

# HAITI MISSION MAY 2011

JOURNAL ENTRIES 5/22 – 5/25: EAT, PRAY, WORK, LOVE, TEACH...

Sunday, May 22, 2011

The day began with an early breakfast and then much attention was paid to the decoration of the facilities with coloured paper, yarn and pipe cleaners. We began our VBS at 9 am. Apparently our efforts and grass roots marketing were blessed by the Holy Spirit as approximately 151 local children visited VBS. They engaged in singing, story time, games and crafts. It also included a traditional lunch of rice, beans, and meat for all participants. All attendees were encouraged to return on Monday. After a dinner of traditional Haitian beef stew some of us watched the movie *Slumdog Millionaire*. It was especially meaningful in this environment. The day was finished off with a poor night's sleep due to high temperatures and humidity. ~ *David*



Monday, May 23, 2011

The day began purposely early. After breakfast we stopped at a local hardware store to purchase a number of hammers. Our goal was to build 2 homes; we accomplished our goal. After lunch the team prepared for VBS. Approximately 119 children attended. This was a good number of students since they came to VBS after their normal schooling. Later we debriefed on the VBS experience. We later had dinner and began to prepare for another early morning. ~ *David*

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**Tuesday, May 24, 2011**

We began again with a purposeful early start. We had a traditional Haitian breakfast of pumpkin soup. It really was quite tasty. When we arrived at the construction site we found approximately 40 locals who were interesting in helping with the building of the homes. The logistics of this arranged event were quite interesting in that yours truly, affectionately known as the cranky old white guy with no construction experience and no ability to speak creole, served as construction manager. Despite the obstacles the Holy Spirit blessed our endeavours and we mostly completed 3 homes in approximately 2 1/2 hours. After lunch we prepared for VBS, where 128 children attended after their regular school day. Today yours truly served as weather prognosticator. Once again the Holy Spirit blessed our actions and held back the torrential rain until the completion of VBS. During the VBS we noticed that adults in the adjacent villages and children at the local orphanage were engaging in a Mitch Miller type of sing-a-long to our religious songs; some were moved to dance. During the torrential rain we discovered another Haitian tradition which is standing under down spouts to take a shower, with swim trunks on. The evening was spent enjoying the torrential rain, conversation and camaraderie. ~ *David*

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Wednesday, May 25, 2011

Once again we began early. Once we reached the Lutheran village we are constructing, we engaged in the extremely arduous task of road building. This involved in moving tons of rocks by shovel, rake, wheelbarrow and bucket. The idea was to provide a solid dry surface for a living and walking as the village is constructed on farmland where it rains frequently. We close now to prepare for this afternoon's VBS. ~ *David*

