

Haiti 2013 Mission Trip

Update 4



Jason working on the roof at one of the houses.



One of the houses that the team was working on, that is almost done.



Gil spraying each of the houses for termites.



Some of the team working



The Haiti Team taking a tour of the Love A Child compound and learning about their ministry.

Wednesday-1/23/2013

I awoke this morning to creole (what the Haitians speak) shortly after 5AM as the Haitian workers staying in the tent across from mine were already up. I threw on my clothes, put on some sunscreen, brushed my teeth, said good morning to my husband, and sat outside surrounded by mountains to do my morning devotional.

As I read Luke 18:15-17 I thought about the Haitian children we were able to hug and play with the day before and really took Jesus' words to heart. "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Reading that makes me so feel so blessed that I get to work with kids on a weekly basis, but being here is an entirely different experience. I have never seen such joy, trust, gratitude, and love out of every curious little child.

We all enjoyed our oatmeal, fried hotdogs, and fruit breakfast at 6AM. Then gathered our tools and headed off to the giant new Love A Child warehouse,

on the roof for the new office buildings.



Julia with one of the orphans from the orphanage.




Justin with one of the orphans.

called Noah's Ark, to meet up and gather supplies. This is the same building we assembled all the house frames in before hauling them out to Miracle Village. The guys loaded all the heavy equipment into the trucks and off we went, but not before we caught the sun peeking above the mountains and exploding the sky with color. We sure will miss being surrounded by beautiful mountains and seeing those incredible sunrises and sunsets.

At Miracle Village, our team split up to put the finishing touches on each house. The houses still needed some hurricane clips (to keep the roof from blowing off in the event of a hurricane), trim, windows, doors, and to be treated for termites. I was in the small group of 6 at House 1 where we measured, cut, and nailed on all the trim; and installed the doors and windows. We also had a Haitian crew putting the tin on the roof working above us. The group at House 2 had to put the roof on and finish up hurricane clips before we came over to trim it. Probably my favorite part of the day was learning how to use the power saw and being able to cut some of the trim. All the women on the trip have used a nail gun and half of us have used the power saw. I believe almost every piece of trim on all three houses was cut by a Vineyard woman! What was the best part of cutting the trim was the fact that a Haitian woman who was running security on the house (every house has security to make sure our tools and wood don't disappear) wanted to help and she handed me every single piece of wood to which I responded, "Merci" (thank you). She even helped us pick up all the trash around the houses and load the truck up with all the tools and scraps of wood. They love to be helpful around here.

We finished up trim, windows, and doors on House 2 as the crew on House 3 was finishing up hurricane clips and the roof, all just in time for lunch. We ate a filling meal of more hotdogs on our beans and rice with some mixed vegetables, before we all hit our cots for an hour long nap to stay out of the heat of the day. And may I just say, tent sweet air conditioned tent! That nap gets me through the day. I couldn't conquer the afternoon without that and God's strength. In the afternoon, our small crew of 7 now (because our last sick member of our team was risen!) headed back out to Miracle Village to finish the trim, windows, and doors on House 3. Our only hiccup was running out of



wood. We sat in the dirt in the shade and waited, just like the Haitians do, and drank water. You can't get enough out here! Good thing our 7th team member, Gil, was feeling much better because he treated all three homes for termites by himself! We returned to find the rest of the Vineyard team at the Love A Child compound working on building the roof for some new office buildings being built here. The pause button was put on that as we were to take a tour of the compound. We learned all about Love A Child's ministry and how they feed over 50,000 mouths every day with all their food drops, feeding the children in their schools, and employing 450 workers. We learned about their sustainability project with their fish farm (which we had eaten tilapia from) and their chickens they raise. We saw the school which has over 500 students attend for free (you have to pay for school in Haiti), the radio station, and heard about their plans for the future. The best part by far was getting out to see the incredible orphanage. We were able to take pictures with the kids and see where they live. We hugged and held them, walked with them, played soccer with them, and more. It was hard to say goodbye.

Then it was off to a delicious dinner that everyone scarfed down, showers, and small group. One group talked about sacrifice in Romans 12:1-5 and the other talked about love in Matthew 25:35-40. Then we did a large group time of worship, God sightings, and prayer.

And since it is now 9:15PM and past my bedtime I will leave you all with a warning and an enticement. Warning: there are rats here (but they are super cute)! I know I shared a lot of good stuff, but trust me I left the best out. If you want to know what that is, come find out for yourself. It will change your life.

Love from all of us here in Haiti!

Stephanie Stanger