

Haiti Team # 1 Report

Kansas Team ~ January 8-17, 2008

Things in Haiti appeared to be much more peaceful than a year ago. Team members did go out for fuel and supplies in small groups. We had a wonderful group with 16 members. Team members were Ken and Jocelyn Komiya, Steve Greene, Don and Dianne Froese, Phil Litwiller, Carri Litwiller, Becca Erb, Kayla Pope, Daniela Stilwell, Cami Zahn, James Weve, Doug Thiessen, Clifford Good, John and Elaine Ratzlaff. We did have a great time of fellowship, working, worshiping, singing together and sharing our lives with each other and the children of Lifeline.

The primary project objectives for Team # 1 were to get the Onan diesel engine running on the newer of the two power generator units, sort thru the newly arrived Denton shipment and set up the new tool room in the warehouse. It was also our goal to get the new water well drilled for the solar water system and get started with the solar system setup.

The two team mechanics were successful in getting the Onan diesel/generator set running. Both diesel/generator sets are functioning properly. Simson and Junior (older Lifeline boys) were both briefed on starting procedures when work teams are not at Lifeline. New start/stop switches were installed on the Detroit engine. Both diesel engines were serviced (oil & filter change, fuel filters). The mechanics also installed a new radiator core on the Detroit diesel/generator set at the Bethel Church of God.

Considerable time was spent going thru the large shipment. Many bicycles were given out into the community. There was also a distribution of kidney beans, soap, bedding, and clothing to the outlying community. The warehouse was organized so that all supplies are easily accessible.

Maintenance was needed on the washing machines and clothes lines. The new water heater was installed in the guest house.

The Isuzu truck was serviced. The driveline greased, changed engine oil and filters, all fuel filters, and the air filter. We also purchased 3 new tires for the drive axle and installed them.

The 1500 gallon water storage tank was pulled and lifted onto the roof of the boy's dormitory. A Haitian mason has been hired to do some additional roof reinforcement to safely support the 12,000 pounds when the tank is full of water. This project is currently underway. The solar panel supports have been installed on the roof of the girl's dormitory. The Blue Ridge water well drillers are scheduled to be at Lifeline on Thursday, January 17, to drill a new water well for the solar powered pump.

The main water well at Lifeline is delivering clean sand free water after the Blue Ridge redevelopment/purging from last year.

Plans were finalized for the new computer classroom and the rebuilding of the children's kitchen and dining hall area. Both structures will have concrete roofs when completed. Construction on this dual project will be underway soon. Labor terms have been negotiated with the Haitian mason. Haiti Lifeline Ministries will be responsible to supply all the construction materials.

The young ladies on the team, in addition to much quality time with the children, rolled a lot of paint on the boy's dormitory. There is some painting left to do on the back side of the boy's dormitory. The laundry room also needs to be painted yet.

We had a great time with the children. It is always an emotional time when it is time to say good bye.

Daniel did bring some disturbing news from the Bethel Church of God. Thieves came during the night and stole the submersible water pump out of the church well. Cages will have to be built over the water wells for security. The need for a new pump is urgent. Blue Ridge is getting some new pumps in from the states soon. This is the most urgent financial need at this time.

We want to express our thanks for the wonderful prayer support while in Haiti. We also want to encourage ongoing prayer support for Nicole, the children, and the work at Lifeline.

Submitted by John Ratzlaff