

(Update 3) July 4, 2010

Jambo and Greetings from Tanzania,

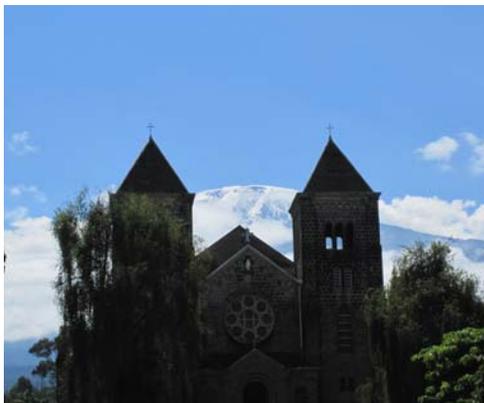
Nathan Partain's son Mark arrived last night to join his father and brother Matt. Mark is a returning visitor having worked with the children and on construction in 2008. An experienced hand is always a welcome addition!

We took advantage of the kids being off school today to make the trip to Kibosho hospital. Thanks to the generosity of Abbott Labs, Rosalind Franklin University, Dr. Chuck Nozicka, Dr. Fano and the many who donated unused medicines, we had 150 lbs of medical supplies to deliver!



Kibosho seems an odd place for a hospital. Originally established as a remote dispensary for the larger KCMC hospital in Moshi (where Greg Mortenson, author of "Three Cups of Tea" grew up), the hospital sits alone almost 10km up mountain of the main town. The dirt access "road" is rutted and our vehicle never managed more than 10mph. The hospital is now run by the Catholic diocese and serves the often extremely poor villagers living on the southwestern slope of Kilimanjaro.

Dr. Allan Minja (3<sup>rd</sup> from the left) has welcomed us every year and shares with us their challenges and successes. The highlight of this year's visit was meeting three newborns and their proud mothers. Dr. Allan and his two or three colleagues are amazingly versatile physicians. Unlike in the US, there is no army of specialists who focus on treating a very narrow range of ailments. At Kibosho, Dr. Allan may spend his day shuffling among setting broken bones, performing surgery, working with AIDS patients, treating burns, working in the Malaria ward, helping patients manage diabetes and other chronic conditions, and if he's lucky, round out the day delivering a baby. Kind of a family doctor, surgeon, obstetrician, ER medic, infectious disease, oncology, and cardiology guy all rolled up into one. Oh, and he works the family farm on the weekends in order to earn enough to feed his wife and children. He is the most vastly underpaid man on the planet!



It was a real treat to have Father Marunda with us today. He was born and raised in Kibosho and served as a parish priest here for many years. He gave us the most passionately presented tour of the magnificent stone church at Kibosho. Originally built by the Germans nearly 100 years ago, the grandeur of building seems completely out of place. At left, you can see the summit of

Kilimanjaro cradled between the two stone towers.



The 6km hike down (thankfully) from Kibosho provides a fantastic opportunity to meet the locals who don't often see foreigners strolling through their banana forests. Children will often accompany us for long stretches while trying out their limited English in the hopes that one of us might have a piece of candy to offer up!

Tomorrow is Sunday and we plan to spend much of the day socializing with the people of Mailisita and maybe visit some local artists as well. At last we'll have a relaxing day!

Kwaheri mpaka kesho.  
(Goodbye until tomorrow)