

ROD'S UPDATE: Jan 15, 2012

Okay, here is a little bit of what is happening in Haiti. We had a very nice Christmas *and* New Years here. It was pretty quiet since Beth had gone home to spend the holidays with family, and most of the other missionaries on the Wesleyan compound had also gone home. We had a nice dinner with Kate the teacher who is here teaching most of the kids, and Barry. There were more presents than the kids probably deserved, but it was lots of fun. After church, presents, and dinner we went for a swim in the ocean. Not everyone can say that is how they spent their Christmas. It is still a little strange to think that it is winter time. Our days are shorter, but it still is relatively warm. Jackets have been worn by the family, but only because it was in the low 70's.

Some good news for WISH, since we are now turning off the generators at night we are saving quite a bit on fuel costs. Last month the ice plant receipts were within \$500 of covering the cost for the generator fuel. There are still other cost associated with running things here, but narrowing the gap in this area has been an important thing. Our plan is to use solar for powering the new library, and the Wesleyans are working to raise funds for solar equipment on the new hospital build. All of these steps are important moves to being responsible with the resources we have.

Speaking of the new hospital build, a couple things happened this past week that are instrumental in moving that project along. First of all, there was a team of carpenters here from England who did quite a bit of work to build the roof trusses and beams on the new guest house that needs to be completed for the Wesleyan compound before the site can be cleared for the new hospital. The roof is over half way done, so you can really see what it will be like when completed. The second milestone was the arrival of the Cattle family. They are a family of four from England who have come to work on the Wesleyan compound as project manager for the new hospital build. That takes a huge load off of Pastor Greg and means that with somebody focused on the build it should make good progress. Of course our boys were also happy to have a couple new friends moving in next door, and it should also be more fun to have somebody else in school. Their girls are very close in age to Joseph and Garin.

Okay, so all of that is interesting, but most exciting of all is how Bena or actually Bernard is spreading the gospel since his return from Discipleship Training. Most Mondays he heads to a school and tells teens about the gospel. With schools closed for the Christmas break he decided instead to just head to the mountains and see who he could find to share with. It turns out that he met a Voodoo priest and spent the morning talking with him. In the end, the priest accepted Christ as his savior! We are so excited to see how much Bena has matured and grown during the time he was away. I am so very proud of him.

Enough for this week. I don't even have any exciting pictures to share. It has been a month since we had a team so all of the work is just the typical things. We have had some leaks in water lines that needed to be repaired, a few roots clogged up in a valve that needed to be cleaned out etc. The finish work on the library walls is being done. Normal maintenance on the generators and vehicles. Most of the workers were off for a few weeks over the holidays, so Barry and I got to do much of the stuff ourselves. Now everyone is back to work, so we have them to oversee.

Well, have a great week! Thanks for all the prayers and supportive emails.

Rod