

Haiti Update 12/24/13

Dear Loved Ones

Another year. A year in which we've witnessed big changes in Haiti. More people with jobs in almost every community we visit. Infrastructure improvements like roads, water and housing. New businesses are opening providing not only the items they offer but jobs as well.

We've spent the last three months working on various projects. The Dessalines hospital remodel/expansion continues. The new maternity is nearing completion, the new OR's are in the early stages. The hospital now has it's own well, we were able to get this producing just before heading to Washington for Christmas.

HPU, the university we've been helping at plans to double their enrollment for the next term beginning next February. We are excited to be part of this wonderful project. As of right now there is no place to put the new students. Plans are in place, materials have been ordered, as you can imagine we'll need to hit the ground running to get the new dorm ready when we return.

It is very rewarding to be involved with projects like these. Occasionally we have an opportunity to help in a more personal way. Sherrie put together a drive to provide backpacks and school supplies to a small mountain community school. Handing out the items, watching the kids as they lined up to receive the donated supplies and clothes was quite an experience. Especially when you hear a young teenage boy whisper "YES" when he was given a pair of pants and shirt that he could wear to church.

One of the poorest areas around Port-au-Prince is Citi Soleil; even the police stay clear of this area. Jean, a Haitian employee of the mission, approached me with a concern. "Mr. Russ there is a woman that lives in Citi Soleil that works very hard, she has a daughter and her husband has left. She has a small house and an aid organization had started to build her a toilet. They dug a big hole in her floor and never came back. Now it's full of water because of all the rain, the mosquitoes are terrible". Because of your support she now has a new septic with a working toilet. We were not able to visit this area as our presence would have caused this lady all kinds of problems however we were able to hire Haitian workers to complete this project.

Please know how grateful we are for your prayers and financial support! These examples are just a few of the things that are being accomplished because of your sacrifice and dedication.

Have a Merry Christmas as we celebrate our Savior's birth.

God Bless,
The Cole's