

September 4, 2011

Jambo from Moshi,

Adam Archer and I have traveled to Moshi to work on the project at Mailisita. We left Chicago last Wednesday and arrived in Moshi on Thursday night. I will be here for a little over a week while Adam will be staying for approximately nine months. I feel like one of the Space Shuttle Astronauts going to the International Space Station. I take Adam to a familiar place, introduce him to key supporters around Moshi and then later this week I will tell him that I will be back in nine months.

Our first stop on Friday morning was the Stella Maris Primary School at Mailisita. Mama Lucy Shayo, Head Mistress at the school, greeted us warmly and invited us in for chai (tea) and sweets. She mentioned that she had known for several weeks that we would be coming in early September with a new teacher. After introducing Adam to the other teachers of the school, Mama Lucy quickly moved us into Grade 1 and Grade 2 classes which lead to much singing and clapping. Mama Lucy mentioned that the children had been sad to see Terry Mulligan leave in early August but were excited to hear that another American teacher had come to take Terry's place in the classroom. Although Adam has not taught at the elementary level, he is excited to get started on Monday morning under the supervision of Mama Lucy. Adam also mentioned that was the first time he had students sing and clap for him. I guess they do not do that in high school these days. Also, there is teacher at the school teaching proper Swahili and Adam has already enrolled to attend class.

Mama Lucy also had a few jobs on her to do list that she had reserved for my arrival. She took me to both the girl and boy bathrooms and noted some plumbing that needed attention around the sinks and other functional areas in most bathrooms. Unlike Stan Taylor, I did not travel with my tool box but left it in Libertyville collecting dust in my garage. However I am quite good with my hands and I quickly waved the site supervisor, Ayloisa over to the school. I assigned him the task of fixing the sink and toilets before we show up on the site on Monday morning. Knowing Ayloisa I am sure it will be done correctly and up to Mama Lucy's standards.

Friday afternoon, we met with Father Kitalli, the new parish pastor at Mailisita. Father Kitalli has been at Mailisita a little over a week but was quite familiar with our school/guesthouse project. Father Kitalli is also the Treasurer of the Diocese of Moshi and has obtained undergraduate and graduate degrees in the United States in both business and accounting. We had an excellent discussion around the philosophy of the project and he is anxious to get fully involved with the project. From my perspective, Father Kitalli is a great addition to our efforts at Mailisita. Adam and I both attended Mass on Sunday at Mailisita and Father Kitalli is a very charismatic speaker. We are excited to work with him in the coming months and years.

The big meeting on Saturday was interviewing and starting the process of integration of the Guest House Manager to the Project. When Father Val and Stan Taylor were here in July they met with Michael Satta who was recommended by a consultant we have been working with in Tanzania on the guest house. Michael and I had a good initial discussion on Saturday afternoon and I asked him to join us for Mass on Sunday at Mailisita. After Mass we had lunch and a very productive meeting with Father

Kitalli. Michael has a notebook with four pages of action items to start to get in place to open the Guest House this Fall. We are very lucky to have found such a qualified individual to take us through the startup process. Adam, in addition to his teaching duties, will be working with Michael to get things up and moving at the guest house. We have some exciting times on the ground here in Tanzania with a soft launch of the guest house this fall and the Grand Opening in December.

Tomorrow I will be meeting with the site Architect, Mike Mosh, the site construction supervisor, Ayloisa, and the new Guest House Manager, Michael Satta about the process of moving from construction to operations. This is always a fun transition process to tackle on any project but may be an even more dynamic process since we will be monitoring it through Adam and from a couple of thousand miles away. I hope my Swahili is up to the task for tomorrow's meeting.

So long from Moshi for now but I hope each of you have a great Labor Day. Unfortunately, there is no Labor Day in Tanzania so Adam and I will be working tomorrow.

Kwaheri,

Nathan

