

REPORT  
TO  
CHURCH OF THE  
HOLY SPIRIT  
AND  
ELECTRIC AID  
FROM  
TURKWELL  
KENYA

# **THE BUILDING OF KALEMUNYANG DISPENSARY**

## **2009**

### **Introduction:**

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those who helped in the building of Kalemunyang Dispensary. We began this project with a belief that such a project would be of great benefit to the local community, the many other surrounding villages and the many nomadic Turkanas who graze their animals in the bordering lands. After due consultation with the local community, local government administration, local elected leaders and the medical department of the Diocese of Lodwar we felt there would be enough willpower to see a successful completion of this project. This project would not have been possible without Mr Clement Ndirengu and his construction company. Despite the hardships of building in the desert where there is little water and rough roads we believe we have a building which will serve the local community for many years to come. Finally and most graciously to our donors Church of the Holy Spirit, Wilton, Cork and Electric Aid we express our sincere thanks to you for your generosity and your faith in us to complete this project.

In the report I will give a brief outline on the building of the project, the costing of the project, relevant receipts and letters of gratuity.

### **Beginnings:**

On June 10<sup>th</sup> 2009 the constructor arrived on the site in Kalemunyang.



Setting up camp at the site entailed the unloading of many bags of cement, finding a water source, locating a suitable place for the workers to sleep and meeting the local leaders.

All this work was done to the satisfaction of all involved and within a few hours the camp site was taking shape with everybody lending a helping hand.

While the constructor brought many of his own skilled labour, other workers were hired from the local community. The first few days were spent collecting sand, transporting water and making blocks. Within a few days the site was being marked out and real progress was being made.

## Constructing:



Having a good water supply is very important in the desert and in temperatures of 35-40 degrees centigrade.

All cementing has to be cured morning and evenings for five days to avoid future cracks in the building.

The contractor made sure that his lorry was on site to bring water from the nearby river.



Plenty of sand in the desert.

But not all sand is good for building.

Much of the sand in Turkwell contains particles of clay soil so good builders will not accept this sand. The ideal sand is found in the dry river beds and nearby Kalemunyang there was such a river which provided the raw materials.



All blocks are made on site. It is the normal practice for contractors and that can mean the need for even more water to be available on site. The blocks are made in advance as they will take three days before they can be used.



Blocks to be made and the site to be marked out in the early days. The actual site was very hard which is very good for the building but for the workers it was a tough task to dig out the foundations. No machinery on this site so the work is tedious in extreme hot

conditions. But there were no complaints.



So our foundation is in and we are ready for the slab. Meetings on the site were regular between myself, the contractor, the engineer and the foreman. There are always details to be solved. When putting in the slab it is important also to mix an anti-termite chemical with the concrete. Termites can eat up a very good building in one year.



With the foundation and the slab in place it was now time to get the walls up. At this stage we saw plenty of people on site and the work was going at a very quick pace. The workers slept out in the open and the only complaint I received from the workers was that it was a bit cold at night.



The building of the dispensary brought a lot of excitement to the village of Kalemunyang. In the evenings, many of the locals came to view the work and to chat to the builders. Of course the children were delighted and had great fun especially when I had the camera!



It was great to see the building taking shape. Every visit I made to the site there seemed to be progress at different levels. At this time we were also planning to build a staff block, two toilet blocks and to fence the area.



Because of the problem of termites we decided to make the roof with steel. It is an extra expense but in the long term it means termites cannot eat steel. The contractor brought his own welder on site which is another feat to be accomplished. A big generator and welding machine have to transport through the desert and across the dry river beds.



The roof is now in place and we are ready to put on the sheeting. The roof will be of corrugated iron but has the ability to reflect the sun. So normally you would expect a corrugated iron roof to make a building very hot but this particular iron sheeting reflects the sun.



Putting on the roof gave our building real shape. There is not a lot of rain in Turkana but at the same time when it does rain it is torrential. At this stage of the work we were happy to see that we are moving in the right direction.



At the same time as the clinic was being completed work continued on with the staff block. Many of the staff sacrifice themselves to be away from their families so good accommodation will be a bonus for them.



The next job on site was to begin the painting. When you see the arrival of the paints tins then you know that at least the finishing line is near. Choosing the colours was easy: green for Ireland and yellow for the hot sun that shines so bright in Turkana.



Finally the painting was complete and the building was ready. After some more meetings with the contractor and some final touches were made the workers moved off the site.



The building of Kalemunyang Dispensary began on the 10/6/09 and finished on the 23/10/09



The Staff Block was also a great addition to the project.

## Conclusion:



The final job on the site was the raising of the sign post. In the picture you can see Sister Pascillia who will be responsible for the Dispensary.

The Dispensary will help to provide medical assistance to many people in the area. There will be three staff: a nurse, a patient attendant and a laboratory technician. These staff will be employed by the diocese, medicine will be supplied through the diocese which is supported by different donors and other agencies will also help in supplying and in trying to maintain the dispensary. There will also be a cost sharing policy with the patients to help the long term self sufficiency of the dispensary. This is very minimum but it will help the running of the dispensary.

Many thanks to the financial support from Church of the Holy Spirit and Electric Aid.

Signed:

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Fr Oliver Noonan