

Haiti - day 7 - Friday

Guess what? It is hot and humid tonight! We were sitting together talking about our experiences. I was not uncomfortable. When I took off my shirt, I realized it was wet from sweat but I did not even realize it. I think Haiti is getting to me.

After our routine start, we returned to the work site uncertain about what we would do. We had finished as much of the fence as we could. We were requested to build a gate that could enclose the building site. So, Dan went into action. He laid out the boards and got some of the unused sheet metal and started building.



I could just tell you the gate was built but there is much more to the story. The Haitian men stepped in again to do the work or more properly that Dan would show them how to do the work. Most of these men are just trying to survive and are only a half step above poverty. For them to learn to use a drill or a power saw may open opportunity for some work. So they gathered around and under Dan's direction built the gates.

We have all observed that the Haitians though living in great need are not lazy. Most of them are looking to survive. The streets are lined with vendors selling all sorts of things. They are doing what they can to keep existing. You can see them hustling to generate some income. What makes it hard is that everyone is looking to get something that helps.



Back to the gates. Tom got some hinges (ordinary but \$33.00 apiece). When they tried to fasten the hinges to the posts, they realized they did not have the right bit for the drill. So we will go back and finish the job before we move on.



As we ended our work, we did a round of photographs and began our goodbying. Bob shared some thoughts of our delight and hopes for their ministry. We prayed. Then, there were hugs and smiles all around. Tom interpreted all this. The Haitians are delightful but slow to warm up relationally. So the hugs and smiles were evidence that the people were pleased and ready to move ahead with the re-building of their church. They have had little to encourage them but in a week they saw the fence go up and most of the rubble removed.

Leading the goodbyes was Dr. Etienne. He is one of the church leaders and an unemployed physician. I have only ever known of one unemployed physician so I thought this unusual. Since no one can afford to pay a physician, he has no income. He and the other leaders are the real heroes here. They are seeking to serve The Lord in the midst of the physical and spiritual poverty. They won't return to America on Sunday.

We returned to the Gambrell's a bit earlier than usual. After dinner, devotions and dessert, Tom and Kelly asked us to tell about what we were thinking when we came and how our experiences had affected us. I can't give everyone's responses but we had quite different thoughts.



Tomorrow, we plan to visit some orphanages and will see other parts of the city. For Matt and Rachel, this will be a highlight.

It is getting late. The fan is running and giving little relief but it is moving the air for which we are grateful.

As always, thanks for taking the time to keep up with us. A special notice goes to those who sent encouragement notes. They are a daily treat.