

February 26, 2009

Jambo and Greetings from Tanzania,

With the morning sun striking Mt. Kilimanjaro, our last day in Tanzania has arrived. It will be sad to say goodbye to the children (watoto) of Mailisita. So full of happiness and joy, yet they have absolutely nothing, and no future, unless our project succeeds.

We were unable to draft this letter at the end of the day yesterday, as has been our custom this week, due to learning the hard lesson not to share stories (and beers) with Father Patrick...it never ends ☺

We met yesterday with Mama Msuwa, the headmistress of the St. Luis English Medium primary school in Moshi. We complimented her on her spectacular success in getting all of her last year's graduates accepted into secondary school. This is an unusual feat and a testament to her leadership. We then made 5-10 attempts to hire her away to be our headmistress, but she wouldn't budge. She did however promise to help us in our immediate search for a headmistress of sufficient experience and ability.

Mama Msuwa reconfirmed for us our estimates on teacher salaries and various operational elements. She advised that we purchase our school books (printed by the government) in November as it is not yet clear if they will be updating the national curriculum or not for the upcoming year. Schools in Tanzania are even more rigid in instruction than in the US in that the national government (instead of States) provides a precisely defined curriculum of instruction and accompanying text books.

Mama Msuwa also happily agreed to again send a contingent of her bi-lingual 7<sup>th</sup> graders to help us and socialize with our younger travelers during this upcoming July's trip. This worked very well for all parties last year and created an opportunity for our (US) teenagers to share cultural experiences with their Tanzanian counterparts.

We spent the afternoon further up mountain at the Kibosho "hospital". If you saw the 8 mile long pothole'd dirt "road" to reach this hospital you could not imagine how any injured person is transported here without arriving in yet far worse condition! It was a treat to have Father Patrick accompany us as absolutely every soul in Kibosho knows him as a close friend. He was born nearby, attended seminary here, and was their parish priest for many years until just last month when he was transferred to Mailisita.

Unfortunately, we learned upon arrival that our friends Dr. Alan and Sr. Henrike (head doctor) were in a very important all-staff meeting and could not be disturbed. Father Patrick pondered a moment and said to us softly and with a smile, "perhaps it is time for us to be...prudently arrogant", and with a wink, he started off. He returned with the doctors saying he had only but to walk by the opened door once or twice and their meeting was adjourned. Such power! We were of course a bit embarrassed to be the

cause of their meeting's interruption, but it was very nice to see them and exchange greetings and updates. Nathan's son plans to travel with us this July before starting medical school and Dr. Allan agreed to show him the ropes of how medicine is practiced without all the fancy electronic equipment.

We received a special treat this year when taking the pictures of the children yesterday. Each introduced themselves... *in English*, including their name, age, if they were a boy or girl, and that they go to the Mailisita School. Many are very, very shy individually and can barely eek out a whisper, yet when singing all together they are as loud as can be!



As our visit draws to a close, Fr. Kawishe, and his newly appointed assistant pastor, Fr. Patrick, express their sincere thanks for our collective efforts, and they wish the people of Libertyville and surrounds to know that they are prayed for each and everyday by the people of Mailisita.

Kwaheri,

Stan & Nathan

p.s., we'll be posting pictures to the website ([www.mailisita.org](http://www.mailisita.org)) next week.