

Haiti Mission Report June 5-12, 2014

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June 5 – Travel in was pretty uneventful. It's a beautiful day for flying! Julie and I started from Huntsville, Amber from Savannah and met us in Charlotte, Renee from Pittsburg and Jon and Tina from Atlanta direct to PAP. Jon and Tina arrived first, the three of us about 40 minutes later and Renee 45 min after that. All the luggage arrived and we escaped the customs house. God is good. Ralph is awaiting us in our newly purchased 2002 Land Cruiser and we are off to the monastery arriving about 6:30p to Fre Olizard's smiling face and a great diner with the brothers. We have been assigned the guest house which is very nice with 4 rooms, solar power for cell phones all night long, showers and lights without the generator running. We get ourselves unpacked as best we can to get ready for the next several days at NDC.



June 6 – 9: During these days we devoted our time to the orphanage executing several projects. There was a severe epidemic of Chickimuga in Haiti and we brought in a lot of medicine to cure the disease and other goods to keep the mosquitos away. Several of the kids had it as well as Eliane. The disease literally crippled her for a couple of days. The 600mg of Acetaminophen in Nyquil seemed to cure it pretty quickly. So we brought down about a gallon of Nyquil between us and another gallon of DEET to protect ourselves. Long sleeves and DEET saved the team and the awful smelly garlic receipt we brought down seemed to keep the other mosquitos at bay to some extent. The biggest problem to solve through was protecting the kids when they are sleeping. The building is totally open air with no screens so the plan was to cover all the beds with mosquito net. Good plan but it didn't work because the ceiling hanging nets were too narrow to go over a whole bunk bed. After much discussion the ladies came up with a very clever plan. Cut up the mosquito netting and place it over the windows and make a special covering in the entrance way. Amber has written a very detail description of this in her report which you can read in her [Haiti Again](#) report.

Another goal was to further work with the teachers to understand how we can help them learn English so they in turn can teach the kids. We quickly learned from the past three trips that while it was fun to teach the kids a few words, we were just not there long enough to make a dent, let alone reinforce the language. Much discussion went on during our days there and Julie and Amber had done a lot of homework to find out what they thought would work. They had found a course called Pinselur which as it turns out uses techniques identical to Haitian teaching methods. The teachers were thrilled, but discussion among ourselves told us English is a very difficult language and very hard to learn without a Creole to English manual which we did not have. Bertone gave us the answer toward the end of our stay with a 'learning to speak English' course he was taking in Leogane using a book called [Side by Side](#) and taught every week. We are now sending 4 people through this course in Leogane and will see how it is working when go back in Nov.



Julie also had worked her heart out to teach the kids how to make ice cream. She actually brought in a hand cranked maker, and the ingredients we did not think we could get in Haiti. We were supposed to do this for only or two classes and then share the results with the others. The principle Lucson had other ideas though and they had 80 kids in the room that day. The project was not without great frustration beginning with finding some of the ingredients or enough of the ingredients. We purchased all the canned cream called Bongo that was available in Leogane and then we only had enough for about half batch. But Julie stuck to her guns and by the end of the day they didn't just have ice cream, but they had chocolate shell and sprinkles to put on the ice cream. The kids were thrilled!!! And it was just like the 5 fish and 2 loaves, there was enough ice cream to go around, but God mercifully spared the extra in our story because there was no long term refrigeration. It was extraordinarily good though and all the ingredients were local except the rock salt.

There were several other small things we did to try to get the orphanage in a more livable condition, but the main project was building a fire escape off one end of the second floor. One of our team, Renee Corbett is a junior at University of Pittsburg majoring in Civil Engineering. It turns out Pitt was offering a scholarship to go help in a 3rd world country, so Renee applied and received the grant. Engineers get a lot of math and reading but not much practical work, so I handed the fire escape project over to Renee to run. She asked a lot of questions and did a pretty good job considering she had never built a sawhorse let alone a project like this. (Yes, I had a backup plan that we used on occasion). All the



lumber was purchased locally which allowed me to open up a charge account with Discipline. Not a big deal in the US but it is in Haiti which is mainly cash and carry it has opened a whole new avenue of commerce for us. So while the ladies were working the miracle of engineering mosquito netting on the inside, Jon, Renee and I were working outside, in the sun, in long sleeves...you get the picture. I won't bore you with the detail, but will tell you it came out great! I will tell you I missed my nail gun, but thankfully Fre Olizard had a circular saw which we could not have done without.



We also installed the stained glass window of Mary that Kathy had made and presented to Eliane in February. This was to go in the chapel which required us to knock a hole in the wall. Everyone got a turn and I have never seen women have so much fun taking their frustration out on concrete. There are some good videos of this on the website at.....

June 9 – It was a sad time because Tina and Jon had to leave to get back to the real world. We hugged and cried when Ralph came and got them mid-day to go to the airport. They promised to return and

they are doing so in Nov. Back to finishing the fire escape and mosquito netting and some afternoon market shopping.



June 10 – I am always trying to find economic islands of opportunity in Haiti that we can turn into a business that will make someone else less dependent on others. I thought I had a great one – biodiesel fuel. For a couple of years I had been reading about the Jataropa seed in India that was heavily used for biodiesel and on the Jan trip I learned it was called Menseul and grew wild in Haiti. I brought back a sample, had it tested at the University of MS and found the quality to be very good. I put out some feelers on the internet and got a hit from a company in Indianapolis. All we had to do is get the oil of the seed into the US at \$1.50 a gallon. So on this day Bertone and Fre Jonas had set up a meeting with some farmers in the Café Lompre area so we could get as much information as possible on quantity, price, delivery, etc. About half way through the meeting with about 30 farmers attending, I began to get an inkling that this was not going to work because the price they wanted for the seed was way too high; about ten times too high. None the less I followed this through with Bertone and Fre Jonas afterward and then took a trip to Indianapolis to meet with the company to see if there wasn't something we had missed. But there wasn't. The project died a natural death before it began because it was not economically feasible.



June 11 - We had some final work to do at the orphanage plus some other odds and ends around Leogane so spent this day cleaning up and saying good bye to the kids which is a two hour process all by itself. The greatest thing that happened this day was the conversation we had with Bertone when he showed Julie and Amber his learning to speak English class material. We knew this was the answer because there was a person there to do the actual teaching. It is true that it had to be carefully explained to the teachers which took place over the next couple of months, but the class has now begun and I am anxious to see how it is working for those involved. The evening after dinner was one of packing suitcases inside of suitcases and getting ready to go home early in the morning.

June 12 – Left the monastery at 5a in the morning in pitch black, but by the time we get through Leogane, the sun is slowly rising on a new day. We are all sad to leave because of the love the people you can't help but come away with on one of these trips and for what this country have given us, but we know we will be back. Haiti has just become a part of us.

Bob McCoy – HSHM Team Lead

