

July 16, 2009

Jambo (Hello) from Tanzania,

Your Swahili phrase of the day is hapa na pali. This means “here and there”. Stan Taylor informed me that his dad, who is a civil engineer and college professor, was concerned that we not stack all the bricks in one place on the first floor. Aloysi, although he does not speak much English, is good at telling us to spread the bricks around on the floor and not stack all in one place. Aloysi points and yells hapa na pali where he wants the bricks. We also pile the bricks in rows of three (Jenga Style) and never go more than five stacks high (total of fifteen bricks). This is also one of the little known facts on how we came up for the name for the Jenga Club (more information on this club at [mailisita.org](http://mailisita.org)). Jenga actually means “build” in Swahili.

### **Construction/Site Activities**

We had an extremely productive day on the site. We found a fourth bricklayer and the bricklayers about buried us this morning. We were loading all of the bricks that were delivered yesterday into the rooms as fast as the bricklayers could lay them. We moved all 250 bricks that were outside upstairs by mid morning.

After getting the bricks in the room we spent the rest of the day supporting the brick layers. How high did we get the wall today? We are four rows from reaching the ceiling. If I had a better internet connection, I would show pictures of us up on scaffolding filling in the cracks. Tomorrow is our last full day of work. Hopefully, we can reach the ceiling!

### **Kids Program at the Kindergarten- a Note from Susanne Taylor**

Today, the children helped us count to one hundred. We presented the teacher, Regina with a number chart for the classroom and each child was given a number to put on the chart. We thought we were missing number 66 but then one boy found it in his pocket. It was quite a loud experience.

Yesterday, we created a name tag for each child. They are similar to the ones most kindergarteners in the U.S. have on their desk in school to help them learn to write their name. We gave them to the children this morning and they were very excited to see their names in print.

We also decorated paper crosses with the children. They love stickers! They put them all over their crosses and all over their faces! The children also really enjoyed coloring on the crosses. They even decorated both sides of the paper!

This afternoon we also printed photos of the teachers, cooks and drivers that have assisted us this week. They are so pleased to have photos of themselves. I expect that they will send their friends to visit tomorrow and the printer will be very busy.

### **What else did we do today?**

Susanne Taylor took a group with Father Patrick to visit Kahawa (Coffee) House. This part of Tanzania is noted for its fine coffee that is heavily exported to Europe and now and then you may find it at Starbucks. Father Patrick took the group through the back operations of roasting coffee and the coffee drinkers out of the group were able to taste test. We even picked coffee berries off of a plant and tasted the seeds inside. They are very slippery and taste somewhat sweet. We saw them being roasted, ground, canned and vacuum packed. I placed my order and will be bringing back three pounds to brew over the coming months.

Tonight, we are dining out for the first time. Dining out is not easy and takes a little planning since most restaurants will close early if no one has placed a reservation. I am typing this note as we are having drinks at Mama Kamm's restaurant which is a small six room guesthouse that Stan and I use as our home base in January or February when we come to Tanzania. We have ordered Mexican food which was taught to the cooks by some Texans that stayed here several years ago. We go all the way to Africa to eat Tex-Mex!

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

More bricks are to arrive first thing in the morning. We are to get 250 bricks with the first shipment and another 250 late in the morning. We will also have the traditional end of week cold beer at the site with all the workers. Aloysi was real quick at understanding that I was going to buy beer for everyone. We don't have to worry about anyone driving home because everyone walks to the site, including us. We have a lot to accomplish tomorrow to finish our construction efforts for this summer.

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

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