

HAITI MISSION MAY 2011

JOURNAL ENTRIES 5/18 – 5/20: THE WORK BEGINS

Wednesday, May 18, 2011 - Entry I

We left LAX for a red-eye flight to Miami. Not sure if anyone slept. In Miami, we met another aide group called "[Clowns Without Borders](#)." After a few laughs, we had a buffet breakfast, which only allowed one plate, which was no laughing matter. Later, we had devotions in the terminal at Miami International airport. Upon arrival at Port-a-Prince, we were met with Sophie and Lophane. Took a short tour of downtown Port-a-Prince, including the collapsed Royal Palace and then continued to our destination of Leogane. Due to the rain, we stopped short of our final destination, portage destreamed, we went to the hotel, had dinner and then took a hike to the adjacent beach. Given that the hotel had no internet connection, we determined that all logs would need to be sent by text message. Before we turned in for the evening, we were visited by Pastor/President Markey and Sydney Kessa of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Haiti, who thanked us for coming. ~ *David*

Wednesday, May 18, 2011 - Entry II

At 6am we had a fantastic buffet. We landed at Port-a-Prince airport at 11am, all bags arrived and 2 buses came to pick us up. While we drove through Port-a-Prince, we saw the destroyed palace- we were all overwhelmed at what the destruction caused, and then we stopped to purchase bread for lunch and dinner. On the way to the hotel, we stopped at the construction site. When we arrived in Leogane at the Sarafina hotel, we had a taste of lunch to fried rice and potato salad. We rested and then took a walk on the beach. This area was not kept up; however, the local people were ending a party that they had that day on the beach. On returning to the hotel, we showered and had dinner consisting of plantains, chicken, salad, and mangoes. President Markey Kessa and first lady Sydney joined us for dinner. ~ *Loretta*



Thursday, May 19, 2011 - Entry I

We awoke bright-eyed and bushy-tailed to a breakfast of bananas, hard-boiled eggs, toast, and cheese. After a short orientation meeting, we organized all of the materials we had brought with us into appropriate piles: Vacation Bible School, construction, crafts, etc. Later, everyone was encouraged to use the available phones to call home to let friends and family know they were alive and well. Lunch consisted of corn, fish, and bread. After, we went to the work site in Leogane. In a matter of two hours, we were able to construct one prefabricated home. This was a great immediate

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gratification by a visual demonstration that we were actually doing something for Haiti. We returned to the hotel where everyone had the privilege of showering off their Haitian hue (known as dust and dirt). Dinner consisted of beef and vegetables, rice and beans, and a birthday cake for Lophane. In the early evening, there was a heavy rain which added to the ambience as we sat for an informal Haitian history conducted by Lophane. The consumption of Prestige beer, a local Haitian delicacy, added to the ambience as well. ~ *David*

Thursday, May 19, 2011 - Entry II

Our team woke up bright and early and sat down to a breakfast of hard boiled eggs, peanut butter, bread, cherry juice, cheese and grapefruit jelly. Then we proceeded to sort and prepare our donations and supplies. The four days of vacation bible school were prepped and stored for the weekend. It was a very productive morning. At approximately 12pm we broke for lunch; it was a tasty meal of a local corn dish, chicken. Afternoon we drove to the work site and carried bricks to lay the foundations of 200 houses. We completed three-fourths of a home; tomorrow, we will come back and complete the roof. We drove back to the hotel and ate dinner at 7:30. Then we had devotions and rested. ~ *Loretta*

“I know the power and strength of the Lord and what He is able to do. I truly believe once a person can "connect" to the power of their relationship with our Father, our Brother and our Comforter and Guide, then and only then can they really understand the love and plans for this short journey called life.” ~ Rev. Dr. S T Williams, Jr.



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Friday, May 20, 2011 - Entry I

A seven o'clock breakfast consisting of spicy oatmeal, juice, bread, cheese, and mangoes prepared us for the arduous day ahead. Ellie conducted the devotions. We then proceeded to the work site where we unloaded a container of pre-fabricated homes. Then we mostly constructed a home for a local resident, whose previous abode had consisted of scrap wood and scrap steel in a home that was no more than 5' by 8'. We stopped for lunch at about 2pm after which we headed back to the hotel for some much needed showers and some "R and R". ~ *David*



Friday, May 20, 2011 - Entry II

We had a breakfast of oatmeal, peanut butter, juice, cheese and bread. Lophane will be leaving us today to join another group and celebrate his birthday; his student Inock will be taking his place. We drove to the work site and we unloaded a container of approximately 10 houses. The houses were divided up into walls and floors. It took about 10 of us to carry each piece. We worked from 10 to 11:30am. Lunch was brought to us by Sophie. It consisted of potatoes, lunch meats, mangoes, macaroni salad, and cheese. We left early because we could not refill the water bottles. We headed back to the hotel around 1pm. We returned to the hotel and rested. We had a dinner of rice and chicken. Then we had rest time and games. ~ *Loretta*

