

Out of Africa #1
Jambo Rafiki!!

We are happy to report that we have safely arrived on the African continent again! On Wednesday, October 22nd we began the long journey to our first destination: Usambara Girls Secondary School in Korogwe, Tanzania. After a total of 18 hours of flight and a one-night layover in Nairobi we were on the road and ready for the 11 hour car ride over some pretty severe roads in a drought-savaged region that lead south of Nairobi and eventually to Northeast Tanzania and the village of Kwamdolwa, where our school is situated.

I have uploaded 7 photos and one 30 second movie clip of the opening celebration of the 3-classroom Form III (eleventh grade) block that Joining Hearts and Hands just completed. This is the second classroom block that we have built and are hopeful that we will be able to build the Form IV block later this winter.

Picasa Web link to photos:

http://picasaweb.google.com/106341528825917855978/UsambaraDays12?authkey=Gv1sRgCLiHhPqIjd_-9QE#

In addition to the classroom construction, we have taken five poor village girls and are providing them with Joining Hearts and Hands scholarships for their 4 high school years. We met them yesterday, gave them one of Joanne's famous "pep talks," took their pictures, got their life stories and sent them off with a hug and a school supply pack.

On behalf of Western Presbyterian Church of Palmyra, we presented two new laptops for the faculty. They were speechless (not quite....one of the teachers gave a moving thank-you speech on behalf of the entire faculty). Since they had no computers for their own use, these will come as wonderful assistance in all aspects of their work.

And finally, we had some fun by bringing 22 YoYos from Shaker Road Elementary School in South Colonie (outside of Albany). As you can see from the photos, the teachers are getting into the "swing" of it before the kids take over and really show them how it is done. Thanks to Bill Dollard and Betsy Dollard from Shaker Road, not only for this fun project but for the scholarships they sponsor and the goat that they have purchased.

Next Stops:

- Kacace Primary School in Kenya to check out our Solar Power Project
- Hannah's Hope in Katito to see the new construction of the newest two classrooms and the new water well
- The two new water wells in Usenge, Kenya
- Homa Bay self-help project sponsored by Joining Hearts and Hands
- And much, much more...

Thanks for listening, reading, watching and praying!
Peace,

Bill and Joanne
www.joiningheartsandhands.org