Rod's Update 11-14-2001

So lots has happened in the past few weeks and I bet lots of you would like to know about it. Some things are continuing along like normal- kids doing school work, broken fountain head here and there needing repair etc. Other things are those tasks we will most likely only do once while we are here.
We have had a couple teams since my last update. Well, one was a very small team for WISH, but at the same time the Wesleyan compound had a large team which did lots of work on our equipment. I think their team kept us as busy as any of our teams ever have. The WISH team was only two people. One was an electrician who was looking at what it would take to install power meters to various parts of our distribution system, and what it will take to wire the new library (potentially as a solar project). The other person was Dale back to finish off the 2355 tractor. This tractor was taken apart a few years ago for a steering issue and the repair for various reasons was never completed. The Wesleyan team brought in a John Deere mechanic and Dale wanted to work with him to get the tractor back in use while he was down here. As it turned out the mechanic was sick most of the trip and tried as much as he could to help out but wasn't able to spend the time he would have needed to finish the job. With Dale here the two of them had the tractor back up and running with a few days to spare. They used that time to fix leaking main seals on one of our generators.

As you all know fuel prices are higher than ever before, so WISH has returned to night time shutdown of the generators. This lead to some calls during the night from doctors needing power for surgeries in the hospital. While the Wesleyan team was around we got them to move the old Wesleyan 40KW generator close to the hospital and tie it in so when they need power during the night Barry or I don't have to get up and start our generator. Before this was completed Dan the electrician and I were able to go and observe the doctors performing a late night C section and deliver a baby. Well, to be honest Dan watched the baby delivery.... as the doctor was tearing an opening in the uterus I decided it was time for me to wait outside. Still, it was one of those things that I am sure won't happen often.

While the Wesleyans had a crew of linemen here they were able to replace all of the patched together overhead line that we had trouble with last spring and it is nice to have that job taken care of, as well as get all of the meters in place that we had. Now at least when we say the power consumption rate has gone up in one area

or another we can put some numbers to it and focus our search where it will be most effective.

Other great news, Dave Kolb who has been bringing teams every six months for the past several years went home after his trip last spring and wanted to keep helping us out. He felt pressed to start raising funds for a new side by side vehicle which would be well suited for what we do and the conditions of the roads here. Well, he has done it. He has raised enough money to purchase a new Diesel powered rugged vehicle that seats up to 4 people and has a small bed in the back for carrying tools or supplies. We are excited to see how quickly he can purchase and modify the buggy and then get it through customs. I promise to send pictures of this and lots of smiling faces when it gets here.

One last item for this week. The library construction continues to move along. Our hope is to start setting trusses this week and you know there will be pictures if we get to do that! We have dentists here now, so who knows what adventures this week will hold.

Blessings,
Rod

5 minutes old

Garin turns 7!

Installing new line

John Deere finally out of the garage