

## **Tuesday Trip Report - 1/31/12**

It's Tuesday night and we just finished dinner, which consisted of rice, chicken, spicy cole slaw. We had peanut butter & jelly sandwiches for dessert! We eat very well here at the Love-a-Child base camp, which is a good thing when we're working so hard out on the job site. When we come back to base camp, we don't have to worry about preparing our meals, we just get to enjoy great food and refuel! God bless our Haitian kitchen crew!

Tonight at my dinner table Justin DeVerees asked me what crew I had worked on today and what we accomplished. Justin was on the roofing crew and their progress was very evident. I had to think for a minute, get my bearings, and even had to ask Mike Kurtz for a reminder. We've only been on the job site for 1.5 days but it feels like we have been working for 3-4 days! And oh yeah, turns out our crew of six mostly inexperienced workers spent the morning framing 20 walls and we stood up three entire houses... ALL BEFORE LUNCH! That experience (only five hours from this morning) feels like a couple days ago! Time flies when you're having fun working for the Lord!

After the morning shift, we came back to the Love-a-Child base camp for lunch and a quick nap. It is very difficult to work through the hottest part of the day so rather than risking injury or heat exhaustion we typically take a break from 12:30-2pm in order to cool off and rest. I think that is why it feels like we've already put three work days in, because in reality we've worked three 5-hour shifts, usually working on different projects each time.

In terms of process, here is what we have accomplished in 1.5 days of hard work: we have framed, stood up, and built roof rafters on all seven homes! Additionally, on four of the homes we have nailed up outdoor sheeting, cut out openings for doors & windows, and tacked up hurricane clips. The plan for tomorrow is to basically "finish up" the majority of the hard labor and to have the homes ready for finishing touches! The Haitian crew will come in and install the corrugated metal roofs. My understanding is that the Haitians have become very good at installing the roofs, so by all means, we will let them take the lead on that aspect! Then by the end of the week the plan is to paint all seven homes using the very paint sprayers we purchased last year. What a riot! So much fun!

One highlight for me is telling the first timers the story of Haiti and of Love-a-Child. Having participated in last year's trip, it is neat to share about how well things have developed in just 10 months. Last year we helped with a food distribution just outside a tattered red & white tent for the people of "Le Tant." Surrounding the "community tent" were various mud huts and leftover earthquake humanitarian tents (UN, Red Cross, etc.) which served as homes for hundreds of people. Today those who were living in those mud huts and tents are now living in beautiful 3-room houses, complete with windows & doors, and even a porch! And in place of the

mud huts & tents there are the beginnings of a community garden. God is good. God is very good!

One last thing, for those of you who are praying back home for us, consider this prayer from Philippians 1:6: "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." It's easy to lose focus and get into a lull for an hour or so. Pray that God would give us energy, that we'll complete the task that God has before us, that we will serve well and finish well!

Rob Wallace