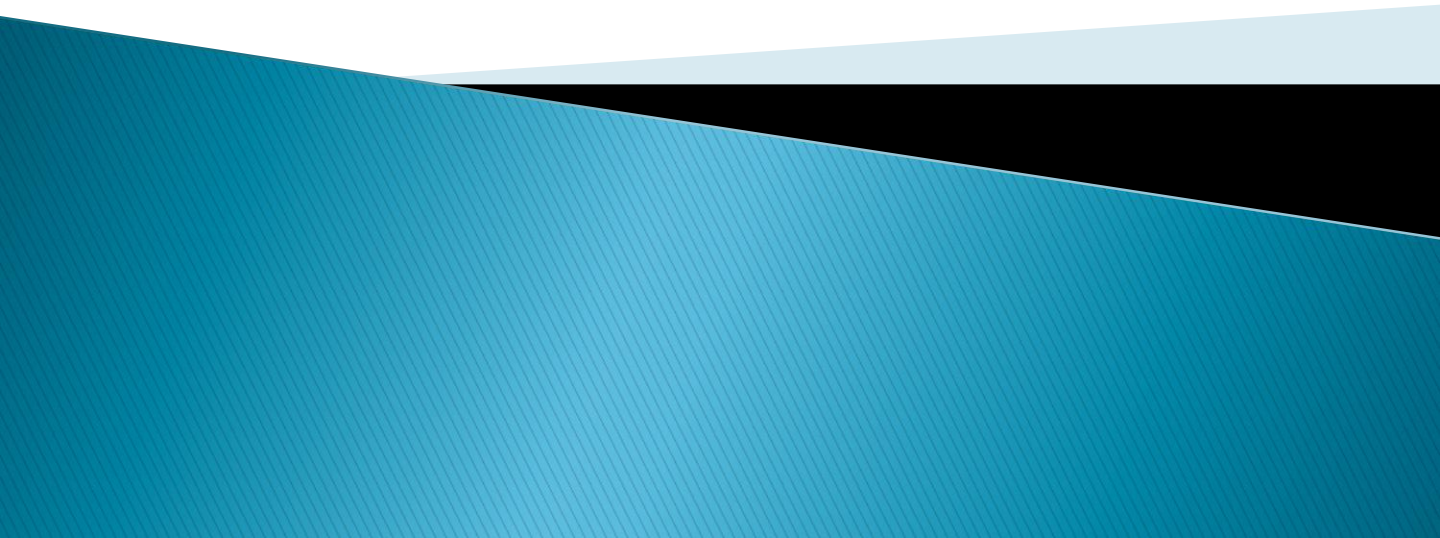


Haiti Winter 2016 Update

By Kevin & Cristina Lu



Team Dynamic

Putting together a team to serve is one of the most challenging task Cris and I have done. Thru many prayers, we were able to pull together a team of 9 people. I didn't know what to expect especially after many disappointments during the recruitment process. Each member had different strengths and weaknesses, but as a whole, the team was stronger than each individual. The positive response we received from each member was a true blessing. Besides the many hours of hard labor, the team had many laughs, frustrations and sorrows. Few on the team went on the trip as "Sunday" Christians. I believe we all walked away with a better appreciation of God's Love.

Below is a quote from Michele Sonier, one of our team member:

"The kids have given me far more than I have been able to give them in one week.... Their spirit, positive nature and happiness especially under their individual circumstances has taught me so much about how to live, appreciate life and to keep perspective about what real problems look like!! I think everyone needs to do something like this at least once in their life.



Left to right:
Back: Gimbert, Aixa, Brittney, Karen, Angele, Jen
Front: Mirsenit, Cristina, Kevin, Michele
Missing: Danielle

If so, there would be more peace in the world and mutual respect among all human beings. Giving of my time and my heart without selfishness or expecting something in return has given me more than I imagined. I'm not sure yet how this has changed me and my life but I do know things cannot, and will not, be the same for me going forward! "



Projects

Prior to the trip, we asked the team to stay flexible with the work assignments as we were not sure of the projects at hand. We are so grateful that the team was truly flexible and plugged in to work wherever they were required.

Security Camera



One of our main goal was to bring additional security to the orphanage. Sylvie and Angele are currently living a mile away from the orphanage, since the guest house and their home at the orphanage are still under construction. The camera will give them the ability to monitor the orphanage without being there. Unfortunately, since there is no reliable power and no wifi, they wont be able to use remote live viewing. They will have the ability to rewind if they suspect something happened. There has been theft at the orphanage by some workers. We hope the cameras will be a deterrent.

Painting

The children moved into the orphanage as soon as construction completed. Another one of goal was to make the orphanage more comfortable and pleasing for the children. We took on the task to make the bathrooms more presentable and safer by removing mold and mildew. The bathrooms were scraped to remove mold and old cement. We then primed the walls with cement dry lock, followed by painting with oil based paint. The colors were chosen by the children. Of course, pink for girls and blue for boys. We completed dry locking the girls and boys bathroom but had to leave a small part of the girls bathroom bare because we ran out of pink paint. Buying paint is a two day event since they now live an hour and ½ from the city. One day to place an order and another to pick them up. For the boys room, we ran out of time to paint over the dry lock. Angele plans to complete the painting when the next team arrives on Feb. 2.



Projects

Tiling of floor



The floors on the patio where the kids play is bare cement. The kids with cerebral palsy would crawl on it and end up having dust all over them. We decided to tile this floor. Tiling the floor became our most tedious task! Cement was used as an adhesive for the tiles. The cement was carefully mixed by hand, then spread on the floor. Then the tiles were placed strategically and grooves were made between the tiles. Only a small area can be worked at one time since the cement will dry quickly. After all the tiles were placed, a yellow cement coat is placed on top. After that dries, each individual tiles are scraped clean. The project was rewarding because as soon as it was completed the children played on the floor without getting dusty.

Construction of new house



Mixing cement by hand is hard work! The Canadian team that was in Haiti prior to us completed the foundation and the 4 walls of Sylvie's house. We were dedicated in finishing the floors of both bedrooms and stucco all the interior and exterior walls. But with a tight budget and lack of a cement mixer, we only completed 1 floor, stuccoed 1 exterior floor and 4 interior walls of 1 room.

Rocks were carried from one site to another where the cement was mixed using a wheel barrow. Water were transported using 5 gallon buckets. Mixed cement were also wheel barrowed into the rooms for the floors and the walls.

Fun with the Children

It was not all work. We had time to enjoy the company of the children.

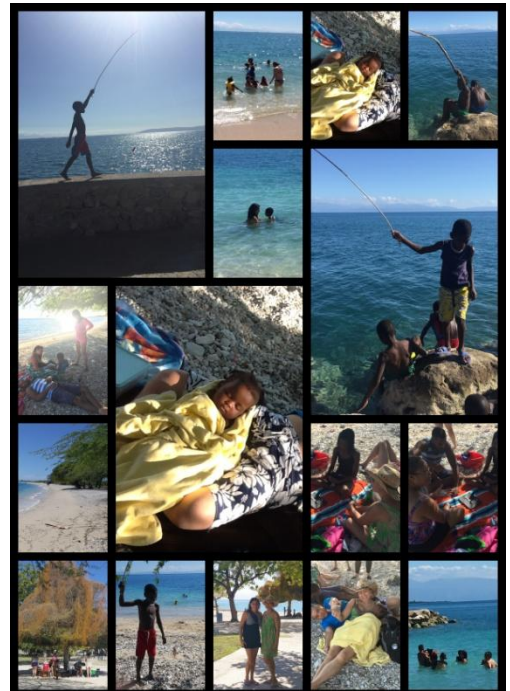
Salsa Party



We held a party for the kids. Like every children's party, they love the junk food and soda! Gimbert, Aixa and Mirsenit taught the children how to dance Salsa.

Fun in the sun

Sunday afternoon was a lazy day at the beach., The older kids fished off the pier while the younger kids were swimming with the team. I fell asleep with 10-month old Doodley on my leg.



Financials

We gave the team members the option to purchase their own airfare. For those that decided to choose that option, their fees were \$400. The team was also very generous and brought with them many donations and gifts.

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|---|-------------|
| Total avail less airfare i& insurance in Pillar | 1900 |
| Paid in person in cash | 1950 |
| Additional Raised | 1105 |
| Grand total raised | 4955 |
| | |
| Extra Luggage | 70 |
| Transportation expense | 260 |
| Team breakfast @ Haiti | 110 |
| Misc | 95 |
| Team total | 535 |
| | |
| Payments to orphanage | 4420 |
| Min Orphanage@ 50 /person/night | 3050 |
| Total above min | 1370 |