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Mission Trip Travel Journal
Saturday, 2/4/12 - by Steve Schwartz

Well, it's been quite a trip! Friday we woke up at our normal time and had breakfast (pancakes and fruit) by 5:45am. After breakfast, we split up into several teams. Half of the group went back to Miracle Village to start the process of painting the houses. The rest of us split up into multiple teams at the Love a Child headquarters. We had some people sorting and bagging rice for our planned food outreach the next day, some building shelves and finishing trim in the depot, and a couple doing various carpenter tasks around the headquarters. It was an incredibly productive morning! The painting crew primed 5 houses inside and out, and painted the outside of two. (A thank you is due here to the Vineyard family. The paint that we used to finish the houses was bought with money that came in from our Haiti offering the two weekends before we left! Thanks for those funds!) The construction and food sorting teams at LAC headquarters also finished all of their work by noon. A great job by everyone!



We had a quick lunch around noon, then about 12 of the group went back out to Miracle Village to finish painting the remaining houses and finish the trim on all of the houses. The others stayed behind to work on other odd jobs around the headquarters or just relax for a couple of hours. The entire group gathered together again around 3:30 at the last house as we finished painting it. LAC had arranged for some of the recipients of the houses we had built to be available so we could present them with their new homes. What a privilege! Clint made a small presentation to each new homeowner, and in turn they spoke a word of thanks to God and to us for their new homes. That is what makes a trip like this worth it for me. To be able to be the hands and feet of Jesus and help bring an answer to someone's prayer is awesome beyond words. It definitely made the days of working from sunup to sundown worth it!



After leaving the Village, we took a brief trip up the mountain that overlooks the village to look at the view. Wow. Haiti has some beautiful mountains, and the view from the top of one was breathtaking. We took plenty of pictures, but I know they will not do the view justice.



We loaded back into our vehicles, made a brief stop to visit the people in the village of Le Tant, then went back to LAC headquarters for dinner, showers, and then a church service starting at 7. We were joined by some LAC staff and the kids from the orphanage. The service was great - singing, music, dancing, and Clint and Josh doing a great small drama of David and Goliath. Church ended around 8:30, we had a team meeting, then crashed for the night. I know for me personally, Friday night was the most tired I have been on this trip. But there was also a sense of accomplishment, as the houses we came to build were done and given to their new owners!

Saturday started great...we didn't have breakfast until 7am! It felt great to sleep a little longer after a hard week of work. Our plan for Saturday morning was to do a food outreach in Miracle Village. The sausage, rice, and cooking oil for the outreach were also purchased with Haiti offering funds. Thanks again Vineyard for giving so generously! After buying the paint and food earlier in the week, we had about \$1,000 left to spend. Bobby from LAC presented us with three needs for that money: solar panels for the medical clinic at miracle village so the people could have access to some health care 24 hours a day, a motorcycle for a pastor who lives 10 hours into the mountains and has no means of transportation other than walking, and a generator to power the lights and sound system at the church in Miracle Village. We talked as a group on Wednesday, and decided to buy the solar panel with the funds we still had left from the offering. However, for this group of people that have given this week to serving the poor, this wasn't good enough. Among the 28 people on the trip, by Friday morning we had come up with the other \$2,000 needed to also buy the motorcycle and the generator! Incredible!



The motorcycle arrived at LAC on Friday, and the pastor had also gotten word that we had a motorcycle for him, and when we got to breakfast on Saturday morning, he was there. We had the opportunity to personally hand him his new means of transportation that will help him immensely with his ministry. He was very, very grateful.

After spending a little time with the pastor, we loaded up the trucks with food and set out for Miracle Village. We arrived at the church there (which is just a large tent) around 8:30, and the people were already gathered. After a time of prayer and singing, Clint shared a brief word and then we presented the church with the generator we had purchased earlier in the week. There was a lot of cheering! We then spent the next hour and a half



