



## THE MORROWS IN ZAMBIA

Last week all the Morrow children were able to see the orphanage property for the first time. Timothy had traveled up with Tom in June to do some work and helped out with clearing the land but the rest of the kids had had to wait. Now, finally, they were able to travel over to Kazembe with us to see where they will soon be living for the next several years.

We set out at 6:15 in the morning. The air had a chill to it but we weren't worried. We knew that very soon the day would be very warm. This is the hot, dry season of the year. As we get closer to October the days get hotter and hotter. Yesterday it was 100° F and we expect it to climb much higher before too long.

After a fifteen minute walk to our town center we climbed aboard a small bus for the 45 minute ride to Kazembe. Kawambwa (where we now live) is about one thousand feet higher than Kazembe so the drive winds its way down hilly roads before we reach the lake areas.

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Before



After

After disembarking from the bus and arranging for the same bus to reserve space for us on their afternoon run back to Kawambwa we began the walk uphill to the building site. The ground was very sandy and our feet sank deep into the road with each step.

As we walked up the hill we gathered a small crowd of children. No white family has ever lived here before so it is a big deal for the children of Kazembe to see our children. They can't get enough of stroking their hair or skin.

The property has improved a great deal since we first saw pictures and videos of it. The first pictures of the place looked like some sort of Aztecan ruin. Now the grounds have been cleared, grass has been planted and the roof has been put on 8 of the small rooms. Doors and window frames were being installed as we arrived so we could begin to imagine making a home in these buildings. The first eight rooms will be used for our children and volunteers. Having staff rooms completed first will help the future projects to move along much quicker.

The main reason for the kids and me to accompany Tom on this trip to Kazembe was to help in some decision making. Now that the roof had been put on we needed to look at the next stages to see what would be done next. As we stood observing the workers installing the door frames we ran into one of our first hiccups. The C-shaped building was built on a hill and rather than displace dirt and level the ground the original builder just built the building on a slant. This presents us with some challenges as we try to install different features and make sure that they are straight level and plumb. When the door frames were installed they looked completely crooked even though they were straight with good right angles because the roof and terrace actually

ran downhill. We decided to install the doors in line with the roof so that they appear straight. The only problem with this plan is that when you are inside the actual room the door looks completely crooked as if it were one of those crazy shacks or something from Bugs Bunny. We are brainstorming camouflage ideas.

We ran into the same problem with the windows. We used a level to get them straight inside the room but when we walked outside they were completely crooked. Every window was installed at a different level so there is a difference between them of about 10 inches. As we walked around the outside trying to figure out how to make the windows appear in line we asked the workers to hold up a rope to so we could get a picture of what a level window line would be. The rope started at the base of the first window at the top of the hill and when it got to the last window it was now an entire foot above the top of the window. We just laughed and laughed. Realizing there was no way to fix the existing windows we decided to make each window level inside the room and we will plant trees and bushes outside the windows to camouflage the problem. Ha. Welcome to Africa!

As you can see from the pictures a lot of progress has been made over these last couple months. We now have eight rooms with roof, door frames (doors are on the way), windows installed complete with glass and burglar bars and the walls have been covered with a base paint. All of the eight rooms have electrical wiring and have been fitted with double wall sockets, switches and light fixtures. The breaker box and meter box has been installed. The courtyard inside the G-building has had grass planted and our dedicated gardener is watering it everyday. The rains are on their way and they will transform the entire area and turn everything green. Because the property is on a hill we are rebuilding the retaining wall that separates the two levels and installing steps in that area. A grass wall was also constructed around the whole property.

The second building, which will be for our living area and office, is being worked on now. The structure had to be strengthened with a reinforcing ring put around the top of the building and the timber is curing for the roof. We already have the roofing sheets ready for it so progress is happening there as well.

The application for electric lines has been submitted to the power company and we anticipate those being installed very soon.



There is still much to be done. Our upcoming projects include: another two volunteer rooms and a sitting room for those volunteers. Two large rooms for our first babies and toddlers—one for sleeping and one play and learning room. These rooms need structural changes and roofs put on.

A bathroom area for the main house needs to be constructed (septic tanks will need to be dug for this). We also need to prepare pipes, water tank and tower for a bore hole. There are charitable organizations that would probably sink a borehole for us if we have completed the preparations for it.

Another big project will be constructing the building for the kitchen and dining area. This building needs some serious structural changes and is the largest building so far.

An ablution block for the property will also need to be constructed. We will eventually have eight shower stalls and toilets divided into men and women's sections. This will give us plenty of room to grow. We are planning to build the structure and then add toilets and fixtures as we grow.

If you are able to help in this monumental task we thank you. For those of you who have helped us get this far we thank you—we couldn't do it without you. Thank you also to all who have prayed for us in these moves. We have settled in fairly well to our new environment and have stayed healthy through all the changes.

With love,

The Morrow Family