

## Haiti Mission Trip Report July 30-Aug 6, 2012

This trip was quite different from the trips we have undertaken over the past years in that it was purely relationship building and investigatory. No building or installations were undertaken. Chuck Arnold, Kathy McCoy and I went to Haiti to assure our primary relationship with the Petite Freres St. Therese was on solid ground, survey two new installation sites and do the initial groundwork for the rebuilding of the NDC orphanage.

Since Chuck comes from PA we met up in Ft. Lauderdale and flew into PAP together arriving about 4p. Going through customs and getting our luggage is becoming a smoother process or perhaps I'm just getting used to the chaos. Ancy was there to greet us and drove us all the way to Palmiste au Vin as the newly purchased KIA was being retrofitted with a new cage and rack which Fre Olizard was overseeing and was ready for us to use. Ancy and I spent most of the trip discussing better ways to run our warehouse process for new parts and in particular the role that he, Valdez and Bertone all played together. I explained to Ancy more precisely how the warehouse process was set up to work and he understood perfectly. It was the first time Ancy and I have had a serious discussion on Haiti processes and my sense was it solidified our relationship much better. Ancy is a good man and the LWW choice of him as the In Country Coordinator (paid) is one that I believe will bear much fruit in the coming years.

What a shock when we saw the monastery for the first time. Since the earthquake had destroyed much of the monastery and school Fre Olizard has been on a two year rebuilding



**New Chapel, Dining Room 2nd Fl Qtrs 1**

is still an issue, steps are being taken to fix that with



**Old Patio now Enclosed 1**

project (which included the clinic ¼ mile down the road) and culminated with his making the PAV

monastery ready to receive 40 brothers for their 2 week retreat the middle of July. In fact it had just ended two days before we arrived. He now has what I

would call a retreat center and while water quantity

is still an issue, steps are being taken to fix that with another 40K gallon reservoir to capture more rain water. At the same time we were there the Little Brothers and Sisters were putting on a 10 day summer session down at the school for 90



**Monastery Front Entrance 1**



**Inside back monastery 1**

young people that were thinking about entering the religious life. It was an intense session every day from 6am to 10p and it exhausted me just watching some of it. It also really taxed the capacity of the water availability at PAV which has no wells and totally dependent on rain water or trucking it up from Leogane.

Tuesday we invited Garry and Eliane to come up to the monastery to discuss the new orphanage plans. We have been seeking a good project manager that we can trust to oversee this project and



4 is new land. NDC at left 1

approached Fre Olizard about the job. He was most willing, so the day was spent going over the plans, setting initial expectations and figuring out what our next steps were. In the afternoon we drove to Café Lomprie where Fre Olizard had just finished building a monastery for the Companions of Jesus. It was a beautiful structure, simple, functional and earthquake



NDC Planning Meeting 1

proof. It gave Eliane and Garry several ideas of things they could do to modify their building to make it better. Upon returning we took Eliane and Garry home and turned in for the night.

Wednesday we traveled to Jacmel to survey a site of the Spiritan Sisters and St. Andrews church. The site is a good one with a nice reservoir, plenty of water and a large school and community close by. The water did test bad. The sisters agreed to put up a block house on top of the reservoir to protect the system. After this, Olizard took us to Caye Jacmel to eat 'fish of the sea' for lunch and sit by the ocean to enjoy the brilliance of the day. On the way back Kathy got to stop in Jacmel and do a little tourist shopping at her favorite haunts and while waiting we struck up a conversation with a team from Delaware helping a Salvation Army house across the street. We tested their water for them, but never heard about the results. All this was finished just before the rain came on the drive home and it came pretty hard. That day we learned also of a hurricane headed right for the DR and Haiti, but though God's Grace it mercifully turned and went way south of us.



Convent, Water on left 1



VoTech School 1

Thursday we spent discussing the progress of the Votech school with Olizard so we could submit our final report to CRS. The report is available on our website if you want further information. I spent a part of the day reviewing the warehouse processes with Sonie and checking the inventory we have on hand. On this trip we are requested to bring home

some Haitian specific goods to Huntsville, so part of the day we went into Leogane with Bertone and Sonie to shop in the market. We also had to go by Fonkoze Bank to draw out some money. This turned out to be an almost 2 hour undertaking because there was a new branch manager and we had to reestablish our identities again. In the US we are so used to automation and in Haiti business is conducted as it was in the US in the 40s and 50s. We were close by the ice cream store and Chuck had been given money to specifically treat the kids at NDC to ice cream so we made an unannounced call on the kids with ice cream cups for all. Chuck was a big hit that day.

Friday was our day to spend at NDC. We began the morning going in two vehicles with Olizard so we could all walk the land together and he would then get on with the rest of his day independent from us. Several things came out of this

simple task of just walking on the property. Which way to face the building to get the maximum air flow since there is no AC? Where will the well go in the midst of all of this? How much of the land will we have put a wall around? How do we minimize the sun's influence on the building with some fast growing trees? You can not answer these questions without being right there and this is where a good project manager is so valuable. We spent time with the kids taking pictures,



Solar Cookers from Huecco 1

looking at report cards, speaking with some of the kids about how they were doing and what some of their plans were. Kathy brought some deflated balls which were an instant hit and kept most of the kids occupied a good part of the day. We reviewed the electricity and water systems and as usual, Eliane had an incredible meal for us. Kathy spent some time showing Eliane how to use the sewing machine we Garry had brought back with him on his last trip to the states. Eliane and Garry are such wonderful hosts and feel so welcome at the orphanage.



Pere Blaund & Bertone 1

Saturday we went to St. Andrews Church and school in DuFort to meet with Pere Blaund who has a well and generator and bad water. The well was damaged such that we could not get a pump down it to test the depth of the water but as I write this report I have learned that the well has 4.5' of water in it and they pumped 50 gallons of water in 20 min, so it appears we have a good water source. The water system will be housed in the rectory with plenty of room, so it will be secure. Pere Blaund did a strange thing in that he asked us to test a 10 guede bag of water that people purchase on the street from a plant that is supposed to be producing good water. When we returned to mass then next morning, Pere took us aside after mass and showed us the test had gone bad in less than 24 hours. This absolutely broke my heart because if the people can't trust the

water that is supposed to be purified, who can they trust.



Sunday the three of us were on our own for mass as the brothers were having a mass down at the school at 11a, but none of us wanted to sit through a couple of hours in the heat of the day so we were on the road at 6a back to Dufort. We actually found the church in the dark which means we had to pick the correct dirt roads. After mass we returned to the monastery where we spent the remainder of the day helping Fre Olizard write three proposals that the Austrians wanted to fund. Chuck being the old school teacher did the drawings and I worked the numbers. At the end of the day Fre O was pleased with the combined effort.



Monday we left the monastery at 5a giving Fre O a last hug and made our way to Carrefour where we picked up Ancy. He delivered us at the airport where Chuck, Kathy and I hugged and parted as Chuck was going home through Miami and Kathy and I through Ft. Lauderdale. The journey home was blessed with good weather, on time flights and all our bags showing up.

We came home with two solid sites to install the next water systems and the renewal of our partnership with Petite Freres St. Therese as solid as ever. We feel comfortable with the steps taken to get the NDC building project under way and especially comfortable to know that we have a knowledgeable and trusted individual to oversee the effort. We are seeing a state of normalcy return to Haiti and even a further interest (albeit it slight) in the new government wanting to manage their own destiny. Jobs are still rare, but because of the building and some government programs more are available than a couple of years ago. The key to all of this of course is helping the Haitians learn to fish and not just provide them with fish.