

**July 10-11, 2009**

Jambo (Hello) from Tanzania,

The activities here in Moshi have picked up over the last two days. Everyone arrived safely by late Friday afternoon. It rained most of Friday in Moshi so it impeded our ability to really do anything at the site other than slop around in the mud in the afternoon after the rains had stopped. The one thing we did achieve at the site was to tell the Fundi (site supervisor) that we would be coming to work (kazi) on Saturday morning. Saturday is pay day in Tanzania so most people work a minimum of half a day. We had visions of working a half a day and then spending the rest of the Saturday exploring Moshi. Those plans were blown apart with the arrival of about 1,000 bricks on site.



### **Friday Meeting with the Project Architect, Mike Mosha**

Friday morning Steve Richards, Dave Braun, Matthew Partain and I met with the Project Architect, Mike Mosha. Mosha has been the architect since the beginning and continues to work closely with the Site Supervisor on coordinating the construction of the project. Mr. Mosha is pleased with the progress of the construction to date and noted that we are making similar progress to other comparable projects. He noted that when we complete the roof in late September or early October on the Guesthouse, that we would be about 60% complete with the physical construction but about 45% with the cost expenditures. Anyone that has built a house knows how long the finishing work can take and the expenses associated with this type of work.

Mr. Mosha also commented that he had discussions with the District Education inspectors and that they were very complimentary of the quality of construction on the school and on our project in general. I requested that cost estimates broken down by room in the Guesthouse be prepared for potential donors that would like to sponsor the completion of a room in the Guesthouse. He committed to have those estimates to me by the time I leave Tanzania on July 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Construction/Site Activities**

Planning for today's (Saturday) construction activities started last night at the dinner table. Knowing that we had committed to work a half a day on Saturday and at our request to Father Kawishe to have 1,000 bricks delivered to the site on Saturday. We

knew we had to get at the site and be prepared to work hard through early afternoon. We decided to meet for breakfast at 7:00 and be ready to load the Land Cruisers at 7:45 and 8:00. At breakfast we had our tailgate talk in order to hit the site moving. We emphasized to everyone that safety is paramount on the project, especially with an open first floor with a 20 to 25 foot drop to the ground.

We made amazing progress today at the site. All 13 (women and men) worked together as a team with the local work crew. Some worked the sand pile loading sand in into former cement (undungo) sacks to be carried up 28 stairs to the first floor. The men loaded bricks into the Guesthouse and then carried them up the stairs to the first floor.

The bricks in Tanzania are solid concrete blocks that weigh between 50 and 55 pounds a brick. Once we got them stacked upstairs on the first floor, the bricklayers lay them according to the blueprints. We then follow the laying of the bricks by filling in the cracks with undungo (cement but translated to mud in Swahili).



When we arrived this morning there were 500 bricks on site and were the same bricks on site since our initial site inspection earlier in the week. Father Kawishe had ordered additional bricks but he was not sure what day they would arrive. Last year we did not get our first load of bricks until Tuesday which slowed down our initial progress. We were determined this year not to make the same mistake.

Hakuna Shida (no problem) this year with not having enough bricks! Father Kawishe worked his magic and we had two truckloads of bricks show up at the site today. Each truckload contained about 500 bricks, which were unloaded by the brick manufacturer's crew that rode on the back of the truck and a few of our laborers that work on the site. They stacked them nicely by the door and close to the 28 steps to the first floor. Have you noticed how we know how many steps there are to make it from the ground floor to the first floor? Needless to say we ended up working the full day at the site leaving between 4:30-5:00 heading to a local roadside pub to enjoy a cold one before heading back to the hotel for the best part of the day, the hot shower.

### **What is on tap for tomorrow?**

We are going to 10:30 Mass at Mailisita and then will return to the hotel for lunch. In the afternoon we are going to Kibosho Hospital and then will take the scenic, and I mean scenic, six or seven mile walk down a mountain through banana and coffee tree groves back to Moshi. Monday we return to the construction site for more fun with bricks and sand. Also on Monday, Susanne Taylor will start the kids program at the kindergarten at Mailisita.

Look forward to continuing this dialogue next week from the community of Mailisita Parrish.

Kwaheri (Good Bye) from the tired 13 in Moshi  
From Moshi/Mailisita  
Nathan Partain