

Well, only two more weeks until Butch and Tricia move back to the states. The past 5 months have flown by. Part of the reason the months have gone so quickly is because we have had so much fun and stayed so busy. There is always lots of work to do, lots of things to learn, and lots of people to get to know. This week we met a few new guys. One of them might be familiar to many who read this note. Former WISH intern Aaron Kroenke came in yesterday with two young men from his youth group. Unfortunately most of their luggage did not arrive. They are close to the same size so they are sharing clothes from the suitcase that did make it and are using the items they had in their carry on bags. Tomorrow Butch has volunteered to travel to Port Au Prince and pick up the bags from the airport so that the guys will have their luggage for the rest of their week here.

On a sadder note our guests Jane Howard and Dentist Jack Heck have decided to travel home a few days early. Tomorrow the government is scheduled to announce preliminary results from the presidential election and if people on the streets feel the results are fraudulent their will certainly be riots in the cities. That could lead to Jack and Jane being unable to travel when they were scheduled so they have opted to leave early just in case things get "hot" in Port Au Prince.

We are really hoping that things stay calm in town because there has been some action with the container we have sitting in customs. God willing it will be released this week and we will have it moved up to the wharf so that the contents can be brought across to LaGonave. Then a whole different round of action will begin as we do the final prep on the ice plant and install all of the new equipment with help from teams coming in from the states.

### **Update for April 10**

Okay, I never finished last weeks update and sent it out, but it is interesting background to this weeks update. The team of Aaron and two teens from his youth group turned out to be such a blessing. They did get their luggage on Monday Butch was able to bring it out from Port Au Prince and so they didn't have to share one guys clothes for the whole week. On Monday evening they wanted to buy barbecue off the street for dinner so we walked down near the ice plant and were waiting for our order when the radio announced the presidential election results. There was a lot of excitement as people began to dance and even a small parade of people came through shouting and banging on pots and pans to celebrate. The winner is a popular singer who doesn't have lots of political background, but certainly has the hearts of many of the people.

By Wednesday morning we were hearing from Patrick at Rays Of Hope that he expected to get the container released that day. Butch went over to the Wesleyan Wharf early to make sure he would be there when the truck brought the container in (the lobster boat was going over to get blocks anyway). He spent the day preparing the wharf for another container and talking with Patrick about how to find the place. By noon we were told the container was released, but now they needed more money to bring the container that far and leave it (not unusual thing in Haiti). We eventually agreed on a fee and so I took the boat back over to get Butch once the container arrived. Of course it didn't go all that smooth, by the time the truck showed up and parked the container it was getting dark and we could not cross back to LaGonave. We spent an

adventurous night sleeping on the back of the boat and were able to start unloading the container as soon as we saw light. Thursday we brought 2 loads across on the lobster boat and one load in the Wesleyana sail boat. Friday we brought two more loads, and Saturday morning we brought the last of the things as well as a cement mixer for the Wesleyan compound.

All of this was possible because of some perfect timing. Aaron was able to coordinate and keep things going around the compound while I drove the boat back and forth and Butch got the container unloaded. Without Aaron here when the container was released who knows how much more time this would have taken.

One other exciting thing for everyone to know about was happening on the Wesleyan compound this week. They had a team that wanted to do Kids Club for all of the WISH and Wesleyan families. For three afternoons they did crafts, played games, and heard stories. On the last afternoon two WISH employee children made a decision to accept Christ into their hearts. It doesn't get much better than that. Then on Saturday Butch agreed to meet with one of the employees who was no longer living with his wife. The wife and her parents came and as we talked through things the couple agreed to get back together. You never know what this job will have you doing, but you sure get to see some amazing things.

Okay, enough for today. We have a busy week ahead. It is Butch and Tricia's last days of living in Haiti and we have lots of sorting and putting away of materials that came on the container to do. I hope you can have a truly blessed week!

Rod

PS I got to see and video three dolphins as we crossed over early Friday morning. It was fun to watch them as they seemed to be racing to stay ahead of the boat! On a trip back later that day we saw two whales within 150 yards of the back of the boat!

Aaron



Rented Loader





Trip With Iceboxes