

January 2008 Trip Report

Jambo! Habari gani? (*Hello! How are things?*)

This past Sunday, we just returned from a 7-day visit to the project in Moshi, Tanzania. Progress on the initial 5 classroom building has been excellent. When we left the project last summer, it was 8' high concrete block walls. Now we've got a roof, window frames, door frames, rough construction of the bathroom areas, and even some chalkboards!

Fr. Kawishe spent the whole week with us and was insistent that we convey his heartfelt thanks and prayers to all of you who have helped the children. He visits the construction site every other day and has proven very resourceful in finding donated or difficult to buy construction materials at very good prices. In part through his efforts the school building is coming in below our original budgeted estimates even though construction material costs have been on the rise of late.

Some additional points:

School

- Status: 31% complete. Five of nine classrooms under roof.
- Next steps:
 - Finish & furnish 2 classrooms for **January 2009 launch**
 - Complete toilets and septic system
 - Buy 1st grade textbooks, supplies, and teaching materials

Guesthouse (ongoing revenue source for operating school)

- Status: ~25% complete. Foundation complete and 10% of 1st floor.
- Next steps:
 - Acquire cement, concrete blocks, and steel rebar
 - Continue construction of 1st floor columns.

Pictures

1. School building exterior as of 1/15/2008
2. 1st grade classroom interior view
3. Guesthouse foundation as of 1/15/2008
4. Future 1st graders, currently in parish pre-school

Kenya impact

- Election violence in Kenya remains contained within Kenyan borders. There is no anticipation of refugee flows into Tanzania. However, some construction materials have become scarce or more expensive due to Kenyan supplier disruptions. We'll have to continue to monitor the situation.

(over)

Summer trip activities

- Guesthouse construction. Most likely brick laying
- School. Most likely some finish work for readying 1st grade classroom
- Fencing. Possibly working on perimeter fence to provide security and a controllable space for the children to play
- Play ground. Teachers suggested we consider building a simple swing set for the kids as a special treat!

Next steps

- Fund raising. Finishing the initial 5 classrooms, readying the 1st grade classroom, and continuing guesthouse construction will require ongoing fund raising.
- Fund raising planning. We need to schedule a meeting in February to define some events.

Visit the web site www.mailisita.org

- See more pictures and read a more detailed day-by-day trip report.

Email me your email address. I'd like to send out news and updates via email. If you're okay with that, send your email address to: stanton.j.taylor@comcast.net

While Nathan and I managed to avoid doing any physical labor this past week (good thing, it was 95 degrees!), rest assured we were plenty busy meeting with the architect, foreman, nearby primary school head mistress, former Moshi mayor and a half dozen other folks who are helping the project with their experience and expertise. The people of Moshi are very excited about this project. Other international aid organizations do work in the surrounding area, but our focus on helping these orphaned children has especially struck a chord with, and endeared us to the local population. They universally believe that we are doing something special that represents a model for others to follow.

Stan Taylor

Nathan Partain