

1st work report

on the construction of two buildings holding 4 classrooms each, toilets
and a water tower
for the public secondary school 3 of Savè
Community of Savè

May 4: General Assembly



At 4:30 a.m. we were on our way to Savè to make sure to be on time for the General Assembly at 9 am. Parents, teachers and the responsible politicians of the district were waiting for us. After the usual courtesies were exchanged, we introduced ourselves and declared our presence. People were very happy to hear that we came to start construction. The contract was read out, questions asked and answered. In the end, the contract was voted unanimously.



The following day we went to get the building materials. Here in Savè gravel are smite from granite blocks by the women, hard work that seemed to us as if it came from the past century.



We also discovered the place where sand is sold and ordered 20 loads. 40 tons of cement were delivered from Cotonou. There are small cement depots in Savè. However, they cannot deliver the large quantities that we need. We bought iron in a construction shop in Savè. After the first delivery, we found that the quality of the irons did not meet our requirements. We found iron of good quality in Glazoué. So we changed and from then on ordered our iron there.



The building blocks were cast while the people of Savè were digging the foundations ditches for the buildings.



After the drilling for water had been successful, we constructed the water tower.



We had engaged two construction teams, for each building one. They worked in competition. The high school students diligently helped with the construction work every free minute.



The buildings are situated on a slope. Therefore the foundation had to be anchored once in between. Only after that the usual lower iron anchor could be cast. The walls grew on it and the small iron anchor below the window openings was cast.



The walls were built up to the lintel.

The pillars on the veranda were cast. When they were dry, the casing for the upper iron anchor was prepared.



The gables were erected on the iron anchors, the stairs were made.



The window shutters were placed and work started to sand fill the classrooms.



At that time we were taken by surprise by riots in Savè. All streets were closed. We got stuck on the construction site for a few days.

The roof truss was made. The chairman of the PTA told us that hail could happen in this region because of the mountains. Therefore we decided to change from concrete roofing sheets to aluminum sheets to cover the roof.



In the meantime, work continued on the water tower. After plastering the tower the ladder was implanted and the water tank lashed onto the tower.



The water tower was fenced and next to it ,the water tap was built and beautifully tiled.

Building the toilets was not easy. The ground is hard. There were also heavy rains that filled the pit with water up to the top. But with a lot of energy we succeeded.



While the roofs were being made, we organized the transportation of the doors.



After the doors were placed, the plastering work began. While our masons were working, the students filled the classrooms with sand.



The floors were cemented.



Then the painters began their work and once again performed a miracle.



I thank all supporters for trusting in me. Working on the Savè construction site had not been easy and sometimes the thoughts of my friends helped me to overcome the difficulties.

I thank the students and the chairman of the PTA for their cooperation. A warm “Thank you” to all of our employees. In spite of all difficulties a piece of my heart remains in Save.

With kind regards
Astrid Toda