

June 5-27, 2011

Well, lots has happened since our last update. I am visiting people and churches in Oregon right now. Two weeks ago Michelle and the boys flew back to the states and they have been having fun as well as getting things done. The first week they were back they spoke at a church in Klamath Falls and did a good job. Yesterday we had the whole service time to speak at our home church in Medford. It was nice to be able to talk about some of the things we see being done as well as to see so many old friends. After the service they had a potluck so everyone was able to hang around and talk for quite a while. Saturday we held a celebration for my parent's 50 year wedding anniversary. That was not only fun to celebrate and be a part of but it was also nice to see many relatives who came into town for the celebration. If they had not all come for the anniversary I am sure we would not have had time to visit all of them.

Michelle has also been having fun finding bargains on summer clothing for the family so that we can keep the kids and ourselves looking decent for the next year. Benjamin is now wearing a size 14 shoe and you just don't find lots of them in Haiti. With 8 months behind us we now have a better understanding of what we need to take along and what we can purchase in country. I am sure that we will use our luggage allowance to full capacity going back since she is taking school supplies, and I have some supplies for equipment that are hard to get in Haiti.

Of course no trip can happen without some sort of crisis or drama. This one has already had its share. Because my flight was schedule to leave Port Au Prince so early in the morning I travelled to PaP the day before and spent the night there. Around sunset my phone rang and it was one of the WISH workers Met Frantz. He told me that the workers in the ice plant asked him to look at the ice boxes because none of the new units were working! He went down there and thought he found a bad wire coming in and spent some time fixing that, but it did nothing so resolve the issue. Then he called me for advice. We talked over some things for him to check and I said I would call him back in a while. After I called him back it seemed like all of the simple fixes were not going to work and I started to get worried. I sent an email back to some of the guys in the states asking for help and I know everyone was starting to pray. By then I was heading to the airport and communication was interrupted for 24 hours because my Haiti cell phone doesn't work in the US, and with close connection times between flights I was not able to get into my email. When I got to my brother's house I saw a couple responses with suggestions of things to check and the best ways to test them. I forwarded those on to missionaries still in Haiti who passed them along to the guys and they quickly solved the problem! It all just reminded me of conversation I had with Bob Port a few weeks ago when he asked if **everything** was covered for the time we would be gone. I told him I thought so, but you never can tell exactly what will come up. Of course as soon as I called Bob to tell him things were resolved the first thing he said was "Praise God". I think that it is a good reminder to plan and do our part, but that we also know we can trust in God to help out when we are not there and that he will take care of things for us.

Please pray for us and the people whom we will speak to over the next few weeks. We still have some gap between our annual needed giving and what has been pledged to Global Partners for our support. Pray that as we tell people about the work WISH does and how we are interacting with the people that they will connect with us and the work we are doing.

I heard from some people that they did not get this update. Maybe it was my mistake; maybe the satellite wasn't working correctly when I tried to send. Anyway, here it is if you haven't read this already.

Hey, I think I know what many of you did this week. You read my last e-mail and prayed that we would find some answers to the power problems we have been experiencing. Well, God answered your prayers! I know nothing new there, but it was nice to sleep through some nights without having to hustle down to the generator and restart it. A few of the guys (Met Frantz, Jean Bena, Diefner) and I spent a few days really focusing on the issue. First of all we eliminated the last sections of underground line. This was done mostly because the other line that was abandoned last fall was dug up this week and it looked terrible. I don't know of any reason to believe the underground line we were still using would be any better so it seemed like a good step to take. Then we also started to check some of the overhead service lines to the buildings on the compound. I am attaching a picture of some of the areas where the insulation was compromised and the power had shorted to the neutral enough to heavily erode the wire. There was also one run of line which did not stand up to the years of exposure to sunlight and most of the insulation had cracked open exposing the wire. This wire was replaced with some used wire that we had which seems to be in much better shape. When we were done with these tasks everything was turned back on and for a few days now we have had no power outages! I know that would just seem normal to most people, but for the past few weeks that was very rare for us.

Part of the reason I think we started to see these issues come up was because of all the rain we are getting now. It has been amazing to see everything green up this past week. There are two young men sleeping at the WISH house and doing Bible training as part of a Youth With A Mission (YWAM) program. They commented today that when they came to the island the hills just looked brown and covered with rocks. Now they are all lush with vegetation. The boys aren't enjoying the opportunity to mow the yard every week, but I am happy to see the dust is gone for now. Unfortunately the rain really slows down sales at the ice plant because when it starts to rain the streets become deserted.

Speaking of YWAM, Bena headed to Port Au Prince this week. Next Saturday he starts a program with YWAM which will last for 6 months. It is their Discipleship Training Program. For almost 4 months they will have daily class sessions on the Bible, community development, health care and hygiene, and many other things. Then they have 2 months of outreach where they go into a community and practice what they have been learning. Bena is excited about the outreach part because his group will either be working in Haiti, Jamaica, or West Africa. He sounds most interested in traveling to West Africa. I think it would be fun to travel along as he gets to experience so many new things and also realize that much of the rest of the world lives very similar lives to his.

One thing that I would hope you will all pray for is that the people of Haiti can come to understand having more things, or better things is not what is important. It seems to be a lie that the world likes to tell us and even though there is not a lot of advertising here this culture seems to also believe that having something else or something more would fix many of their problems.

One young man who works for us and has done a great job of supporting his family and building them a house is now wanting to purchase land and build a different house. I can't blame him for wanting to move to a better location, but I still think he doesn't consider how living farther from school and work will really end up affecting him. His answer to me is that then he will just need to get a motorcycle. It seems like one of those things in life he may need to learn on his own because as much as I caution him about what this will truly cost him he doesn't seem to comprehend all of it. For those of you who haven't met my father I will give you one of his lines (for those who have met him you will just have to hear it one more time). He says that "if you are not happy with what you already have what makes you think you would be happy with more?"

Okay, enough for tonight. Tomorrow is a big day as I will be taking Michelle and the boys to Port au Prince. They have an early Tuesday morning flight heading back to the states, so we need to head over tomorrow afternoon and spend the night. Then I am on my own for the next couple weeks as I try and take care of all the office work that Michelle has been doing in addition to the things I already do. Throw in on top of that final preparations for my time at home such as making sure everything I normally do will be in some way covered and I should be real busy. It is a good thing that I enjoy eating from the people who cook BBQ chicken or beans and rice. I don't do lots of cooking, and I think I will be too busy to spend time baking bread or preparing meals over the next couple weeks.

Blessings Everyone,  
Rod

Bad Spots In Wiring.JPG

