

March 27th 2023

On my recent visit to Muhanga, Uganda, in the mountain region of Lugia, near Kabale, I visited one of our Canadian-sponsored seniors (called MuKakas in Lugia ). We went with Sharon, Moses and Joan the nurse. Ferediana I have met before on my last visit to Uganda in 2019 pre-COVID. She is now 86 years old and looks amazing. She is a lovely lady and her house is kept clean with the help of her children.

She was married and sadly her husband died in 1972. They had four children together. Now she has four grandchildren too. James is 16 and in senior school. Bridget is 7 years old and in primary school grade 2. Bernard is in Primary grade 1. Ignatius is three years old and not in school.

Her health is good. She does have high blood pressure, which our wonderful field nurse checked on our visit. She does take her medication. Joan, the nurse, has a great connection to seniors and gives her advice on what she needs to take. If Joan was concerned she would discuss it with Dr Brian at the health centre.

She also has painful knees. Probably arthritis from years of gardening and digging. She still takes care of her garden. Has a goat and a new baby goat.

She struggles to get the tuition costs for James, who is now working to get his Advanced level exams. She makes beautiful baskets to sell to raise funds, but it's never enough. Tuition has risen post-COVID. I bought a basket to take home to Canada.

Ferediana has a great sense of humour. She told me she wished she could go to school to learn English so she could talk to me without an interpreter. She asked me how I was feeling and my family too. She also said I looked older since my visit in 2019. We laughed a lot.

I took gifts of tea, sugar, maize flour, millet flour, soap, Vaseline and a nice bag for her to use later. She was so happy. Food is so much more expensive.

She really is so grateful for her friends in Canada who have helped her to become part of the ROTOM family. She appreciated their love and prayers and the gifts she received at Christmas. The solar light and, previously, the metal trunk.

Being able to access medical care and now again attend fellowships has enriched her life where before she struggled and felt alone.

In Gratitude

Linda Hallett  
Volunteer ROTOM Canada

