

Haiti Mission Trip Report March 2011

On March 7 Ashley Broadhurst of Las Vegas, NV, Chuck Arnold of Erie, PA and I left for Port au Prince (PAP), Haiti with the intent to install five water purification systems in 17 days within a 30 mile radius of the Palmiste au Vin monastery located in the mountains above Leogane. We were all experienced at installing Living Waters for the World (LWW) water purification systems in Haiti and as it turned out very compatible with each other. We picked up two Haitians, Bertone Kercelin and Ellie Delance and for part



of the time were blessed with Ancy Fils-Amie. These men were also experienced with other installations so we all knew what needed to be done.

The adventure began in Nov 2010 after a Living Waters for the World (LWW) Field Ops meeting in Nashville when Jerry set the goal for Haiti of 11 in '11. I thought he had gone off his rocker. We'd be lucky to get in 6 units. Shortly thereafter, the Holy Spirit began working on me and the seed was borne at first to do 10, but after discussing with Fre Olizard, 5 seemed far more practical. By December we had funding secured from grants through LWW and then through God's Grace, FedEx stepped up to the plate in Jan 2011 and shipped 950lbs of gear on one pallet to PAP at no charge. Chuck and Ashley had volunteered in Dec, so we had all the ingredients in place. The goal of the trip was to install 5 water purification systems in 14 working days. Sundays were off days and two more days were set aside for oversight reasons. That left us 2 days to build all five systems and 2 days per installation – 1 day to

install the board and plumb the tank(s) and the second to do community health and operator training. In Haiti you always have to plan on contingencies. As it turns out we used one of the oversight days to go to Blanket which was NE of PAP so Ashley could visit with one of systems she installed in January. This had to be done before the Haitian Presidential elections on Sunday, Mar 20th as we wanted to be nowhere near PAP, let alone have to go through it, in or around it at this time.

Mon - Mar 7 – travel day. The three of us met up in Miami. God blessed us with all of our bags arriving and other than the fact my Haiti phone was not working properly, we found Fre Olizard without a hitch. We were in the monastery by 7:30 that evening to a great homecoming with the Little Brothers.



Tue/Wed –Mar 8/9 – We spent these two days assembling 5 systems on the boards and building the ozone churns. We organized parts and boxes and got everything ready for the first install on Thursday. We anticipated building 3 systems the first day and 2 the next, but mass production went so well once we figured out a good system, we built 4 the first day and the 5th one the next. This gave us a little extra time on Wed which was a good thing as it was Ash Wednesday and we spent part of the afternoon and evening in DuFort at mass.



Thursday- We set out for the Spritian Sisters monastery in Lavoute which is about 15 miles to the ENE of Jacmel, but with the road as it was, it took us an hour just to travel the 8 miles from the highway into the mountains. We had left Palmiste au Vin at 5:30a, and arrived about 7:30a, so we got settled in, got the introductions over with and went to work. The first thing we noticed was that the sister's water tank which was to be our source of water was only 200 gallons and since we use 300 or 600 gallon tanks it was obvious this would not work. We sent Ancy and Ashley into Jacmel (an hour trip each way that was further exuberated by the market in Lavoute which completely clogged the street for 30 more minutes). By noon the board was mounted and one tank plumbed. We put a well pump in their reservoir to fill the source tank so we would not have any effect on their existing system. Elie came up with a great way to break the concrete around the reservoir door so we could put the pipes into the reservoir and not have to modify their steel door. About 2p Ashley and Ancy showed up full of tales of the trials of purchasing one tank, a few pieces of PVC and 5 gallons of gasoline for the generator. Five hours to do this task, half of which was travel gives you an idea of how difficult life can be in Haiti. There are no Wal-Marts or Home Depots. You have to know who POSSIBLY might have the product and end up going several places until you find it. The second tank was installed and the rest of the plumbing finished. About 5p we fired up the generator to test the electrical only to find we had voltage to the unit sometimes and other times not. This problem was not solved until the next morning (and I didn't sleep well thinking about it) when Elie discovered a piece of insulation that had not been stripped cleanly on a jumper wire on the main terminal had lodged itself under the terminal screw. It



was past dark by the time we finished, so we left the shocking of the tank and electrical to the next day along with some final testing. The sisters had fixed us a wonderful meal that evening and we spent a lot of time discussing the covenant relationship and answering questions the sisters had regarding their pending water system. The guys retired to a tent outside the monastery which the sisters had fixed up very nicely with mattresses, sheets and blankets (yes it was chilly in the evening) since they did not have room in the monastery for us. Ashley on the other hand, being a woman was escorted to the queen's bedroom.



Friday Mar 11– Lavoute had a very nice church and a wonderful priest, so several of us walked to mass that morning with the sisters. They had beautiful paintings of the stations of the cross. I walked the stations before the service and was rewarded by the 15th station of the resurrection which I had never seen before. Right after breakfast, Ashley and Ancy began the day doing community health training on how to use clean water to about 30

people. It was a very spirited class with lots of enthusiasm. These two are a dynamic duo with Ashley bubbling over with her enthusiasm of teaching and Ancy translating in Creole with an equal amount of enthusiasm. It gave me goose bumps just watching these two and how wonderfully they affected their audience. During this period we finished the final testing and shocking of the system. Ashley and Ancy went on later in the morning to teach the young kids in the school about clean water and they really 'got it'. About 10a Bertone began training the operators which is about a 3 hour process. He is very thorough and a great teacher. We finally finished and ate lunch about 1:30. Our final act was to gather in prayer around the system and then turn over the system to the sisters after each of us had signed the board. By 3p we were saying our goodbyes to the sisters to hopefully get back to the LBST monastery before dark. One down – four to go.



Saturday Mar 12– The next unit to be installed was at the St. Anthony Sisters in Fondwa. Actually we went to Fondwa, turned left and went down into a valley and up to another peak about two miles away. You don't want to go more than 10 feet right or left on this road as the drop offs are easily 45 degrees. The scenery is beautiful in these mountains but how people farm this land is beyond me, but they do. We arrived about 8a and were

immediately ushered into breakfast (didn't matter that we has already eaten). They had a very nice building set up for the installation with the tank being on the second floor in a room which was a little unusual as most installations have the tank on the roof. Keeping it in a room keeps the sun off the tank which mean bacteria



grows more slowly and that is always a plus. They had the water feed running in, so all we had to do mount the board, hook up the tank and we would be good to go. On this installation, Bertone and Ellie had been with us since Tuesday, so they began to take over. There are always other Haitians hanging around and it was they who solicited others to glue the pipe, cut holes in the wall, run electricity, etc. There was one Haitian by the name of Lionel (who we nicknamed 'Trainman') who was an enthusiastic worker and would come to bear on our installation later in the day. Having Bertone and Ellie take over was a great thing because one of the reasons we are there is to teach and when the students take over on their own, you know their confidence level is high. All went well up to about noon when we test out the electricity. We started the generator and no juice at the board. We quickly found the circuit breaker on the generator was tripping which means a short somewhere. We continued to isolate components but the breaker kept tripping. Eventually we figured out that there was an internal problem with the ground in the generator and as long as we left the ground unattached, all worked well. This is not the recommended solution, but when you have no other generator; you work around the problem the best you can. I did test to make sure there was no floating ground so no one would get shocked. After lunch we finished the rest of the plumbing and by 3p| were ready to put water into the system and shock the tank. So we went to the main valve and turned it on and guess what? No water! We had been assured that there was plenty of water at this facility. They had a pumping facility in the Fondwa valley that pumped the water to reservoirs so everyone had water that needed it. I went to Sister Carmelle and she passed me onto Father Phillippe who spoke perfect English and he was at a loss also. So he calls Lionel into the discussion who as it turns out is responsible for managing all the water in the valley. The story I get at this time is that people in the other part of the valley are using the water and it is not available to this part of the valley right now. I didn't buy it. Then they tried to steer me to some other possible water source which I didn't buy either. I was working very hard not to be an ugly American, but knew I was not getting the truth either. I told him I had no choice but to remove the system if we did not have a reliable water source. That seemed to get his attention, but no viable answers. I then called Fre Olizard for his guidance as this was strictly a Haitian deal beyond my understanding. He and Father Phillippe spoke on the phone and Olizard asked me to wait until Monday before I take the system out. Father Phillippe and I agreed that if he had a full tank of water waiting for us when we came back on Monday, we would leave the system in place. Sister Carmelle was very apologetic and almost in tears seeing her water system almost evaporate. That part really broke my heart but I knew I had to stand firm on this issue. Something was very amiss here. That evening after dinner I spoke with Olizard and got the real story. It turns out that Lionel who controls the water in the valley thought he was going to get paid to install and run the water system. The sisters had other plans which did not include him and since Lionel borders on abrasive and unpredictable, I can understand why. Lionel therefore was jealous and his pride went before him. He just would not turn on the water that day. This all made sense now as I thought back through the day. I am glad I left it to Father Phillippe and Sister Carmelle to work out. Always trust your in-country hosts in matters like this.





Sunday Mar 13 – We were invited to attend mass at St. Peter and St. Paul church about 4 miles from the monastery. This is a church that Fre Olizard was asked to minister to once a month since they have no priest right now. It is a very warm community and they think the world of Fre Olizard so it was a pleasure to meet with these people. The church after the earthquake is blue tarps, poles and a frail wooden structure, but the community is very supportive and anxious to do whatever they can to build a new church. After lunch at the

monastery I had a meeting with the newly formed St. Vincent de Paul Conference at St. Michael's church in Leogane. Garry Joseph came to the US in Sept 2010 to receive training on SVdP and setting up a new conference. He has done a wonderful job getting this group of young people together. There was a lot of discussion about their plans to help bring food to those in need, visit the sick in the hospital and minister to those in jail. I was moved close to tears listening to some of their stories and knew that our investment in this group was clearly the right thing to have done. After a group picture we said our goodbyes to Pere Jasman, Garry and the group. Please keep them all in your prayers.



Monday Mar 14– In light of the situation that we left in Fondwa, and in agreement with Fre Olizard, we decided to shift the next two days to install the system in Café Lompre and then finish up Fondwa on Wednesday. Once again we start out at 5:30a to get to Café Lompre by 7:30a. The roads are steep and



the drop off is not for the weak of heart, but the scenery is absolutely spectacular. Café Lompre is a town in the mountains west of Touin that has a Little Brothers of St. Therese monastery. For such a remote place, it is quite a thriving community and the LBST have a large scale production cabinet shop that I drooled over. They make doors, coffins, bee hives and anything else out of wood there. I saw no less than 10 skilled people working and wondered why other parts of Haiti couldn't follow this model. This is the original LBST

community. To get water up to this place they have engineered pumps to take it from the bottom of the valley about 2500 feet down and pump it up into three different reservoirs to get it to the plateau. There is even a cable car going down to one pump. All of this was engineered by a group in Luxemburg years ago. One of the pumps was out and they had just gotten clearance from customs in PAP, but it would be another week or more before it would be working again so we had to haul the water we needed by hand; something I have plenty of practice doing in Palmiste au Vin. The morning went by as scheduled. The board was mounted and the tank was placed on the second floor (also under a roof). We finished up the plumbing and went to hook up the electrical only to find they had lots of electricity, but it was all 220VAC on a European genset which means there was no neutral leg to tap off 120VAC, so we used a



gasoline generator temporarily. The LBST will get a transformer to put 120VAC in the room. The lesson here is that it is not enough to know you have electricity; you have to know specifically what the voltage is and measure it. In the afternoon we filled up the tank with about 30 gallons of water to test it for leaks and found the trash filter head was leaking. This was the second one of these in the last two trips that has leaked on . I do tend to tighten fittings pretty solid because there is nothing more frustrating that a leaking fitting that is not easily removed. We sent Elie to Palmiste au Vin on a motorcycle to get another head. When he returned and put that head in we discovered it had a crack also. We decided to bypass the trash filter as a temporary measure for a couple of reasons. 1) they wouldn't have full water for a couple of weeks, 2) even if they did, it comes such a long distance from the source and is already filtered to some extent I didn't think we would put much load on the big blues and 3) I had great hopes of finding some epoxy and fixing the heads. Ultimately both heads were repaired with epoxy.



Tuesday Mar 15 – Back up and out the door by 6a to Café Lompre for day two. Ashley and Ancy began



the training session with two classes of the students that were attending a technical school there and then went on to teach some of the younger kids in a school nearby about using clean water. I think they taught close to 150 kids before the morning was out. There was never a dull moment with this team and since LBST made coffins at this cabinet shop Chuck went in for a quick fitting. Now it was Bertone's turn to train the operators and so for the next 3 hours some of us took a break. Lunch about 1:30 and we had a great

conversation with the brothers who had numerous questions. Afterward we went back to our payer and signing ceremony and turned the system over to Fre Rosenord. By 4p we were saying goodbye to the brothers to return to PAV. Two down – three to go.

Wednesday Mar 16 – Back to Sister Carmelle in Fondwa and we



were very glad to see a full tank of water right where Pere Phillippe said it would be. Lionel was there with all smiles, but now that we knew the source of the problem we were very cautious about how we acted around him. The board tested perfectly with

no leaks. Ashley and Ancy were scheduled to do health education in a school in the next valley. They elected to walk but given hindsight it was a brutal hike and they wished they'd taken the truck. We are so spoiled. That morning they trained 200 kids, about 50 per class and Ashley was beat especially after the walk back to the sisters. Bertone began his training in the afternoon



and trained 10 sisters. Religious are generally quiet and reserved, but Bertone expected feedback and you have to prove to him you understand how the water flows and what valves do what. They had a great time once they got into it. By 4p we had all gathered in prayer, signed the board and drank clean water laughing with each other and forgetting the trauma we had left on Saturday. Back to the monastery just before dark. Three down – two to go.

Thursday Mar 17 – This the day we had allocated to Ashley to visit the installation in Blanket which is about a 4 hour drive from Leogane through PAP, so we were on the road by 6a. We made one stop



close to the airport where we went into a supermarket, something I had not seen or been in before in Haiti. According to Ancy it was fairly new and was about a quarter the size of a Kroger or Publix. It had many of the same shelf items we are used to including a pharmacy, just on a smaller scale. Ashley can't go anywhere without chocolate, so some was purchased. The visit to the Baptist school in Blanket was a great experience. The team in Jan had done a stellar job installing this solar system of which the school

was very proud and was doing a good job of taking care of. The school had very limited resources and we were told ahead of time there would be no lunch. So we struck out to head home just before noon. Ancy had been with us off and on now for the past 8 days and he had to leave us on this day. So we dropped him off at his home in Carrefour which is just past PAP on the west side. He had been doing most of the driving, so now it was my turn. We did have to stop in Signau to get some ice cream (only place I know that sells it), bid Valdes who had gone with us that day farewell in Leogane and



headed back up to PAV.



Friday Mar 18 – Our next system was for Sister Edna whose order is Companions of Jesus. This was one of three monasteries in the Leogane area. Going on their property is like going to another place. Everything is painted and immaculate. The flowers are beautiful and shrubbery is always

trimmed. At this house they care for physically and mentally disabled patients and have a school of about 100 children. It's just like a resort. Sister Edna is a closet Type A personality who is one of the sweetest people in the world, but runs at least 8 projects at once. I marveled at how she kept things hopping while we were there. By now we were getting pretty good at this routine. We discussed some



logistics of water delivery with sister and then began the installation. In this case we had to tap into a water source coming out of a well and up to a tank on a tower about 20 feet in the air. No matter how you do it someone is going to get wet when you cut the line going up to the tank, so I volunteered Chuck

to get wet. Once we had that teed off to our source tank on the roof we installed a couple of valves so the well pump would either fill the source tank for the system we were installing or their big tank on the tower, thus leaving the original water system untouched. While Bertone and Ellie were busy putting up the board, I checked out the electricity and found lots of 220VAC power but no 120VAC. The good news was that their generator had a neutral leg on it. The bad news is that it was 500 feet away and we did not have that much extra wire let alone anything heavy enough to go that distance. We were blessed to find a 500' spool of #10 in Leogane after lunch. It took us about 3 hours to run and bury the wire and 3 feet short of the termination point we ran out. I spliced a couple of pieces of #12 together to make up the last 3'. We were real happy to see 120VAC register on the meter. Since Ancy was no longer with us, Bertone was assigned to Ashley to translate the community health training and since he wasn't going to be us Saturday morning, we moved that part up to today, so they trained about 50 students and sisters in the use of clean water. By 4p we were done with the installation and pressure testing and left to finish tomorrow.

Saturday Mar 19 – We spent the morning checking out the system and fixing up some loose ends until Bertone could join us after lunch



to do the operator training. He called about noon for me to come pick him up at the central tap-tap location in Leogane which was about a 10 min trip from where we were – except when they are burning tires in the middle of the road. For the first time we have

no Haitians with us in the truck as Ellie stayed at the monastery. We were lucky and were able to take a bypass road and then I cut down another road which would have put us out right where Bertone was only to find them burning tires there also. Remember, the elections are tomorrow. I immediately did a U-turn and go the long way around. We finally meet up with Bertone who takes us through another back road way to avoid any other trouble. Bertone conducted the operator training with his usual professional manner. We conducted our prayer service, signed the board and turned over the system to Sister Edna and were ready to leave by 5p. We determined that if there was trouble in Leogane we could at least come back and take refuge with Sister Edna until it blew over, but fortunately the Haitian police took care of the matter and our ride back to PAV in the mountains was peaceful. Four down and one to go.



Sunday Mar 20 – A day of going to mass and resting. I am very nervous about this day. Fre Olizard has given me a chance to address the Palmiste au Vin community after mass which is the community Holy Spirit and so many involved with our mission have helped out on this past year since the earthquake. For those of you who know me, you know that I am not shy about speaking in front of people, however this time I had to do it in Creole. I had prepared a talk and Sister Caroline had translated it for me into Creole. Easy enough – just read it. Pronunciation of a foreign language is very different when you are

working hard to make sure you can be understood. I know enough Creole to get by, but this was serious and I had been practicing for days. The day before while Bertone was training the operators, Ellie was coaching me on my pronunciation. I pulled it off and all said it was well received and people understood. I was not so sure. At lunch in the monastery we were part of a special celebration – Fre



Daniel's birthday. The day before we found a cake and two quarts of ice cream for the celebration. That morning Fre Alabrae and I took the truck to one of the sister's houses who had made a huge cake for Daniel. Daniel is the headmaster of the school at the monastery, so several of the teachers showed up along with all the brothers. Fre Olizard bought some champagne and we had a grand celebration. It was true fun and I could not help but remember back a little more than a year ago when Chris and I were camped in a tent where the

building we were now in was not standing yet and the earth was still shaking. God has been very good to this community. That afternoon we made a quick trip to Fondwa to finish some loose ends and then went to the community where Fre Olizard has his church to do some measurements. He wants to build a foundation, an altar wall, some pillars and a roof and the community will finish the rest. Our neighbors Jon and Mary Scott Shultz are in the process of making up the drawings as I write this report, so you will see them soon. We estimate this project will cost about \$10K but it will be a good investment in perpetuating the Catholic faith in Haiti especially in a community that is really trying to take care of themselves. Ashley stayed home this day as she had homework due the next day for her on line class in Theology and her prof was giving her no slack. Chuck and I finished the day in leisure working on the estimates for St. Peter and St. Paul church as the sun set on the close of our 2nd week in Haiti.



Monday Mar 21 – The last system to go in was at St. Charles Clinic which is ¼ mile down the road from the monastery. This is the clinic where Holy Spirit has been funding a doctor for several years and where the original medical missions that John Wolfsberger led did their early work in 1999 and 2000. The earthquake destroyed the clinic for the most part, but through the generosity of the Diocese of

Erie and Holy Spirit, Fre Olizard has resurrected a wonderful new clinic structure. He had build a special building on the side of the clinic for people to come get the water. The water source is rain, so we had to install a reservoir (which thankfully was not destroyed during the earthquake) pump and two tanks. In addition, we had to run water into the clinic for their use also. Simple enough, but our last system proved to be the most challenging. The usual crew attached the board to the wall and plumbing for the tanks began. A couple of us worked on the well pump and then on getting electricity from the generator to the board. Olizard had preserved some wires in the concrete when he tore down the other building, and these proved to be exactly what we needed; and finally 220VAC with a neutral leg! The rest of the day went fairly well. There was a very precarious ledge that we had to run one water line over which I did a good bit of praying over that no one would get hurt. Because we had so much additional pipe to run, we did not finish the install that evening, but knew we had tomorrow, so retired to the monastery about 5p.

Tuesday Mar 22 – We're feeling like short timers now. We know we have only 4 days between us and the airport, so the mood is a little lighter. Yesterday was a tough day as there was a lot of wiring and a lot of plumbing, more so than normal. We arrive on site about 8:30, finish up some last minute plumbing, check some wiring and get ready to put water in the tank. We open the valve and for the first time we have leaks – major leaks, one at the trash filter head, one at a union and one at the water meter. The union was resolved quickly when tightening didn't work opening it up showed a missing o'ring. The trash filter didn't surprise



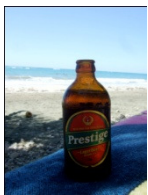
me as it was one of the two that we had repaired with epoxy. It gave me a chance to demonstrate the use of epoxy to the Haitians. 30 minutes later that was fixed. The water meter turned out to be more troublesome. We were missing a rubber gasket in the brass connector (which we found the next day), but to improvise we went to Dufort to the tire changing place and for 10 goudes (which turned out to be 20 goudes because his buddy wanted money also - \$.50) we bought a piece of inner tube and made a gasket. Then the PVC wouldn't fit correctly, so though God's Grace I had purchased an extra 1" female adapter the day before and used it to replace the brass connector on the water meter with it and all was well. When it can time to shock the tank we had to go back to Dufort to buy a clean mop (hand made by Haitians of course). By 2p we finally got it all running properly, tested and shocked. We got Olizard and the brothers together, gave thanks to the Lord for this gift, signed the board together and turned number 5 over to the LBST and the St. Charles Clinic. Ironically, this is the spot we put the very first system in 2005. The next year it was moved to the monastery because of lack of use. It seems we have come full circle and with the new clinic and the potential of a well being dug very close by, I am confident that this will be a well used water system. We had done what we came to do – 5 for 5! The team had a special feeling of accomplishment that day. We spent the rest of the afternoon cleaning out the truck, consolidating and putting the spares in the warehouse. We cleaned up the warehouse and left everything well organized and in as many plastic bins as we had available. In the next two months or so, the warehouse will be moved to the St. Charles clinic where we will have more room, a lot more shelf space and a lot more spare parts thanks to a grant from LWW and the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Foundation.



Wednesday Mar 23 – This day we had dedicated to Notre Dame de la Charite (NDC) orphanage. We had to do some maintenance on the solar system, fix an electrical problem, check out a corrupt ozinator and most of all visit with Eliane about her plans. School was in when we arrived, so we tried not to disrupt the kids and



when right to work. At recess though, we got the customary kiss on the cheek which is just one of the many things Eliane has done to teach these children good manners and respect for others. Ellie investigated the wiring issues they had and found two bad switches, so their lights are working again. We got all the solar stuff working again and I was rewarded with finally being able to see the batteries at 97% fully charged when I left later that night. Eliane and I spoke for quite a while about the future of the orphanage, what the next project was and how we can work toward getting Guevins adopted by a couple in the US. In the afternoon we went to Sister Edna's to tidying up a couple of loose ends and then back to the monastery to get a spare ozinator since NDC's quite working. Bertone and I got back to the monastery just before dark after installing the spare ozinator at NDC. We said our good-byes to Ellie as we would not see him again and already I began to feel the pangs of separation from people who had become very tight knit for the past couple of weeks.



Thursday Mar 24 – Since we had one extra day left Fre Olizard had asked us to start building a goat motel for his new goat population, but he informed us the night before that he didn't have all the materials in place yet, so we decided to go to Jamel and check out a couple of the water systems and then go sit on the beach for a while. Bertone went with us as our guide. Bertone kept telling us about the great beaches in Caye Jamel, the same one Olizard has promised to show me for the past 5 years, so I was skeptical. We stopped to check out the Catholic Formation water system and a new system we had added to the list which is Trinity House. It turned out Trinity House was not as easy to find as we thought and so we called Melchi who ran the orphanage and school and he told us to stay where we were. About 5 minutes later this guy comes up on a dirt bike with arms as big as my neck and I thought for a moment – what's this all about? Turns out to be Melchi of whom none of had met who spoke perfect English and drove far faster on the motorcycle than the truck would ever allow. We had a good visit with Melchi and their system did need some work. Bertone made arrangements to fix a few things on his next months visit. Melchi told us how to get back to the highway, so we set out only to get lost again, but Melchi turns up out of nowhere to guide us out. God was certainly watching out for his sheep that day. We went east on the road from Jacmel to arrive in Caye Jacmel 20 minutes later and it was as advertised – beautiful. Palm trees, white sandy beach, crystal clear blue water all that you would expect a Caribbean island to be. We hadn't pulled the truck under a palm tree more than 3 minutes and we are approached by a drink vendor. Yes mam, we'd love a Prestige beer. For the next two hours we sat under the palm trees, wading in the water, and just relaxing. I had not realized how wound up we all were until we got a chance to unwind in this most beautiful of places. We left our paradise to go to lunch at the Hotel Lamandau in Jacmel with is an adventure to another country. This was the most pristine facility I have ever seen and not an inch that did not seem freshly painted. We overlooked Jacmel bay eating lunch and for a while we lost touch with why we were really in Haiti. Bertone had to be back at the monastery by 3p, so we headed back from our day in the sun leaving behind some great memories of our day off. It was exactly what the doctor ordered.



Friday Mar 25 – Up at 4a to leave for the airport at 4:30a. PAP is very unpredictable and this time we were blessed with just one minor traffic snarl. We said goodbye to Fre Olizard at the monastery as Ancy

came back to take us to the airport and keep the KIA truck for the next crew coming in. We said goodbye to Ancy and then Chuck went in one door to take Insel Airlines back and Ashley and I go in the American Airlines door. Ashley gets up to the counter only to find her flights have been canceled because there was a fire in the Miami airport the day before. AA finally puts her on my flight to FTL and she will fly standby to get to Dallas and then Las Vegas. As it turns out Mother Mary was watching over her as she made it back to Vegas before midnight. However, I am in a panic now because I don't know if Chuck's flight has been canceled for the same reason and he has no cell phone and if he had to stay in PAP, I wanted to make sure he was looked after by one of the brothers. So I called Kathy to ask her to check Insel Airlines not realizing it was 7:45 in Huntsville and she was in mass. Didn't matter, her phone rang anyway. She always has it off in mass and today was no exception. She hung up the first time and Father Jerabek was less than happy when it rang again 30 seconds later. It turns out Divine intervention was still playing a role in this trip because her phone button was off but the phone was broken. No silent mode. Kathy quickly determined that Insel was flying and that the problem was in the AA terminal, so I knew Chuck would be OK. He didn't get into Buffalo until after midnight though which is another story. Thus our adventure comes to an end when I saw Kathy's warm smile awaiting me at 11p in Huntsville.

Some lessons learned:

1. Always expect the unexpected
2. Make sure you know what kind of electricity you really have
3. Check your water sources and make sure there are no politics tied to them
4. You always need more 1"els and adapters than you have
5. Make fast dry epoxy part of your standard tool kit
6. The religious are good places to put systems because they are very responsible
7. Good Haitians are invaluable – treat them well
8. Look for economic islands of opportunity and share what you think the benefits might be with your hosts. You come from a country that has exponentially more than they do, so what you may think is common knowledge may be the next big opportunity for them
9. Trust your in country hosts always on cultural and political matters.

Thank you Fre Olizard and all the Petit Fre of St Therese for making this trip not only possible, but a warm and wonderful adventure. Ke poze.