

Thursday, February 2, 2012
Mark Haines

Here we are. It's Thursday and two more days in what I call paradise. Haiti has been a blessing to each of us. They think that we have helped them but in reality they have helped us far beyond what they will ever know. I will be sad to see the last day come.

As usual, our 5:15 wake up call came and breakfast was being prepared. Today, it was an American classic: scrambled eggs, sausage and you know it, bacon. What a treat. I can't think of a better meal to start the day. Carlos as usual 'encouraged' us to eat quickly so we could get to work before sunrise. What he doesn't know is that we are each anxious to get back to work. I know that sounds crazy but it's so true. We are driven by a desire in our hearts to finish what we came here to accomplish. Around 6:15, we were loading up on the trucks and in route to Miracle Village. Finally, we had arrived at our destination for the morning. Much of the work was already complete but there were a few things that still needed to be completed so we could paint and finish the homes on Friday.

After a hearing the beautiful singing song of the Haitian workers, Pastor Mark led us in prayer and asked us to lay hands on the Haitians workers. It was very powerful. We then broke off in to teams to finish the homes before lunch. Our goals were set and we were on a mission. There were about five homes that needed to be finished but we knew we could get it done. Some needed interior sheeting while others needed outside trim, installation of doors, windows and vents and one roof needed to be nailed down. No problem. We have task oriented leader and willing followers. It was hot but we all worked hard and came close to completed all the homes by lunch. Water in Haiti is a necessity. Fortunately, Love A Child provides all of our water needs. While we completed the homes, the Haitian workers added the metal roofs. They did such a great job. It was time for lunch but we were not ready. Robert, one of the Love A Child leaders, literally had to tell us to put down our nail guns and saws. Break? There is no time for a break we all thought but really we all needed to recoup. Praise God for his strength and encouragement.

We headed back to the compound for lunch a little later than usual (around 12:15 or so) but as has been the case since our arrival, the food was amazing. It was rice and beans and chicken once again but you won't hear me complain. The food is prepared with a lot of love and is simply wonderful. Finally nap time. We would begin again at 2 pm. Many people napped which was well deserved. At 2 pm we would meet up again to get back at it. Some people this afternoon were going to be working at the compound rather than at Miracle Village. In God's world, there are so many things that need to be done and that sometimes means that we need to take a break from our task and help with something else. Of course we were so far ahead of schedule that we were able to work in other areas and still get our main task completed. Some stayed behind to work on trim at the main warehouse while other packed rice for something special planned for Saturday. Others were loaded onto

the trucks and driven to the usual work site. After we were dropped off, we broke off into teams to complete the trim, roofing, doors, windows and other odd jobs. One job that was crucial for us to paint on Friday was spraying each new home with termite prevention spray. In the process of completing homes, friendships were built. For example, a team was given the task of caulking each home (400+) in the village to prevent water from entering the floors. The team was able to meet new faces and draw closer to the people so much of the world has left behind. The Haitians are so loving and were so welcoming to each member of the caulking team. Each member completes the puzzle that God has used to build our team and together we have gotten so much done. There are so many stories I could tell today and I hope that we can share more with each of you. The stories never ended and the hearts of all are being changed in the midst.

We finished our homes and are now ready to spray. It's about 4:30 and time to end for the day. We have big plans tonight. A special dinner was prepared for us. Tilapia is raised here at Love A Child and was deep fried and presented with potatoes and a salad. Everyone absolutely loved the fish. It was the best Tilapia and perhaps the best fish I have ever had. This week a few team members celebrated their birthday and to celebrate with us, birthday cakes were purchased and given to us tonight. What a blessing and treat. The night was still young. It was 7 pm and time for worship at the orphanage on the hill. The kids were so happy to see us and us them. It's what makes this trip worth so much. Their smiles are priceless and the joy in their hearts, a blessing. Worship was so amazing that words cannot even describe it. Only pictures can tell the true story. I can't wait until we share them with our church. They will bring smiles to each face.

Before bed, we met with our groups and talked about our experience at worship tonight. It was great to hear each team member's thoughts about tonight. It is an experience that we will each remember for the rest of our days.

Good night Vineyard friends,

May God bless each of you immensely. :)

Mark