

## If your Meetinghouse/Church looked like this, What would you do?



**This is the Meetinghouse at Loltulelei in Samburu, Kenya**

The walls, which are made of mud and sticks, were already in need of repair when a strong wind came along and took part of the roof. This is the building where the people worshiped — the building that housed their nursery school. Now they have no building in which to worship, and their nursery school meets in one of the classrooms at the already overcrowded school that is also in much need of repair.

Again, the question: *What would you do?*

This is a tribal people, a very poor people, but a people very much in need of their church, the building where the whole community gathers, and the place that holds the community together. What are they doing? The women have been making blocks so the walls can be rebuilt; and these blocks are concrete, not mud. So far they have made 1,000 blocks. They need at least 1,000 more, and they have the determination to do it. By now you're thinking, "good for them." But listen to how they must do it. They have only *one* form to use to make the block. They must mix the proper ingredients, pour it into the mold, and wait for that to dry before they can make another block! Needless to say this is a very slow process. This is also a very determined group of women. They want their church back.

More is needed, of course, than the blocks for the walls. There needs to be a roof, material for doors — and, windows would be nice!

Some investigation has been done and a good church could be built that would stand up to the wind and rain a little better than the old one, for *only* \$5,000.

Now, I ask again, *what would you do if your meetinghouse/church suddenly looked like this?*

Probably one of the first things you'd do is take up a special offering. That's what we need to do for Loltulelei Friends Meeting in Samburu. We need to take up an offering, and we need to do it soon. Make out your checks to NCYM Missions Committee and on the memo line write "**Loltulelei Meetinghouse.**" Mail the checks to North Carolina Yearly Meeting, 4811 Hilltop Road, Greensboro, NC 27407.

Why don't you pass a special collection plate next Sunday? Ask your USFW, Quaker Men, and Sunday school classes to pitch in too. Let's get behind this project and get the \$5,000 together as fast as possible. Make sure checks are made out to NCYM Missions Committee and particularly make sure your gift is designated to Loltulelei Meetinghouse. Help Loltulelei rebuild!

	123
I.A. Friend	
1 Friendly Way	<u>April 1, 2007</u>
Quaker Town, USA	
Pay to the order of	<u>NCYM Missions Committee</u> \$ 100.00
For <u>Loltulelei Meetinghouse</u>	Signature <u>I.A. Friend</u>

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## MEXICO MISSION WORKCAMP

**March 16 – 27, 2007**

**by David Hobson**

On Friday, March 16, 2007, Ron Gurley, W. R. Lanier, and Harold Monroe from Poplar Ridge along with Wade Shelton and David Hobson from Rocky River, headed south from Asheboro towards Matamoros, Mexico. Jorge Reyes had called to warn about the heavy rains in Matamoros

on Monday, March 12 (8 inches in a few hours). We drove in heavy rain at times before reaching Atlanta, but by the Georgia/Alabama state line sunshine greeted us for the rest of the day. Thomas Albert (High Point Friends) welcomed us to MOWA Choctaw Friends Center for our overnight

stay. Saturday morning found us up early on the road toward Houston. Ashley Goad Broadhurst arranged overnight hospitality in the Bellaire area with some very gracious members of Christ Church Presbyterian, where she works as Director of Family Life. After Sunday school and worship we were "on the road again" toward Motel 6 in Brownsville, Texas.

Besides our luggage and some tools, we also had in the van an unassembled, pre-cut, kitchen cabinet for Jorge and Maria Elena Reyes' kitchen in Matamoros. Driving toward the border, I kept wondering what would happen if Customs said we could not take it in. That morning, and on every other crossing during the week, we drew a green light at the border which meant no stopping, no questions!! Arriving at the Reyes home and after greetings all around, the work began of emptying the old cabinets and tearing them out. Not too difficult, especially for the area around the sink where water and insect damage had caused wood deterioration over several years. A supply list for pressure treated wood for the cabinet base and the patio shelter along with necessary hardware items (sink, faucet, drain strainers, nails, screws, caulk, roofing, etc.) accompanied us on the lunchtime trip to Home Depot in Brownsville. Tuesday through Thursday work continued on the kitchen cabinet and patio shelter. Adjustments had to be made at times: the floor for the cabinet was not perfectly level and the ceramic tile "molding" around the edge of the kitchen had not been anticipated; drill bits seemed to hit some extra tough concrete (probably hidden rebar) when trying to place anchor screws for the patio shelter. That's when experienced workers save the day!! By Thursday afternoon, the Formica was glued on the cabinet, the drawer guides and door hinges were installed, the faucets ran water, the sinks held it, and then drained without leaking! The patio shelter provided good shade for a picnic table and the washing machine had a new enclosure with some shelves for detergent, bleach, etc. To put it mildly, Maria Elena was very happy.

On Wednesday afternoon a few of us checked on the village mission building. Water in the street in front of the mission (a low spot compared to surrounding area) had receded some, but was still standing, and Jorge had placed cement blocks along the mission side of the street so people could walk to the mission gate without getting their shoes muddy. Water had not entered the building, but the dirt areas of the compound were quite moist. In Sunday's service, Jorge noted that the municipal government had pledged to pave the street and he asked for our prayers toward that end. We found that many of the benches needed a new base where bugs and moisture had caused deterioration. Another Home Depot list was made for pressure treated wood and Thursday found three of us making the needed repairs and building one small new bench. Measurements were also taken for wiring for two ceiling fans for the worship room in the village mission. Front doors for the village mission will probably be metal, built and installed by a local shop. Jorge commented that the roof we installed four years ago has gone through three hurricanes without leaking.

Thursday afternoon we stopped work a little early and checked into the Hotel Roma in downtown Matamoros. This saved the sometimes lengthy border crossing and let us experience a bit more of the local culture. It also made it easier for us to attend Thursday night church service upstairs above the Reyes' home. A number of children and some adults came from the village with Jorge for the service. Enthusiastic singing led by Milca (Maria Elena's daughter, a 2nd grade public school teacher), accompanied on the guitar by Isai (Maria Elena's son, a 6th grade private school teacher), a short devotional message by Reyna (Isai's wife, a nurse), a sermon by Jorge, recognition of our group, and refreshments afterwards with tamales made for a full evening. We were given some handmade cards in appreciation for our visit and work.

A large piece of Formica remained unused from the kitchen cabinet on Friday morning, so work began on piecing it to cover the countertop of a cabinet on the other side of the kitchen. Minor repairs were made to some benches in the upstairs worship area and supplies were secured for the ceiling fans for the village. Friday and Saturday evenings we enjoyed meals at restaurants near the Hotel Roma.

After installing the fans in the village mission on Saturday morning, we returned to the Reyes' home for a bountiful meal prepared by Maria Elena, Reyna, and Milca.

The water had receded through the week, so plans were made for Sunday morning worship to be held as usual at the village mission. Again a good number of children and some women were in attendance, singing as enthusiastically as ever. After the service, we headed toward Brownsville and reversed our journey toward North Carolina--again with stops in Houston and at MOWA Choctaw. We give thanks for our safe and enjoyable travel and the opportunity to help in this work.

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*If you love me, you will obey  
what I command.  
John 14:15*

### **CONTACT CARTERS TO VISIT YOUR MEETING**

Bob and Hope Carter will be living in North Carolina during June and July. Schedule them now for your Meeting by calling their cell phone, 327-225-0874; home number (until June), 317-830-2284; or email [bob.carter@sim.org](mailto:bob.carter@sim.org). Cell phone and email will remain the same during their stay here in North Carolina.

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*Seek the Lord while He may be found;  
call on Him while He is near.  
Isaiah 55:6*