

Haiti 2013 Mission Trip

Update 5



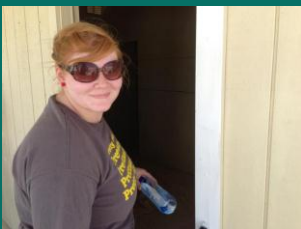
Frank getting ready to tape before they can paint the trim.



Justin S. and Mike ready to paint.



Justin D. painting one of the houses.



Tarynn getting ready to



Kelli, Julia, Gil, Tarynn and Frank playing with the little children.

Thursday-1/24/2013

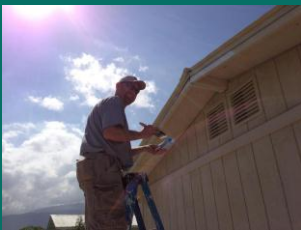
We are closing in on the end of our mission trip and today was a big test for many of us both physically and emotionally. I don't think I will get tired of waking up in morning and seeing the sun rising over the Haitian mountains. It is truly beautiful and it is a wonderful way to start off the day by experiencing the wonders of God's creation. This is quickly contrasted by the breakfast, don't get me wrong, Love A Child feeds us well and most of it is amazing, but I don't think I will ever eat another hot dog, when I get back to the States.

This was the first full day that our entire team has been healthy and was able to work, so thank you for the prayers. I know the ones who were sick greatly appreciate it. Today, our team was split up; five people were to work on the church in Miracle Village, setting up lights and running electrical throughout the building, and the rest were supposed to paint the three houses that we have spent the last two days building. The painting group was divided into two teams. One team was to paint the entire house, and the other was to

paint trim.



Mark painting trim.



Keith painting trim.



The team working hard to finish spreading the gravel.

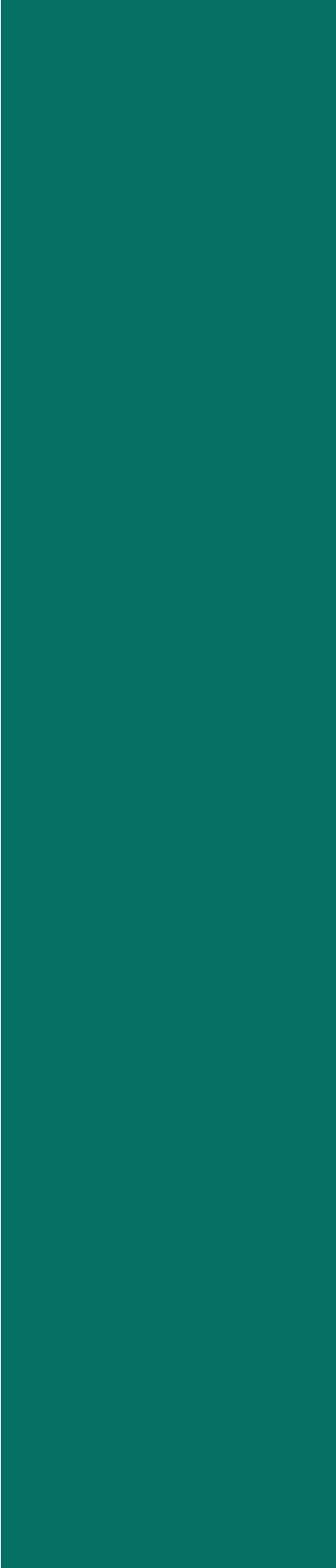
come in after the first to paint the trim, and after that the houses would be done!

The church was a real blessing to work on, because it is beautiful and quite an amazing site to see. The massive church is in the middle of Miracle Village. It is like a beacon to all those who live in and around the village. The team went to work on the building by setting up electrical outlets and on the outside they set up floodlights. They were able to finish without much trouble. The only work we have left on the church is to set up a light to illuminate the cross of the front of the building.

Meanwhile, the other teams were having a difficult time painting the houses. We first had to prep each house to be painted. This included- taping off the windows and doors, and taping plastic on the floors (as best as we could with all of the dust on the ground). This was all pretty simple compared to the hard labor we all have been doing the past few days! This is where things started getting difficult. The three man paint team started to paint the first house, but the pressure in the paint sprayers kept dying and we couldn't figure out what was causing this. It was a real test of patience, but an hour and a half later the Haitians workers beat on the compressor enough that it started to build pressure. It was great to see the Haitians work because they had such great perseverance, even when it seemed like we had given up on it, they kept trying to make the compressor work. It was truly remarkable, I have grown to have much respect for this country and its people. After a few more complications, the paint team was able to begin and they were on a roll. They were able to finish two of the houses before lunch!

For lunch, we had rice and beans and chopped up hot dogs... I can only say positive things about the rice and beans. After lunch, the team rested and spent some time hanging out before we had to go back to work again. It amazes me how quickly all of us have bonded, we joke around like best buddies, and we trust each other enough to share our lives with one another. It has truly been a great experience.

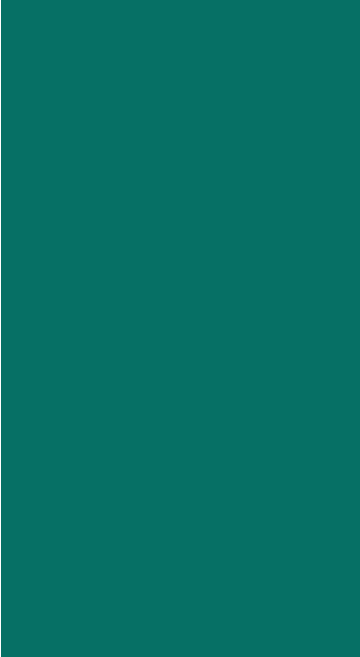
We went back to work again, and the electrical team set off to work their magic on Love A Child's new



warehouse. It took them the rest of the day to just set up the wires in the huge warehouse! Back at Miracle Village, the team who was to paint the trim, was having some problems. I'm not sure if you knew this but in order to paint trim you need paint...and brushes. The team had neither. They had to wait for someone to run over to Love A Child to pick up the supplies, but the reason for why they had to wait was apparent. As they waited, children and parents from Miracle Village flocked to see them. The language barrier didn't matter. The team started to play with the kids, and Frank Duong even made a ball out of plastic and tape for the kids. The children were hanging and hugging on team members. These kids just desperately needed love and they gave us much love as they could in that short time.

The paint team was finishing up on one last house. This house we didn't build, but it had been there for some time and the paint had started to chip off. Love A Child asked us to repaint it for them and we of course said yes! As I was watching Mike Kurtz paint this home, I heard God speak to me, "I am making everything new!" Revelation 21:5, and it hit me God is truly making things new. Haiti is a land that desperately needs a Savior, the government is corrupt, it's one of the poorest countries in the world, people don't really have the option to go to school, and the worst thing is that so many of the people don't know Jesus. But God is making this place new through places like Love a Child who employ over 600 Haitians, provide education and food to the children of Haiti, and give out thousands of meals and they do it all for Jesus' glory. I will pray for new life here in Haiti and I hope that you do too. I don't know if I will see a day when Haiti stands strong as a Christian nation but I hope to God that I do.

The day was coming to an end and Clint came to pick us up to take us back to camp. As we were about to leave the village, Clint stopped and asked if we had enough strength to lay some gravel around the three houses. There were no objections. We were all willing to push a little bit more, to put the final touch on the houses. And we even got help from the kids from around the village. They picked up rakes and helped push some rocks.



Finally, we made it to camp, we all took some well-needed showers (especially the paint crew). We sat down for dinner, and praise God it wasn't hot dogs. As we have done for the past few nights, we had small group devotions where we looked at the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5. I honestly think my favorite part of each day is sitting down and hearing all of the God moments the team had during that day. You really get to see into everyone's heart and see how God is acting in our team. As if the things God has shown me personally are not enough, I get to hear how He is acting in everyone else's life too! God is too good.

Well, I was supposed to turn this in to Clint an hour ago so I will stop typing now.

Justin A. Stevenson