

July 13, 2009

Jambo (Hello) from Tanzania,

End of Day 1 of the official work week (July 12-19), although the team thinks Saturday's half a day should count as a full day. Yesterday we attended Mass at Mailisita and then tried to go to Kibosho Hospital and the Seminary just beyond Kibosho Hospital. We made it up the mountain to Kibosho Seminary and Hospital however; one of the cars had a leaking radiator. In lieu of walking down from Kibosho and possibly being stranded along the road after dark, we filled the radiator up with water from a mountain stream and headed back to the hotel after a brief walk through Kibosho Hospital's grounds and church. The car died in the parking lot of the hostel. Needless to say, we had a relaxing day on Sunday after working on Saturday. We will try to make the complete Kibosho trek next Saturday.

Construction/Site Activities

By noon today, we had hauled all of Saturday's bricks upstairs and had stacked them in the rooms available for the bricklayers. Unfortunately, or fortunately, Father Kawishe had located more bricks from another provider. The first truckload arrived right before noon and the next truckload arrived in early afternoon. We carried between 700 and 800 bricks upstairs today and have plenty of bricks to move tomorrow. The latest batch bricks feel heavier or we are getting a little sore in the arms and legs.

One of the highlights of the day was the number of Mailisita Parishioners that showed up today to do some volunteer work. Several helped us carry bricks upstairs while others shoveled sand, straightened nails and/or cleaned up weeds around the school and the guesthouse. We had a very productive day at the site.

Kids Program at the Kindergarten

Susanne Taylor will write a more detailed report tomorrow night, so stay tuned for more information. Those working with the kids visited the kids in their classrooms, spent time playing with the kids on the playground and got to know them fairly well! We were impressed with their English this year along with their singing skills both in Swahili and in English. More tomorrow along with the lineup of who is working with the kids this year.

What is on tap for tomorrow?

More bricks need to be moved to the first floor. We will be laying bricks and mortaring the walls after the bricks have been laid. Need we say more? The kids program will be in full swing so there will be a lot of activities in the morning over at the Parrish. Matt Partain will be going to Kibosho Hospital to deliver the medical supplies that we brought in our luggage. Dr. Allan Minja has asked him to spend the day with him observing how a doctor performs his daily duties in Tanzania.

The big mystery tomorrow will be the state of the chicken Matt will bring back from Kibosho Hospital? Will it be alive or ready for the pot? Dr. Allan is providing us with a chicken to thank us for the medical supplies and to celebrate Dr. Nozika's recent award. Dr. Allan and Dr. Nozika are friends from Dr. Nozika's visit to Tanzania in 2006 and Dr. Nozika has been instrumental in our medical supply efforts in Tanzania.

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

Kwaheri (Good Bye) from the aching but energetic 13 in Moshi
From Moshi/Mailisita
Nathan Partain

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