

Haiti 2013 Mission Trip

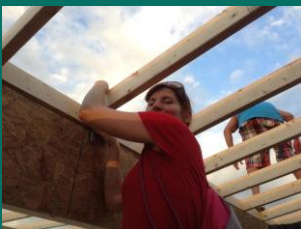
Update 3



Jason, Cullen, Aaron and a friend riding to the building site.



The team standing the walls for one of the three houses that they are building while in Haiti.



Kelli reinforcing the structure by putting in hurricane clips.



One of the three houses that the team worked on putting together, on Tuesday.

Tuesday-1/22/2013

Well, the trip has been quite the adventure so far. As you already know many of our team members have been hit with an illness that we would all prefer to forget. Another team member today went down with the illness for a total, I believe, of nine in all. This time Gil was the not-so-lucky party. Please keep him in your prayers. It's been a very rough 24 hours for him. It definitely has been challenging to understand why this would happen at this particular time but we are challenged to trust in God and His vision even when we can't see the clear answer.

Anyway, our day began with the usual breakfast at 6 a.m. It was the nourishment we would need to get us through the heat today. We are so blessed by the hospitality of the entire Love A Child organization. Sherry Burnette's care and



Lori also putting in hurricane clips.




Steve and Cullen working to secure the house to the concrete.

compassion during our time of sickness is a model demonstration of love. It's so humbling. She and Bobby are such a blessing to so many people. Trust me when I say, "they are the real deal."

After breakfast, we returned to the warehouse, Noah's Ark as Carlos refers to it, to finish prefabricating the three homes. It was refreshing to do some of the grunt work in a shaded environment. This allowed us to reserve some energy for later in the day when we would need all the energy and strength we could muster to begin piecing the homes together. The new warehouse was definitely a blessing from God especially in light of the 90 degree weather. We wrapped up the work in the warehouse by 10 am and began moving sections of three complete homes in a matter of a couple of hours. Even Bobby, Carlos and Pastor Mark were completely amazed by our team's ability to work so efficiently. God has blessed us with a great team and a great leader in Clint. This team is so focused on completing the task that they literally have to tell us to stop working. In this heat, there is no doubt that our strength, energy and focus comes from God alone. I think by lunch we had 'assembled' three homes excluding the roofs and siding and some other details but ultimately we were ahead of schedule.

Lunch was great! We were able to enjoy some very tasty spaghetti and salad. For some, it would be the first solid meal since the onset of the virus. After lunch, all of us were so exhausted that a short nap was desperately welcomed. At the end naptime, we journeyed back to Miracle Village to continue with construction. Because of the nature of this mission trip, our opportunities to minister to others in the form of evangelism are limited but acts of service is a form of ministering God's love to people. It's where we reach outside ourselves to give beyond ourselves. We become self-sacrificing rather than self-serving. I know I personally need to do more of the self-sacrificing and less of the self-serving. Coming to Haiti helps me with that. I am blessed and a better person as a result. I'm sure each of the other teammates would convey the same message. It's heartbreaking to see so much need and feeling like there's not enough we can do. But deep inside I know that we are helping one person, one family at a time.

By the end of the day, we had accomplished so much. Behind the scenes there was so much more going on than simple construction. I saw kids playing with each woman in



our group. I saw Clint and another teammate at the water well pumping water for the local residents. These are moments that are often overlooked and missed when we become so task focused that we forget to listen to God's voice and reach out for those in need. I know the homes being built are a huge deal to the Haitian people but no greater than the love that is shown to them when we just stop and take the time to say, "you matter." Today, we did both.

We wrapped up the day with dinner, a shower and small groups. We learned about what it means to be in the valleys and still find rest and peace in God. It's a great lesson for all of us. Lastly, we ended the night with great worship and heard an amazing testimony from one of our teammates that truly was special. All I can say is praise God for his mercy and grace on each of our lives. We are so undeserving but he still freely gives it to us. We are blessed.

Mark Haines