

**Louisa Duke**  
**April 13, 2007**

## **Day One of Construction**

Hello!

I want to thank all of you who have given towards the house building project. We picked up our visitors Tuesday night from Lusaka. We shopped around in Lusaka on Wednesday for building materials, and yesterday was the official, first work day. I've attached a picture of the crew standing by a pile of bricks on the foundation. From left to right are Ed, Brent, Lee, and Andrew. Andrew works with maintenance and construction on the mission, and he's heading up this building project. I've also attached a picture of Chipo, Andrew's daughter, modeling our bricks!

The first day mainly consisted of hauling bricks and stacking piles on each side of the foundation. The Zambian building crew took a much needed day off yesterday after finishing phase one of construction. The foundation needed to set for one more day, so brick-laying couldn't really begin. Andrew and I went to Choma (60km from Kalomo) to organize for the mukwa (local, dark wood) that the crew will be using to build furniture. These guys are really great with wood, so we thought we'd have them do some of that as well as the brick laying.

Last night we all went to the Gregersen's house for delicious meat loaf and some singing. The college choir came over to sing a few songs for the visitors. We also surprised Meagan with Acappella's song, Abba Father. I taught it to them when she was gone. It was a little rough last night, but I think it will get better! She and I have always thought the words of that song fit perfectly with life here.

Please pray for Meagan as she's grieving the loss of her niece. Saturday, her first day back on the mission after spending several weeks home, she found out that Harper had passed away. The timing has been very difficult, but we trust God and His faithfulness. The funeral was yesterday, so we had a memorial here last night for Meag. Please pray for comfort in this difficult time.

Having Ed, Lee, and Brent come has been such an encouragement and blessing to us. I've been a part of medical missions before, but not construction missions. I may just turn into a carpenter before this is all over! It's been a blast so far, and I'm excited to see the progress as the work continues. Thanks again for your continued support.

I'm planning on sending daily emails with pictures of the progress.

God bless you all,  
Louisa

