

May 8

Well, I didn't get an update out last weekend. I was in Michigan to attend the board meeting for WISH and I am very glad that I had the opportunity to attend. That was a pretty quick trip as I flew into Detroit late Thursday night and then traveled across the state to attend a dinner Friday. We spent all day in meeting on Saturday and had another dinner that evening. Sunday I went to church in the morning and then back to Ann Arbor (I was able to speak at Tom and Claudia's small group Sunday evening) and a flight to Haiti on Monday. There was some free time in there so I got to read quite a bit and I even was able to pick up a Mother's Day present for Michelle. It was nice to meet the rest of the board, the parents of Kris Thede and then a pastor from a Wesleyan church in Illinois as I traveled back home to Haiti.

The pastor was one of those interesting meetings that make you wonder what possible relationship might be able to come because of our meeting. As it turns out we know a family in common, and he was on his way to Haiti to do some work with another missions organization. His main purpose of being on the trip was just to find a place and a good fit for people at his church to connect with and do long term ministry partnership with. Who knows if things will work out between them and the group they are staying with now, or if sometime in the future they will be contacting us to help facilitate trips to LaGonave.

This week Jean Baptiste's sister passed away. He is one of the guys who has lots of knowledge of our water system and is usually in charge of the guys working on building projects. He can also drive the Wesleyan's lobster boat so he is very valuable to us. We still don't know exactly what caused her death. Jean Baptiste told me a week before that in a dream somebody gave her something to eat and since she took it and ate it she has been sick. One of the other guys on the crew said "that is very common from the voodoo people. They get you to eat poison in your dream and it can kill you." Needless to say it put a damper on every one's spirits this week. The funeral was yesterday, but please pray for this family as she leaves 6 kids behind.

This coming week will be very busy. We have people coming in from St Louis area on Tuesday and people from Michigan on Wednesday. They will be involved in setting up some of the new ice boxes to replace ones that have already had failures. Then on Saturday there is a dental team coming who had already scheduled to use the clinic and stay with us before the container was released. For the few days that these people overlap we will have a pretty large group sitting at the table for meals and it will be busy for us as we keep everyone busy with their work.

Michelle has already shown herself capable of handling such a large group as long as I don't interfere. Last weekend while I was in Michigan a young lady- Brooke Irvine had her classmates from Port Au Prince come and spend Saturday and part of Sunday at WISH. They spent time with the orphanage kids and were able to tour around the town some. I understand that when she suggested this trip as a senior class community service project some of the kids didn't even realize that people live out on the island. From what I hear everyone had a good time including my family, and they paid much more than WISH would normally charge for everyone spending the night!

May 15 Update

Wow, this has been a busy but fun week. On Tuesday we had 5 people come in to start assembling the ice boxes to replace ones which have broke down in the ice plant. Without all of the ice boxes running we have spent lots of money to subsidize the fuel to run the generators this past year. Then on Wednesday we had 4 more guys come to work on installing an getting the boxes running. The plan was to replace the 3 boxes which have already failed and in the fall have another team come to replace the last 3 boxes.

These guys have stayed busy! They have already replaced all of the ice boxes and so we now are able to harvest more ice than ever before. Tomorrow we will have one of the workers walking around town announcing to everyone that the ice plant is back up to full capacity and has plenty of ice for sale. Just in time for Flag Day (Wednesday) which I am told will create lots of demand for ice. Without shutting down, we have been able to remove the last few existing boxes and resurface the concrete floor. Shorten the sink at the front window, set the new boxes in place and then get everything piped and wired. Lots of people to trip over but everyone has worked together very well.

The team has also been busy doing other work as well. There has been a problem with our largest tractor and it has been setting waiting for repairs about 3 years now. The parts were shipped on the container, and Dale is working on getting everything going again.

Yesterday we had a team of 7 people come in who are staying with us and using the guest house, but have experience with 4 schools on the island and so they are gone most of the day and do not require much of my attention. When you get 16 guests around the table plus my family it starts to get pretty crowded, but I think everyone is enjoying their trip. Tomorrow is the last day for they guys from St Louis so by the end of the week it will seem very quiet around here. I know I will miss everyone but I am happy for the work they have accomplished.

Thank you everyone for all the prayers and other ways you support us, the transition to the new president this week seems to have gone smoothly and we pray that things will progress well in this country.

Rod



New Box Ready to Go In

New Compressors



First Ice