

I visited a new Fellowship on Friday for a small group of Canadian supported seniors who used to have to travel a long distance to one of the other locations where fellowships are held. Traveling on the Boda Boda (motorbike taxi) is challenging as they are getting older to sit on a motorbike. The fellowship is called Sanga and is in a government school under construction. ROTOM is allowed to use the space for fellowship. It was lovely to see the familiar faces of those I have met many times before. They had no idea I was coming and were so joyful and told me they wondered where I was and how I had been affected by COVID. It had been the first fellowship for some time due to several factors. One being the cost of food which has increased a huge amount and fuel for transportation is very high.

Margaret was so happy to be at the new fellowship and made me feel so welcome. I have met her and her mother and great-grandson several times before. On my last visit in 2019, I went to her home and Assa, her mother, was there and Noah. Assa was unable to attend the fellowship this day as she was not well enough for the ride on the Motorbike.

The last time I met Margaret she had recently broken her leg and was so grateful she was part of the ROTOM family and that her friends from Canada have been so loving and kind to her. Her leg was looked after by the Medical Centre and she walks slowly but well. She thanks her friends and prays for them everyday. She is a devout Christian and reads her bible daily.

She and her mother now have a large water tank that has been such a blessing for them. The rainy season which is now means it fills up fast, and they no longer worry about if they have water and how to get it.

Margaret does have high blood pressure and is taking medication every day to keep it controlled. She was so happy that during COVID, when nobody could travel, the ROTOM Village volunteers made sure they were OK she continued to get her medicine. The Field Nurse checks her pressure and assesses her fitness and compliance with taking the pills. The food they were given from the emergency food drive from Canada was a lifesaver for them as they cannot grow food.

The solar lamp and the metal trunk mean they have light at night in their house and the trunk stores precious papers and clothes.

Noah, now around 14 has been moved to another school where he is a boarder. He had become more difficult as a teenager and hard for her and her mother to cope with him. She prays he will do well in his new school.

It was lovely to see Margaret again and how she enjoyed her fellowship. Her lovely community of the ROTOM family.

In Gratitude

Linda Hallett

Volunteer ROTOM Canada

