

Haiti 2013 Mission Trip

Update 6



Some of the team getting the roof panels in place.



The team is securing the panels.



Justin D. painting one of the houses.



The ladies are helping to sort through the boxes of



The Haiti Team praying for the new homeowners of one of the homes that they built this past week.

Friday-1/25/2013

It's 4:41am and I'm waiting for the electricity for the showers to come on so that I can take my final shower here in Haiti before coming back to America, so I figured I had some time to write our last team report.

Yesterday was simply an incredible day! Since the 3 houses were finished yesterday, which was our primary purpose for coming, we decided to let the team sleep in an extra 30 minutes and moved breakfast to 6:30am. After breakfast, the ladies split off to help Daniela, one of the missionaries here, with organizing items in the warehouse. Their job was to open up dozens and dozens of boxes of donated items and sort and organize them. There were tons of shoes, sandals, and bathroom supplies and other items to be organized. They worked very hard all morning long with no complaints, even though the warehouse had rats running all over it.

The morning task for the guys was to carry the 53 foot roof panels that we had built across the driveway and

donations.



Adam singing "As For Me And My House" for the home dedication ceremony.



The new homeowners of the first home that the Haiti Team built.



The new homeowners of the second home.



The new homeowners of the

put them on the new office and storage building. This seemed like an easy task, but it was a challenge to figure out the best way to get them over there and up on the walls. We worked all morning to put them on and squared up. We then quickly sheeted the roof so that the Haitian crew could come behind us and put the metal roofing on. Our last guy climbed down at 12:05pm, just in time for lunch.

After lunch, the 3 families that will be receiving their new homes arrived at Love-A-Child. Robert and his wife, missionaries from Love-a-Child walked through the Miracle Village Home Owners Association contract that they had to sign before they could receive a home. There are rules on the contract like you can't rent out the house, you can't run a business from your home, you have to keep the house clean and also keep the community bathroom clean that you are assigned, etc... After they live in the house for 5 years, the house will be permanently theirs. Two of the families were single mothers whose husband had abandoned them and they were left to care for their children alone. The other family are the parents of one of the children of the orphanage who gave up their son many years ago so that he could get the medical attention he needed to be able to walk again. Their son was born with "club feet" and has had multiple surgeries since arriving at Love-A-Child and now he can walk. Moving the parents into Miracle Village will bring them closer to their son and bring their son closer to his parents and siblings. Adam then sang a special song for the Haitian families called "As for me and my house" that talks about dedicating our homes to God. After the families had signed the contracts we, we boarded the trucks and headed out to the homes for the house dedication ceremony. We stopped at each house one by one and proceeded to give each family our blessing and pray over the family as a team. Then we gave them their house key as they cut a ribbon stretched across the porch. It was a very moving ceremony that was repeated with much joy and excitement at each house. Because the team worked so hard this week to finalize the houses, they were in "move-in" condition and the families were allowed to move-in yet that day, that was pretty cool! One mother told me that moving into Miracle Village would give her children a better chance at life; they could

third home.



Friday night church.



Stephanie teaching a lesson on David & Goliath for the children.

now be part of the monthly food distribution program, have access to clean water, receive better schooling and have the security of living within the gated community.

After this, we went back to Love-A-Child, had dinner and set up the warehouse for church. All 75 of the orphaned children came down to the warehouse and sat intermixed with the team. They led us in worship and then Adam led them in a couple of worship songs. Next, Stephanie did a great job of teaching the bible story of David & Goliath with actors both Haitian and American, it was so funny when Aaron (Goliath) fell to the ground "slain" by one of the little guys. And seeing Justin Stevenson (one of the Israelites) run away "scared" was also priceless! Pastor Mark Ostrander, the pastor from Florida who leads the building projects at Love-a-Child, took several minutes to thank our team for the good work that they did this week. We certainly felt appreciated by the end of the evening and ended with an exciting time of worship and dancing. The children finally left and walked back up to their house while the team had our final debrief.

Overall, this was a very, very successful trip. We not only accomplished what we came here to do (build the 3 houses and give them to the new owners), but we ran electric in the new church at Miracle Village, sorted through dozens of boxes of donations in the warehouse and built a 53 foot roof and installed it on an office building at the Love-a-Child campus. The impact that we made on those 3 families was evident, but even more so is the impact that was made on our team. There were several members of our team who literally didn't know anyone at the church before they came, and now consider several of their teammates to be close friends. At the final team debrief last night, several of the team members shared how this trip has challenged them to deepen their walk with God and to better walk in community with the other members of The Vineyard Church. I love taking people on mission trips because of the incredible impact it has on the international community and also because of what it does within our hearts. Every time I go I am personally challenged to better live out our church's mission back home to Love Jesus, Grow Together and Give Back. One of our interpreters, Daniel who joined



us during our team worship and debrief, told me that he loves it when The Vineyard Church comes as we don't just build houses, we take time to grow spiritually while we are here. Thank-you to everyone who financially supported our teammates to allow them to go and make a small difference in the world, and also thanks for your prayers of protection, they could definitely be felt.

God bless!

Clint Schwartz