

**Holy Spirit Haiti Mission Trip to Port au Prince (PAP), Carefoure and Leogane areas Oct 23-Nov1, 2017. Team was Vivian Reiss and Kelly Hall who worked the NDC Orphanage for 4 days and Amber Kaderbek, Renee Corbett, Nic Price and Bob McCoy who installed two water purification systems over 8 days.**

Haiti day 1.5- We all began on Monday from Huntsville to Nashville. With ticket prices being half of Huntsville to PAP the hotel, gas and parking still cost far less. We were all anxious about the trip for various reasons but from my perspective as team lead I am keenly aware of the many reasons you can miss a plane or connection and the effect it has on all your plans. I had my eyes closed but sleep was elusive worrying about getting everyone on the road to the airport at 3:15. Finally I realized it was in God's hands of which I had no control so left it to Him. Didn't help going to sleep but did help at 3:15 when all were down early. Flights were good and all our luggage made it. Thank you Mary. We met Renee in Miami and then there were six. She really had to hustle because her flight was slightly delayed and there is only a 1 hr connection in MIA. We whisked through immigration in PAP and Ronel got a good tip for getting us through customs unscathed. Bertone and Fre Arie met up outside the airport and it was almost as if I hadn't left 3 mons ago. On the way to Leogane we stopped on the road overlooking the MC hospital where we would begin work tomorrow. I wanted to show Vivian and Kelly since they will not be with us. By God's providence Sister Neha, Superior of the hospital and Sister Francesco were driving by and we had the most wonderful impromptu meeting on the street. We arrive at NDC to a grand greeting of the kids and Eliane. Vivian and Kelly are home. We spend an hour or so visiting and say goodbye. Nic is really doing quite a transformation from his last trip in 2008 having only last seen the pre earthquake orphanage that was ultimately destroyed. We make it to the monastery and unload 10 bags and sort out the personal stuff and equipment. We are all dog bone tired none of whom slept much the night before. Fre O and I conduct some much needed business and then its lights out for all of us. Grace and peace.



*Nic, Bertone, Bob, Kelly, Vivian, Renee & Amber in front of NDC*

Haiti Day 2- All in all it was a good day. We got started a little late because of a stop we had to make in Leogane but the system is about 80% build. About normal for most of our systems at this time. Nic and Renee worked the inside and Amber, Bertone and I worked the outside. Not too many surprises so far. Weather is hot and hotter. Mountains at night are wonderful sleeping but Carrefour is 92 deg and no wind. Sister Neha is so nice and easy to get along with. They just got the water building finished enough that we could start work. The concrete guys were removing ceiling forms and cementing the interior wall as we pull up. Tomorrow afternoon we should get a chance to see how it all works. Grace and Peace



*Renee proud of her work the first day.*

Haiti Day 3 - We arrive at Missionaries of Charity (MC) at 9 to pick up where we left off. The goal was to get the system running today which meant that we had to finish building it. We were woefully short of PVC and over the 2 days would run almost 800' of SCH 40. Thanks be to sister she had a driver go into PAP for us to get more PVC. If I had to go it would have really put us behind. At home we just think of going down to Lewter or HD or Lowe's. Not so in Haiti. You have to know exactly who has the stuff and then fight traffic and hordes of people to there and back. Major time sink. For this system we are building two independent pieces, the LWW water board and an iron filtration system to remove the 3 PPM iron out of the well water. So by 2:30p we were ready to let water flow through the filter. We turn on the valve from the well to the filter and NADA! Having never installed one of these filters before my worst nightmare occurred. Back to the instructions and nothing obvious. So we remove the filter from the system and assure water is coming from the pump and it is. So we take the head off the filter system and take it apart. There is a check valve on the inlet side - promising! Yes it's in backwards. We reassemble everything and turn on the water again. Works like a charm so now we have an iron free source water (or so we think) for the board to purify. We turn on the board and have a couple minor leaks which quickly get fixed and we are ready to begin the shock process. Unfortunately we are out of time as we have to leave to get to NDC since Eliane is having a birthday party for 5 of the kids who had birthdays this month. So we will begin tomorrow again.

What a party that was. Eliane was in her finest and there were a number of adult guests but it was the kids who had the most fun. I had forgotten how much noise pre-teens and teens can make to popular music and dancing. So it was 9:30 by the time we got back to the monastery dead dog tired. We all crashed to begin another day tomorrow.

Haiti Day 4- Today we would finish. It started out pretty good and went downhill fast but through God's Grace it ended up great. We arrive on site at MC at 9 knowing we just have to shock the tanks and the system and purifying can begin. I did not anticipate that the source tank would have a thick layer (6") of iron in it so everything came to a halt while some of their workers did their best to clean the tank. This meant someone inside with a brush. They worked till lunch and when Bertone told me they were almost done I knew another solution needed to be found (almost in Haiti means not likely). During lunch we have the privilege of eating with Dr Mark Kelly a retired MD of internal medicine. Dr Mark comes to Haiti 3 times a year for about 3 weeks to treat malnutrition, HIV, TB and pregnancy issues associated with these diseases. He's been doing this since 1985 and is a gentle fun man with whom we had a great time. He's on his way home today as I am writing this but ironically on our trip in March earlier this year Lou, Amber and I met him on the plane back to the US. I sense we will meet him again.

It's now 1:30 in the afternoon so I go to Sister and tell her I am going to purchase another tank as we're just not going to be able to use the other one for our source water. That would take another 3 hrs but Sister told us to use the one she had by the gate which has clean water in it for the patients waiting to see the doctor. The workers started emptying the tank by turning on the faucet and let it drain in a 5 gallon bucket to which they would put in a larger bucket. There was almost 500 gal of water in the tank and I could just see our next



*Completed system with iron filter on right*

the second delivery of 15 more pieces of PVC arrive (40 stick) so we finish the second 200' run to get clean tanks by the hospital kitchen. It's hot work but it's the the tank we take a sample of the water, hold it up to the sun and it's crystal clear! Praise God, the filter is working. It's 5:15 by the time we can shock the system properly. Sisters have adoration at 6 and we have 4 hrs of training ahead so because of the complexity of this specific system I use the next hour to give the sisters an overview of all the pieces and parts. The key piece was to make sure they know how to backflush the iron out of the system daily as we would not be back until Monday and we wanted as much iron free water going to their 15000 gal reservoir as we could over the weekend. They spend \$1400/mon buying

4 hours evaporate waiting for this so Bertone and I went over and unscrewed the 1" fitting out of the tank and I held my hand over the hole to stop the water. The video shows a much livelier action which was over in 20 min. With the new



*Putting the tank on the water house roof*

tank in place all we had to do is reroute the PVC and fittings we used to go to other tank. Now we were able to take water directly from the well through the filter and get what we are calling iron free water. While the tank is filling up total at 20' per water up to the final stage. Back at

trucked in water. I think we will have eliminated that expense and the need to have pure water trucked in also (another \$800 per month). We leave the sisters at 6:30p and get back for a late 8p dinner. We're all pretty tired but the team did very well today. There was great satisfaction among all of us knowing we had made it over all the hurdles. A new adventure tomorrow. Grace and peace.

Haiti Day 5- This morning we begin helping our new LWW Haitian team install their first system as an installation partner (IP). The Little Brothers signed a covenant with LWW to be an IP which means they have to take full responsibility for purchasing and installing a pure water system. And it means that we who have been there have to sit back and let them find their own way without letting them fall off the cliff so to speak. Bertone and Ele and Fre Olizard did very well and by lunch they were almost the same place we were 3 days ago a lunch time. For some time Amber has been wanting to teach her Godchild how to swim and so we allocated Sat afternoon to take the crew to the beach. Unfortunately it is most difficult to take one and not all which Amber quickly learned but we managed to contain the trip to Abigail who is Bertone's 4 yr old niece, Mama who is Ambers Godchild and Habibi plus the team which is more than the LC normally holds. We went to Grand Goave and had a wonderful time. When I go to Haiti it is usually all work



*Plumbing in the pure water tanks Nic and Renee could do anything. up by the hospital – 100' from the They didn't teach PVC plumbing in engineering school though system*



*The ocean was like bath water and the beach was wonderful*



*A typical Sat morning in the DuFort market*

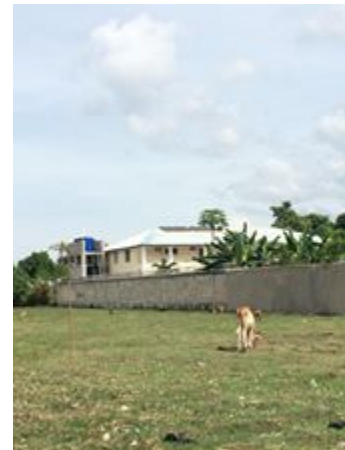
and no play so this was a little out of character for me. Amber and Renée taught the girls the precepts of swimming very well and while they weren't swimming they were floating and did feel quite

comfortable in the water. I know because they didn't want to get out. We get back at 5:30 to the monastery get a shower and celebrate mass with Pere Bleu one of my favorite priests. Then a few rounds of Uno and the crew can sleep in because there is no service Sunday am. Grace and peace and thank you for your prayers.

Haiti Day 6- NDC. What a fun day it was today! No service this morning so the millennials slept in. On the road a little after 8 headed down to NDC. Amber and Renée are having a great time playing with the girls. Nic get underway with some electrical projects and Eliane, Guerline and I spend all morning going through the new budget we have been putting together. If one is to have a sustainable project and eventually wean themselves off HSHM then you have to begin with what your income and expenses are. There were some good surprises for me as there are some new revenue streams that show some promise. We presented the budget that afternoon to the board and they were very accepting of the approach. Lunch as usual was to die for complete with birthday cake left over from the Thursday evening party. We were able to diagnose and hopefully fix an electrical problem that has been plaguing us for some time in the orphanage. Did I mention before how great it is to have 3 other very skilled engineers on board? What a wonderful idea factory!!



*These kids are always clowns for the camera*



*Looking at NDC from outside the wall facing North*

*We just wore Nic out!*

*Amber doing what she absolutely does best*



Haiti Day 7- Today was very bittersweet. We were supposed to finish training this morning and even got there 30 min earlier. Bertone was doing so well driving and herding us as he always does and then we discover a yellow color to the water in the tanks. It was crystal clear when we checked on Friday. With much head scratching and discussion and then two calls to the US we discover that the iron filter is massively undersized for the flow rate I specified so the iron does not have enough time to oxidize in the filter tank and is passing through the filter. We were supposed to leave at noon but could not until we get this resolved which probably means a much larger tank and a 2.5 times the resin. So we arrive at a solution where they can use the water purification system saving the \$200 a month in trucked in drinking water. Next week Bertone will reroute another source of water and complete the training. I will look into a larger tank and communicate with manufacturer instead of the rep to

make sure we have the correct equipment next time. We drive back not sad because we do not feel we failed. After all the pure water system works great. But I have never left Haiti and not been able to complete a job and this one will not be completed. Dinner had a special treat tonight. Richard Roy who is from Quebec went close to where we were swimming the other day and bought lobster yesterday and shared one tonight. It was very good. We are all very tired so headed on to bed. Tomorrow I have canceled one thing in priority of another to try and make up some lost time. Thank you for all your prayers. Grace and peace.



*Sister Neha with their new system*



*Bertone begins training*



*In about 15 minutes the water went from clear to yellow because the iron*



*Bob, Nic, Bertone, Renee, Amber*

Haiti Day 8- today was the antithesis of yesterday. It was truly a great time for all. Due to delays we faced all week with the other system I had to keep putting off my commitment to Fre Olizard until today. We have been building pure water systems in Haiti since 2005 and during that period the Petit Freres St Therese have always been the foundation of local support. Today was another first for us all. Up until now HSHM has always been the lead in building water systems. We fund it, bring a team in to work with the partners, train people on the running the system and using clean water and deal with follow up issues. Two months ago the PFST signed a covenant and other documentation to become the first in country organization to buy and

*Bertone, Fre Olizard and Elle admire their handiwork*



install a system. This has been a dream of mine for the past 5 years and today the system fired up.

The only difference is the roles were reversed where Bertone and Olizard were the big bosses and the team did what they told us to do. At first Bertone thought I was teasing him but quickly realized that we were not going to tell him how. Only in the event of something catastrophic would we step in. It was a great learning experience. There were things that had to be moved and there were some leaks but they learned how to deal with them. It's strange how you can work alongside someone for years and learn the trade and when you are put in charge everything looks differently. Bertone who is quite a perfectionist felt today as I did yesterday. He knew he had accomplished something really good but did not like looking back on the mistakes they made. But they all learned a lot and I am looking forward to their next system. Meanwhile it was decided early in the day there was hardly work for two of us let along four so Renee and Amber would spend the day at NDC which was only 1/2 mile from where we were working. They both had the best time and the kids loved it. I have no idea how many hair dos they each got. Tonight at dinner Richard from Quebec with whom we have become great friends did the nicest thing; he brought us a quart of ice cream. Thank you Richard!! And thank you to Renee, Amber, Vivian, Kelly and Nic for being one of the most cohesive and definitely engineering oriented ever. Tomorrow we conclude with a LWW meeting in PAP and then on to our flight. And thank you for all your prayers and well wishes. Grace and peace!!

Haiti Day 9 - Heading home. Communion service at 6 this morning and then a little breakfast and we are on the road to PAP for a meeting with the LWW Haiti In Country team. As the plane was lifting off I was reflecting on what a good trip it was and how blessed I was to have this particular group together. It's true we didn't get it all done but there will be another day. So I am closing the book on this trip and thanking everyone for their prayers. Grace and peace.



*Ancy Fils-Amie – Big Boss, Bertone –Tech, Bob, Wilner Salien Tech and Lucson Celestin Tech. Not shown are Reginald Antoine Tech and Francois Doremus Tech*

## A Last Tribute to Elle Delance



*Sadly one week after our return to the US, Bertone called me to tell me that Elle had been struck in a gas station when a van's brakes went out and killed him instantly. Elle (on the right) has a wife and 2 kids left behind. Fre Olizard used him all the time for electrical work and he and Bertone were best of friends.*

**We miss you dearly my brother Elle. May your soul and all the souls of the faithfully departed rest in peace.**