

Engagement Ceremony

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Saturday I and the two other Purdue girls went out to Empowering Lives for an engagement ceremony! The engagement ceremony is more important than the wedding as that is when cows and land is negotiated, the parents and extended family discuss their concerns, the combining of the families, etc. It was not quite as exciting as I had anticipated because the negotiations actually took place inside with representatives from each family.

Once the negotiations were agreed on (it was 5 cows), the bride-to-be comes out and the women from the husband's side sing as a welcome to the family.



The bride-to-be is in the lavender in the center of the parade (right side)



Then there are speeches of congratulations, welcome, etc.

Then the bride-to-be cuts a cake.



She serves cake to her parents, then her husband-to-be, her husband's parents, then to extended relatives and the community.



A choir of kids from the children's home then sang (with choreography).



After that, more speeches. Then women of the community present the bride-to-be with gifts (as well as to her parents and a few other relatives).

Sunday morning I went to the church with the sign language interpreted service. It was encouraging to be able to tell the improvement in my sign language skills from the beginning of the summer!

We leave Monday morning at 7am.

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