



*Where There is Water There is Life  
Water For a Dry and Thirsty Land*

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## NEWSLETTER

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Greetings to you, brothers and sisters!

This time I asked one of the first-time visitors who recently came as part of a group, to write his thoughts and what he experienced in coming here to Haiti. He just happens to be my cousin, and I am so pleased he and his wife were able to come!

It was with some anxiousness that we, my wife and I, agreed to join the group from our church, Kalona Mennonite Church, and community on a mission trip to Haiti in January 2015.

Tickets were purchased and so we were committed.

Others from our community had gone in previous years and returned with stories of being so blessed by going and serving both staff and

natives in Haiti. Willis, the founder of

WFL, is my uncle and had been telling stories of God's work there in Haiti for years at our annual family reunions, so it was of great interest to me to see firsthand those works. On arriving in Port Au Prince we were met with WARM weather, as opposed to the cold Iowa winter we had just left. The sea of humanity and poverty around the city of Port Au Prince was overwhelming in itself. The ride out of the city and to Cayes left me with an appreciation for our Iowa roads and driving laws, as it seemed almost dangerous to travel as everyone does in



The ever-enthusiastic Pastor Bertrand and his family

Haiti. Vehicles of all kinds were overloaded with people, food, and anything else that needed to be transported from point A to point B. And oh yes, loud horns help too, when driving in crowded traffic! As our week began, we saw God at work thru prayers for release and delivery of supplies and materials needed for our specific mission to Haiti. The freight container that had been sitting in Haitian Customs for several weeks, due to items it contained, was not being released by officials and

seemed like God may have other plans for us. But as the week went on, things fell into place and the container arrived at the

WFL compound with all the materials we needed. Our goal for this mission trip

was to install a roof on a church building

in a Haitian village about 3 ½ hours from the WFL compound and over some very difficult roads (paths). The building had been built many years ago and the roof had been in disrepair for 7 or 8 years. Rafter material and steel roofing were on the container for us. We first had to assemble the rafters at WFL compound, then load them on trucks and haul them up the mountain to this village. We woke up early on Monday morning with plans to leave the compound before traffic became an issue. We prayed for God's protection and

blessings on us and the Haitian village where we were going. We had good roads for about 2 hours, BUT then the road turned into a challenge. It was a winding trail of steep hills, gullies and large rocks to navigate our three vehicles. We had a large tandem water truck (hauling all the materials), a large boom truck (to set the rafters on the walls) and a pickup with tools and workers. Five miles and an hour and a half later, and several hills I didn't think we were going to make, we arrived at the small village. We were greeted with great enthusiasm and joy by the pastor and village members. They immediately had a Praise and Blessing ceremony for us coming to help them. It was very humbling to see how much they appreciated our efforts. Before we could even begin unloading the materials, they wanted us to join them for a meal of celebration and blessing. We began in earnest to unload materials,

complete the assembly of the rafters and finally set the rafters. As the day progressed more and more native Haitian people gathered to observe our progress. By the time the sun set we had all the rafters in place and braced, ready for steel.

We again were blessed with the preparations of food that were provided by the native Haitians. As we reflected on the day's activities, we saw how God had His hand in all that had happened, and how we were so blessed by the full dedication of the Haitians who provided food, cheerful encouragement, and a safe environment for a night's rest. They brought cots, sheets, pillows and covers for us. We knew that someone in the village probably didn't have those items for their night's rest, by them giving up for our comfort. We were experiencing their gratitude to us. It was a little strange hearing all sorts of noises all night long--donkeys braying, roosters crowing, dogs barking, and people moving about, but we were all very tired and slept well. As the sun came up on the Eastern horizon we heard

much bustling about and soon the village was going about their daily activities of fetching water, going to markets, just everyday activities for them. They sent someone several miles to get us fresh bananas for breakfast. We moved our bedding out of the way and arranged the tables for breakfast. After our breakfast and morning devotion we began on the final part of the roof, installing the steel. Several of the local Haitians assisted in handling the long sheets of steel, while our group fastened them to the rafters. In less than an hour we had most of the steel on and secured. It took a couple more hours to complete fastening the ridge cap and trim. We also wired for several lights, in the event they wanted to connect to a generator some day in the future. We emptied the water we had carried in the water truck tank, which carried the materials to the site, into people's buckets.



Putting the metal roofing over the new rafters.

It was a blessing to see how we could help their daily lives in such a simple way as provide water for their use, which meant they wouldn't have to travel 30 minutes for a bucket of water that day. As we were leaving the village I reflected on how much we had been blessed as we witnessed the joy on the

faces of the villagers and how we all shared the common Love of God. Though we live worlds apart, we serve the same God. We are hopeful that God continues to work in their village in the years to come. This project will provide them with useful worship facilities as well as a facility for the village's school. We pray that God will be honored and glorified in this village's future.

Jim Gingerich

**One thing I'd really appreciate you praying about is our need for a diesel mechanic. Daryl Musser has so ably served with us for a year and a half, and needs to return home. Anyone? You can contact our office here in Haiti at [wflhaiti@yahoo.com](mailto:wflhaiti@yahoo.com) for details.**

**In Christ,**

**Leon and Joy**