

2014 Haiti Team Journal

Friday November 7, 2014

Marnie Anderson

Day One...The journey begins!

An early morning meet up at CUMC – We got on the road pretty promptly at 2 a.m. God bless George and Steve for getting us in the CUMC van – pulling a trailer to Reagan National Airport.

We are blessed to have in tow 20 suitcases full of donations from our generous congregation.

We're sadly missing Jeff Barnes who was hit with a flu bug yesterday. So disappointing for him and for us. I personally am feeling, grateful, however, that this opened an opportunity for my daughter to join us – 16 year old Kate. My older daughter Erin came on her own with the first Allison team – 5 years ago at age 16 and the experience changed her life in terms of really strengthening her choice of study at college. Who knows how this unexpected opportunity might shape Kate's life – and the lives of the whole team.

Our path took us from Reagan National to Kennedy in NY to Port Au Prince. A wave of heat hits us, but the airport is quite modern. Noisy with live music – not clear how Haitian it was but the creole influence is familiar from my limited experience w/ New Orleans Zydeco – I suspect there is shared musical heritage.

We found it interesting that a newly instituted tourist fee that has been instituted, before we hit immigration is 10. That appears to be dollars US, dollars Canadian, or Euros – all 10! Seems like we lucked out over EU visitors.

The ride to the guest house was so like my first daytime ride through Freetown, Sierra Leone it brought nostalgic tears to my eyes. While the suffering and need is obvious, I look forward to seeing how God is working in Haiti!

Mary Seaton

Awesome exhausting day and yet filled with excitement and expectation.

George Reese drove the team to Ronald Reagan Airport, Washington DC at 2 a.m. (yes, it was 2 AM). Our flight was uneventful to JFK, NY as was our flight to Haiti.

Zach was a little apprehensive about his first airplane flight, but overall he didn't mind. He compared it to being on a speed boat.

Tonight, we'll be staying at the Guest House where we were greeted by cheerful and welcoming Haitian folks.

Looking forward to working with the Haitian Team, sharing experiences and playing with the children! They will all be a very special blessing to us and we hope to be to them. Looking forward to a great night's sleep.

Saturday November 8, 2014

Kate Anderson

Today we made the 3 hour drive up to Yvon. Saturday is market day so the streets are very crowded. When we arrived in Yvon we were pleasantly surprised by our living quarters. We will be sleeping in a church built by people in Falls Creek, PA.

As soon as we arrived several children came to see what we were up to. Some were very shy and some were not. Most of the children roam free during the day while their parents work or are at home. Several know basic English and were very excited to practice it with us. The children so far range in ages from 2-19.

I gave them my notebook to draw in and they absolutely loved it. For dinner we had some traditional creole rice and beans with chicken. There was also goat to eat along with fried plantains and lettuce.

Soon there will be worship at the church, and we are about to do our own devotions and head to bed a little after.

Zach Robb

What an exciting day! The cooks for the group once again delivered. Breakfast was great but very fast. As soon as the last fork was down we were off along the bumpy over crowded roads of Port Au Prince. It was a 3 hour drive and a very interesting tour of Haiti to get to Yvon. We got to see a beautiful cross-section of the country. From the inner city to the rural back roads and every combination in between. Kate and myself both got to see the huge grave yard close to the epicenter of the earthquake, to which we learned ran out of room soon after the disaster and mass graves had to be created.

Once at the camp site we set up shop, got comfortable and rested for a short bit. As soon as everyone was ready to go, Caz (our interpreter) lead us down the hill to the worksite. Not much could be done today since the workers had pretty much finished everything for the day but we did carry lumber for them to construct scaffolds. Once back we got a little more rest, some showers and before we knew it, it was dinner time (the best goat I've ever had). Immediately after dinner it seemed like it was already time for bed. It gets dark here quick and without electricity it seems to make that even more apparent (that doesn't seem to bother the kids though, as I'm listening to them play in the pitch black jungle of Haiti.) It's been a good day. Well worth the journey!

Sunday November 9, 2014

Christa Bassett

What a wonderful opportunity it was to attend worship service along with the people of Yvon today! The people of Yvon have a strong sense of community and a deep faith. The service was planned to be held outside. One older woman spent many hours sweeping around the service area. Such pride they have of their church!

There was excitement because there were approximately 30 missionary students from Olivier who came to the service. The service began outside but moved into their old church building (where we are staying). The experience was moving with many prayers, praise songs and inspirational messages from both the pastor of the Yvon church and the leader of the

Olivier missionaries. How meaningful it was for all of us to simultaneously sing Amazing Grace, both in English and Haitian Creole.

After church, a few of the children stayed and we played with bubbles and they were able to teach a clapping song to a few of our team members. It was moving to listen to our interpreter's (Caz's) story of the day the earthquake devastated Haiti.

Later in the afternoon we took a hike around the area. Many of the young students joined us. It was enjoyable to see the homes, say hello to community members who were standing at their homes, a location where charcoal was being created from mango trees, a family gravesite, and a handcrafted machine which is used to press sugarcane. It was rewarding to continue to learn the history and culture of Yvon during the hike.

The last few days have been a wonderful journey. I am looking forward to learning more about Haiti as we help the people of Yvon build their new church.

Kelly Loudon

What an awesome day! We woke up early to a grey sky and some rain. The weather was not typical for this time of year. It wasn't the type of rain that would pass quickly. Because of the rain, we were not sure if there would be morning worship because some Haitians travel a great distance. One woman walked for an hour to make the service. The rain eased up and slowly people began to arrive. Worship was held outside of the church under a palm leaf/thatched type roof. The thirteen benches slowly filled up. A ministry group of young people came from Olivier to worship and sing. They looked so wonderful with their black and white attire. The service was very different from our CUMC services. The service was almost 3 hours in length with lots of singing and praying – loud. The rain began to fall rather hard so we all moved into our sleeping quarters. There were between 75-100 worshipping. Caz translated which was very helpful.

At the end of the service there were lots of hugs and handshakes. I was personally touched by the Haitian community of Yvon. They are so kind, loving, gracious and welcoming to our group.

After the service we again enjoyed a lovely lunch. Spicy PB&J, Pringles and wafers for dessert. For me I struggle with eating so much, knowing the locals, many only eat one meal a day.

Because of the rain – our hike to Lake Miragoane was postponed. We relaxed, played with the children, blew bubbles and enjoyed learning more about Caz's experience during the earthquake. To hear first hand from someone who was here was very humbling. Life is so precious.

We took an afternoon "walk" which was really a "hike". It seemed as though we were the pied pipers. We would pick up children or teens when we would pass their houses. What started out as 8 ended up with 15 or 20. It was amazing. The Haitians we encountered along our journey were very friendly and joyful. Some wanted to take "photos". They were excited to see the photos after we took the pictures. We saw many animals, including goats, pigs, donkeys, bulls, chickens and dogs. It was very surprised at the number of families living so far from civilization – no electricity or running water. The terrain was hilly and very rocky in some areas. From the top of the hills we could see the mountains in the distance. Upon returning from our "walk" we cleaned up for dinner. Although, it was only about 5pm – it felt like it was 10pm.

Dinner was again amazing! Rice is a staple and with it we ate a mixture of beans, corn, onion, pepper and chicken in a savory and spicy sauce. Our green salad and tomatoes in addition to a beet and potato salad completed our dinner.

Each day is a new adventure. We learn a little more about not only the Haitian locals – but also our CUMC group!

Some things I learned today:

1. Kate doesn't enjoy eating spicy food – she likes to take a sample of someone else's food just to make sure she likes it!
2. Zach likes plantains and has an appetite.
3. Mira doesn't know how to work the hand sanitizer – she always gets too much – I love her laugh.
4. Chris (like many of us) is still having trouble finding things and she is a fashion statement with her layers!

5. Rich is very good at speaking creole. He enjoys returning to Haiti and never says anything negative.
6. Mary cries as much as I do! At least twice during the service we both had tears in our eyes also.
7. Christa is always the first one up and I never hear her (although Kate does). She is so nice and says thank you for everything. She is inspiring and I love her smile.
8. Doc is not the only one who snores and there are people I can hear even sleeping listening to music.
9. Marnie is a trooper! She also doesn't complain. She wasn't fond of hiking as a youth but she enjoyed our hike today.
10. I will always look before reaching into my bag.
11. We just found out how many of us do not like tarantulas – and the one that tried to join our group discussion was uninvited and gently removed. #tarantulasnotwelcomed.

Monday November 10, 2014

Chris Benson

Today was a work day – so up for an early breakfast. It is Mary's birthday and she is truly an inspiration. She surprised us with special prayer cards. Breakfast time seems made for conversation – a chance to reconnect after the dark night. Delicious oatmeal and mango. After a quick organization session, we headed off down the road (a la “hi ho it's off to work we go”) and arrived at the church to see workers already in place and students watching us as we processed in. It took some tries, but we were able to get a method to the madness – and the team got started on helping the crew. They were all dedicated to the task and certainly followed the instructions of the Boss. At recess, we had a chance to meet some of the students who entertained us with their response to such games as London Bridges, Red Light Green Light, and Ring Around the Rosie. Simon Says and Freeze Tag left something to be desired. The Bucket Brigade and Sifting teams soon got to their stations and the work was on again. Really?! It wasn't lunchtime already? Lunch was a quick affair – avocados! and Bar B Ques.

Excellent. Soon we were getting messy again – trying to keep up with the crew – and feeling satisfied that noticeable progress had been made on the interior wall of the church. A second set of students arrived for the afternoon school session – in different uniforms to indicate a separate school program.

It was such a delight to be vocally greeted by the mule as we approached home – ready for a chance to wash away the grit and grime of the day.

Everyone is pitching in – and paying attention to reminders to drink water and not to over do to avoid aggravating/creating injury.

A sprinkling of rain and cloudy skies has helped to make working conditions fairly comfortable.

We have a contingent of children who join us at any given opportunity.

This journey so far has been a series of so many new experiences. I am so happy to be here to interact with the people we have met, to be part of this team from CUMC, to experience this beautiful countryside – to see the affection between children and adults.

Other than the tarantula (which was a bit unnerving) the farm animals and wild life are conversation starters to say the least. I enjoy the birds, the call and response of the roosters and the bray of donkeys. I experienced a bit of the flavor of the area through them.

Awesome God, Creator of all time – I am so blessed. I am so blessed. Merci.

Doc Loudon

So much happened today:

Woke up to great working weather – overcast and a nice breeze today – a couple of quick showers.

We asked to do work and make a difference and we got both today.

After we had breakfast and did a pre-celebration of Mary's birthday, we headed off to work – in a goggle single file – Zach and Mira pushing the

off-balance wheel barrow loaded down with 2 big containers of water, tool bag, shovels, etc. as the ton of kids that tagged along, hiked down to the worksite where the new church is located. Everybody worked hard – cleaning dirt off the cement floor, sifting sob (sand) and bucket brigade of wet concrete in buckets to be slung on the walls by Haitian workers. It was dusty, dirty, hard, sweaty, back straining work for some reason – we loved it. We could see our progress as the Haitian workers smoothed one section of the wall after another as the day progressed. We would get a short break as the workers made up another big batch of concrete. And then the “BUCKET”! command would go out and we filled in our positions – handling buckets up for the high wall and dumping buckets on the floor for the low walls. We had a lunch break and sat on a tarp and ate all the food brought by our gracious Haitian hostesses. We worked until after 4pm that afternoon, with plenty of laughs between us and the Haitian workers (8). School children would crowd the new church entrance, just to see all that was going on.

And then the goggle of people went back up to our quarters at the old church where the “showers” (a pale of semi-cold water) never felt so good.

We had a feast for dinner, made special for Mary’s birthday by Madam Rose completed with a mini bottle of sparkling wine, a Haitian tradition. Also birthday cake and singing in English and Haitian. Mary seemed quite touched by the attention and graciously accepted the fuss (and jokes) we made about her new age. The laughter was surely heard by the neighbors around the old church and those in Heaven above.

Our leader, Rich has set our regular devotion time of 7pm tonight. Bottom line – we are having a great time, in a beautiful setting, doing what we love, and enjoying being together as a team.

That’s the way the day was – and now signing off for the night.

Tuesday November 11, 2014

Rich Charette

Returning to Haiti has become a trip that I look forward to throughout the year. I feel more at home than on previous trips. Possibly because we are serving again in Yvon and there are many familiar faces. With the help of Caz (our interpreter) I know and understand more creole. This also has helped to relieve some of the awkward moments of silence...when you have no idea what was said.

The genuine hospitality of the Haitian people is a blessing. They are hard working, resourceful and waste nothing.

Much work has been done on the church in Yvon. When we left in September last year just the floor and a few courses of block for the walls. In just over a year the church is under roof. Quite an accomplishment considering the work is all done by hand. Haiti reminds me to do all I can to love God and my neighbor. Serving alongside the Haitian people reminds me to always put the needs of others before my own.

“It’s not about what we have but who we are. It’s not about what we say but what we do.” Unknown

Blessed to be serving in Haiti with the CUMC Haiti Team 2104.

Zachariah 9:12 “Return ye to your stronghold ye prisoners of hope.”

Mira Hewlett

Coming back to Haiti this year it was clear to see so much progress since 13 months ago when we last came to Haiti on a CUMC trip. The roads have improved greatly around PAP and while traffic hasn’t, the travel is now much easier and cleaner. Cars are no longer broken down all over the place on the middle of the road, but it’s open for driving. The smell of garbage, or burning garbage isn’t as noticeable and the government/NGOs are making progress.

Yvon as well has made some amazing progress in the church. The walls are up and the roof in place. We are now helping sift sand as the workers put the two coats of concrete on the walls. From the floor and first levels of walls last year things have come far!

The work is hard and we are all able to contribute at different times to all that needs done. I have spent lots of time with Chris over the wheelbarrow sifting sand. I think my body now thinks that motion is normal for sift, sift, throw.

This trip has had more rain than any other trips this time of year, but things are so dry it soaks into the ground quickly. Most of today it rain (at different velocities) but luckily we got down to work and were still very productive. The showers were a bit cooler today with some rain water additions.

As always it's great to see Haiti through the eyes of new team members. And to hear nightly where people have seen God in this country and her people.

Some of the places we've seen God so far:

- Rich's leadership, love of the children, and devotion.
 - In the worship service and passion for singing.
 - In the faith and devotion of the church of Yvon.
 - In Caz, Madame Rose and our Haitian hosts.
 - In the work and flexibility of the team.
 - In each other and ability to work together so well.
 - In the life of joy and simplicity of each day in the life of those we met.
- And three more days yet to go...

Wednesday November 12, 2014

Doc Loudon

Great day! Small aches and pains are apparent, some are being worked out. Team members with colds are working as hard as ever. We helped coat the second wall with the first rough coat of cement. We had a long lunch break at the old church and enjoyed the several vendors who displayed their souvenirs with hope in their eyes for a sale. Even though we said we were done shopping many vendors left their

blankets hung on display while we ate lunch inside and waited until we left for the work site.

We worked until 4:45pm supporting the workers who have slowed down just a bit – but how do they keep bending over to mix cement, shovel it into buckets, others bending over to scoop up the cement at their feet and sling it on the wall – then scrape it level. Over and over again. How do they scramble across the rickety scaffolding while disassembling it with shoes that are smooth, in terrible disrepair and no shoe laces.

The water for mixing cement was brought in by donkeys (small mules) the old fashioned way!

Everyone in the team enjoys the church progress and would like to see it in another year to see how far it has come by then.

We cleaned up our tools marked V.I.M. (Volunteers in Missions) and locked them away. The workers are left with their tools, to finish the day as we say goodbye and hike the washed out road, looking forward to a cold bucket “shower” and another of Madame Rose’s meals.

Chris Benson

Thank you for giving me the morning, thank you for every day that’s new, thank you that I can feel your presence; I can trust in you.

It’s with a grateful heart that I’ve begun and ended each day – sharing our high’s and low’s each evening has come to be an important part of the experience. I find myself cataloging things to remember, being deliberate.

At night – becoming comfortable with the dark and the sounds of the community. It feels so good to stretch out and relieve the pressures of the day. It’s sobering to think this is a luxury many around us may be sleeping on the floor under a roof that may leak. I’ve got clean water to brush my teeth and shampoo to wash my hair. Not only do I have comfort for my physical needs, but a team to support my emotional needs.

I've also seen a marvelous energy in this place. God truly works in mysterious ways.

Thursday November 13, 2014

Kelley Loudon

Last day in Yvon – maybe! ☺

It was another early morning – today we would only have a half day of work. We started our morning by cleaning up our “camp area”. We put several things together to leave for the locals.

After another delicious breakfast from Madame Rose, we headed back to the worksite. Guess what we did?!? We sifted more sand! The weather was a little warmer and more humid than the past work days. We were all moving a bit slower. We passed our sand sifting time by telling stories, talking about shows we liked, family stories and experiences we'd had. It was a great way to really get to know the team.

The “turtles” headed back to camp while the others worked a bit longer. We started our goodbyes – took some group photos. It was bittersweet.

At camp we all showered before our final lunch at camp. Then it began – the rain Rich had been hoping for all week began! It was the hardest rain all week. It poured! During lunch we talked about how the rain could be a problem. The rain could possibly prevent our transportation from reaching our site as we're in a remote area in the hills and there are no paved roads. The transportation was to be here about noontime. It's currently 1:30pm and the only information we have is that the driver left about 9am (3 hour drive). So here we sit – listening to “retro music” and singing! ☺

The afternoon journey begins – 1:30pm

-Just advised transportation cannot reach our site.

-still raining

-surprised Johnny made it up the hill.

- after a truck loading brigade, the turtles ride w/ Johnny.
 - the rest walk down the rain soaked path – great walk – beautiful sights!
 - We met up with Johnny and the other driver after about 40 minutes. Lots of smiles!
 - We head towards the Guest House – lots of traffic due to the rain.
 - We stopped at Pastor Jacobs House – He surprised us with a very special snack of pizza, cake and Rich’s favorite...Coke! Rich is all smiles. Kate is happy – the staff cleaned her shoes and they looked new!
 - Johnny did an outstanding job getting us back to the Guest House.
 - After a long day we arrived to Corrine’s smiling face! She and the staff had saved our dinner. Kelley’s excited to have the Haitian eggplant casserole.
 - After swimming and showers and some organizing we went to bed.
- It was a great day!

Christa Bassett

We spent the first half of today at the worksite continuing to ‘passe sable’ (sift sand). Though, it is very physically demanding work, it has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know other teammates as we shared stories and childhood Vacation Bible School songs as we worked. Pastor Mira has asked some great questions as a way for us to get our mind off of the work. I was hard pressed to determine which famous person I would like to meet and talk with if they came back from the dead.

After working this morning we returned to the former church and finished packing, preparing for our driver to transport us back to Port-Au-Prince. A rather bad rain storm came which has delayed our driver. What wonderful camaraderie there is as we sit and wait around what has served our table for meals. A cell phone has been charged, familiar songs are playing and teammates are singing along with the songs.

This week I have been blessed by getting to know my church family better. I have been blessed by the hospitality of the community of Yvon, Haiti. And I have been able to grow both spiritually and a bit physically as I have pushed myself to help with the demanding work required at the worksite.

God has been good to us this week!

Friday November 14, 2014

Zach Robb

Today is our last day in Haiti. It's not a workday because we drove into the Guest House late last night. I have to admit last night's drive is still hanging in my mind, even though we got back at 7:30pm, it was such a wild ride (you should definitely try to experience intercity Haiti after dark...at least with an experienced driver like Johnny.) This morning the guys (Rich, Doc and myself) woke up bright and early feeling good since we just spent the night in the best room of the house, not to mention due to the first bed we slept in in 5 days. Right away we got to breakfast and in typical Haitian hospitality we were treated to a great selection of croissants, melon, pastries and fruit juice.

As we ate we were debriefed by our coordinator, which helped to get a sense of closure the trip was over. The trip was a success. Everyone was touched by the experience and I know we made a difference to the small community of Yvon. After we finished with food and said our last "Merci" to the kitchen staff we got in a small group and shared who our prayer partners were. I had Mira, and I am so thankful she was our group's leader. I don't think anyone else could have organized this crew so effectively. The success of this mission trip was dependent on her leadership and she came through wonderfully.

We soon loaded up our gear and boarded the van to first go to the Giant store to pickup last minute souvenirs and change American dollars to Gourde. After which we traveled to the Children's Hospital to drop off donations and take a quick tour. The lab was very small and utilitarian (I can only imagine they only had the essentials) compared to a hospital in the US. The babies in the pediatric ward were definitely the highlight of

the tour for everyone. I believe we spent the most amount of time there visiting every infant and getting to know the staff. Before we knew it we had to leave for the airport and once again hurry up and wait (for about an hour before we could board). We said our goodbyes to Caz and then we were off to the check points in the airport.

Mary Seaton

Our week comes to an end. Time to return home.

It was a week filled with many emotional moments from laugh-out-loud funny to heart-breaking pain.

Being part of a mission team serving in one of the poorest places, changes you. Witnessing the hope and faith in God that I saw and felt this week from the people of Haiti makes me realize just how much I need to grow in my faith journey.

Our plane just landed – we are home. Praise God.

Kate Anderson

Right now we are sitting at JFK airport waiting for our next flight to DC. Definitely mixed emotions.

I'm ready to go back to the comforts of home, but I will definitely miss Haiti. The people there are all so hopeful and kind and we met so many wonderful people in both Yvon and Port-au-Prince.

While "normal" life will start up again soon. I know that I will have a new perspective on life. I will be grateful for what I have and will do my best to spread joy in the same way that the people of Haiti do.

Marnie Anderson

Dark parking lot. Excitement. Prayers. Hellos and goodbyes. Dark drive. DC. Bag check. Confusion. Eagerness. Dawn. New York. Expensive breakfast. Last calls. On our way.

Port Au Prince. Sunlight. Heat. Music. Organized chaos. Customs checks. Official greetings. Friendly greetings. Jackson. Voltaire. Busy streets. Winding roads. Up the hill. Take it all in. Where to look first? What to ask first? Little rubble. Solar streetlights. Horns blare. Unfamiliar sounds. Unfamiliar smells. Laughter. Nervousness. Relief. Guest House. Welcomes. Settling. Corinne. Comfort. Food. Cool drinks. Love. Prayers. Sharing. Green. Tour. Schools. Beautiful church. Burning garbage. Progress. Hope. Rest.

Morning. Horns blare. Roosters crow. Packing up. Breakfast. Prayers. Stove. Propane. Cots. Water. Food. Dishes. Shovels. Wheelbarrow. Screens. Suitcases.

Johnny. Caz. Van. Open windows. Sounds. Smells. Heat. Speed. Port Au Prince. Carre Four. Bay. Rt 2. Leogane. Mellier. Grand Grove. Petit Guave. Palm trees. Markets. Hustle. Bustle. Buy. Sell. Trade. Walk. Motorbikes. Tap Taps. Rest stop. Cold juice. Stretch. Miragon. Lake. Beauty. Lush. Sugarcane. Green hills. Mountains beyond mountains.

On to Yvon. Nervous. Excited. Bumpy road. Little houses. Small paths heading where? Anticipation builds. Climbing. Climbing. Bumping. The school! The church! Climbing. Climbing. A community. The old church. Our home. Welcome. Palm leaf pavilion. Green benches. Waiting children.

Open door. Dark blue tarps. Set up cots. Dining behind chancel rail. Kitchen. Chickens. Roosters. Chicks. Donkeys carry water. Showers with buckets. Toilets with tarps. Lots to learn. Stunning views! Warm welcomes. Nest building. Photo snapping. Getting to know you. Trusting each other. Trusting God.

Rose. Helpers. The woman who sweeps. Nestle and Junior. Pastor. Bettina and Metsina and Valencia. Lori and Ilya. Pat-a-cake. Pepsi Cola- Cola L'orange! Un, deux, trois. Rice, beans, chicken, hot sauce (XXX!). Lemonade. Bless this food and the hands that prepare it. Spaghetti breakfast. Lasagna. Birthday cake. Champagne. Joy. Fellowship. Love. Thanksgiving. Privilege.

Sabbath. Rain. Worship. How many Bibles? Visitors from Olivier.
Praise. Hymnals in Creole. Voices raised in song. More rain. Inside.
Darkness becomes light. Singing. Clapping. Praying. Kneeling.
Receiving. Giving. Amazing Grace!

In any language the Holy Spirit is the same. Laughter is the same.
Melodies are the same. Tears are the same. Prayers are the same.
Hopes and dreams are the same. Handshakes and hugs are the same.
Smiles are the same.

Some nap. Some hike. Down and around and up, up, up. Goats.
Donkeys. Chickens. Butterflies. Crops grow. Saw mill. Mango tree.
Sugar cane mill. Remains of slave days. Solemn reminder.

Cock-a-doodle doo! Latrines. Rise and shine. Cooked with love.
Turtles down the hill. Tools down the hill. Boss Shadrack. Scaffolding.
Slinging mortar. Sweeping. Passe Sab. Passe more sab. Bucket line.
Bukit! Bukit! Hot. Humid. Clean water blessings. Kids. Recess.
Curious. Interested. Makenzie. Olgens. Support. Encouragement.
Building community. Blue trap lunches. Worker lunches. Proud cooks.
Proud principal. 7 teachers. 70 kids. No lights. Few books. Lots of
reciting. Lots of singing. Sad exclusions. Extra fingers and toes.
Parents worry everywhere and want the best for their kids. We are more
the same than different. More sand. Workers sing. We share stories.

Night. Showers. Buckets and rain. Laughter. Village gossip.
Generator. Charge everyone's phones. Kids count and sing and learn
English words. Stars. Tarantulas. Rats. Cots squeak. Snores. Sighs.
Need rest. Hard to settle. Dream of Passe Sab. Dream of the Dobbie
Brothers. Good night John Boy. Good Night Mary Ellen.

Are we done already? Short work day. Workers sing. Last trip up hill.
Rain! Mud! No truck! Donkeys? Repack! What's that sound? Johnny!
Truck. Load up – few ride down. Many walk. To Pastor Jacob's house.
Cold Cokes. Pizza. Cake. What amazing treats. What hospitality.
Wash muddy feet. Traffic. Noise. Darkness. Confusion. Slow go.
Dust. Exhaust. Check points. Teeming streets.

Guest House. Dinner. Rain. Lots of rain. Peace. Security. A cool
swim. A soft bed. Lights. Eric. Shopping for souvenirs. Rest.

A new day. Pack last time. Giant food store. Modern convenience.
Rum. Coffee. Vanilla. Candy. Peanut butter (spicy). Jelly (guava).
Grace Children's Hospital. A haven. AIDS. TB. Maternity care. Eye
care. Children need love. Children get care. Hugs. Pats. Lullabies.
Photos. Can't do enough. Aching hearts.

Airport! Mixed feelings. Goodbye Caz. Goodbye Haiti. Until we meet
again. God be with you.

Haiti

Haiti Haiti

Haiti Haiti Haiti

Haiti Haiti

Haiti