 40,000 km. 40,000 KSh.

Call Greg Snell 0721-836767.

HOUSEHOLD SALE

Household sale of furniture, appliances, crockery and miscellaneous items on **THURSDAY, 8th JANUARY** at **WYN JACKSON'S HOME** in **GREEN PARK, NAIVASHA.**
10:00 AM.

Advertising Rates:

Up to 40 words—no pictures— no charge

Business card: 500 KShs

1/4 page: 1000 KShs

1/2 page: 1500 KShs

Full page: 2000 KShs

Rates include logos/graphics and photographs, reproduced in full color. To publish in black and white (gray scale), reduce each rate by 500 Kshs. These rates apply for fundraising event posters as well.

If you would like to place an ad or an event poster, please contact Deb Snell: snelldeb@gmail.com Mobile: 0720-743625. Payment may be made by MPesa to the mobile number above. Please send an e-mail with details of your advert and notification of your payment.