



Marfranc, Haiti

Moore News

In Haiti....

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How did we get so busy?

Sometimes when I am sitting on my front porch looking out at the slow moving river and the beautiful green gardens in front of me, I wonder how we ever got so busy with our lives in the states that we forgot how to watch the world go by and appreciate it.

Steve left this morning (March 30) at 4:00 AM to drive over the mountain to Cayes to pick up our stuff that came in on the container. I was sitting quietly on our porch drinking coffee and it was so amazingly quiet and peaceful. I could hear the women down by the river hitting their paddles on their clothes on the rocks, getting them clean. I could hear the smaller birds singing, the crows making lots of noise, the woodpeckers busy hitting the trees and the few roosters crowing. Thank goodness the turkey we just bought was not talking, or it would not have been quiet. The sun was just high

enough to start warming up the earth and there was a wonderful clean smell in the air. A lady walked by on the path in front of our house with a huge basket on her head and a little boy walking hand in hand with her. Her very clear, beautiful voice was singing the Haitian church song, "Kombien mwen dwe (How much I owe)" It is a song that we sing in church all year long, but as I heard her singing it this morning, the week before Easter, it has special meaning for me. It reminds me of how much I owe Christ for dying on the cross for me. Hearing her sing that this morning was amazing.

Steve and I have gotten so accustomed to our wonderful, slow, peaceful life here in Haiti that it makes me wonder why we can't carry some of this back to the US with us. It seems like when we are in the US there is not time to sit and watch God's beauty. As a

society, we don't make time any more to talk to our neighbors, if we even know what they look like. We don't have block parties anymore, or borrow sugar from our neighbor. We don't take cookies to new people on the block, nor do we visit our neighbors that are sick or elderly. How did this happen? When we go home, I miss saying hello to everyone that walks by, I miss sitting on my porch to see what is happening in my neighborhood, I miss the joy, peace and quiet that God has given us when we live in Haiti. I would challenge all of you to put some of this back into your lives, to sit and enjoy God's beauty, to share life and God with your neighborhood again and get to know each other. I'm going to do that when I go home next....I enjoy how I felt this morning!

Vilex hits the road.

Starting on Wednesday, March 31st, Vilex will be going on the road with the Jesus Film. He will be going to two of our mountain churches packing the screen and small generator on a mule and carrying the projector and computer in a backpack. Jacquelin and his brother Wesley will be going with him on the two day journey. They will be going to Plik by foot, about a three hour walk, and show the film on Wednesday night, then continue their walk to Plaine Marie (another three hours) to show the film on Thursday night. Steve will pick them up ½ way down the mountain in Lori on Friday morning and take them to Moron, where they will show the film on Friday night. On Saturday night Vilex will show the film in Marfranc. Vilex did this last year at three churches, but none as far away as the two he is doing this year. This is a huge, huge blessing to all of these churches and I know they look forward to this at Easter time each year. Thanks Vilex!



Beans for Life

The beans have been planted and now we wait. Our area here in Marfranc has been very, very dry. The beans we have growing in our yard are

not going to yield very well, so we will have to wait and see how everyone else does. Vilex did say that when he walked to Plik and Plaine Marie, the beans crop there looked great. It is

cooler there and they get more rain, so hopefully their crops will do better than ours. It's a waiting game, won't know how this year went until the crop comes in. Will keep you posted.

Finally new Kitchen counters!!!

Since last November, Steve has been working on my kitchen counters. We decided to go with metal shelving units to help keep the crawling critters down and it has helped. He has been busy making me wonderful, wooden counter tops and as a bonus...he made me spice and condiment racks to go over the corner shelf unit. Now all we need to do is get it painted and have tile put in above the stove, so that we can clean the wall when it gets greasy! (No, that grease spot will not be a permanent part of my kitchen, ha!). We are hoping that Pastor Fran will have time on one of his trips to put a backsplash of tile behind the stove and across the top of the counters....then it will be perfect. Just wanted to share the progress that has been made in the kitchen. Plus, I also wanted to show you how wonderful Steve is...he did a great job and I love my cabinets!!!



Child Sponsorship Program

We want to thank everyone who has sponsored a Marfranc child for school. We have been amazed at the love people are showing by adopting these kids.

We started out with 92 children available for sponsoring and we now have 61 sponsored! This is our first year for the program and we are working out the many glitches. Vilex goes to school every Monday and Friday and gives all the 1st through 6th grade children vitamins. It is like watching a mother bird feed her chicks. For the younger grades Vilex and the teacher put the vitamins into the children's mouths. We don't know how clean their little hands are and we don't want them playing with them before they eat them. Vilex always gives a pep talk about how vitamins help build strong bodies! The kids love getting them.

We are thankful to the churches that have donated these vitamins. We are praying that we will continue to have enough during the coming years to continue doing this. We will be having a team come in April from LifeSpring Church to take pictures again for the coming year. We will be adding 25 first grade students to our list to be adopted. Anyone interested can go to the NLH website and click on the sponsor a child and check out all the cute faces. New children will be added to this group again sometime this summer.



Pastor Fran handing out vitamins.

Teams to come

The two teams that were scheduled in March had to be rescheduled, due to the Earthquake, and we will be busy with teams for the rest of the year.

Our first team arrives at the end of April. They will be helping with and taking pictures for the child sponsorship program for this. The next team will arrive in the middle of May. This team will visit Plik, where they will be taking school supplies to the kids and school there. They sent money earlier in the year to have three chalkboards made; this was a huge blessing to the small school. They will also be building wooden doors for the school in Marfranc. They need nine doors, planed, cut, sanded and put together! They have their work cut out for them.

The next team will come in July. This will be the first time a team will be camping at a mountain church. They will be spending three nights up in the mountains in the village of Chameau, while they put tin on the roofs of the parsonage and the church. Since the beams should be put on before they arrive, they should be able to get both of these jobs done. They will worship in Chameau with the congregation on Sunday morning under a new tin roof!

In August, we will have a team coming from Texas. Pastor Mike Clawson came with a team a year ago to visit Marfranc and fell in love with the people and will return leading a team from his church in Texas. They will have the huge undertaking of painting all three of the school buildings inside and out while they are here. The challenge will be getting it all done.

In November, we may have two groups coming. Pastor Eddie's church will be coming with 10 people to paint the outside of the Moron church and put a roof on Asile, the retirement home here in Marfranc. Then later in the month Pastor Fran may come for a visit for our annual Turkey Feast in Marfranc, we'll see!

Bouki is one year old!!!!

We made it! It may sound silly to celebrate a dog's one year birthday, but it isn't easy for a dog here in Haiti!

Bouki says, "Mom tried to bleed me to death by clipping one of my toenails too close, it was scary. Then, when I got something wrong with my ears, mom and dad insisted on putting all kinds of medicine, water and stuff in my ears...when I hear, "Bouki, let's see those ears"...I run! Then, they decided that I was allergic to Pu-



rina Dog chow (which is all I had to eat) and since there wasn't a Petco nearby.....I had to go on a Haitian diet, yep...rice, chicken and whatever else everyone was eating! Now this may sound like fun, but it sure doesn't fill me up like I'm used to and I'm hungry a lot! They said that I'll get some new dog food soon and it will be okay. I want to thank everyone that sends me dog food and treats....you are all life savers!!!! XOXOXOXO"

Earthquake

January 13, 2010 will go down in history as the day of the Big Earthquake in Haiti. Our lives were changed that day along with the millions of Haitians, not only in the capital of Port-au-Prince, but in the outlying areas as well. The effects of the quake 2½ months ago are still being felt all over the country. You have all read about the devastation and probably know more about it than we do. We didn't have any phone communication for almost a week. However, let me tell you watching solid concrete floors and walls wave like water is a scary thing!



I think the epicenter to Marfranc is about 120 miles as the crow flies. We were amazed at how much of the quake we felt. While our house didn't any significant damage, we do have surface cracks in our ceilings, walls and floors to remind us daily of the awesome power of the earth. Haiti is still getting tremblers...and if something makes a loud rumbling noise, Haitians (especially children) will run out of their homes and schools for fear of their lives. It will impact their lives for many years to come.



In Marfranc, most of the homes are made of clay and rock walls with tin roofs. While these houses didn't

collapse and fall on people, walls did crumble. About 40 people slept in the Marfranc church for over a week, either because they had too many holes in their walls and were afraid, or they were afraid of another trembler and that their house would fall on them and kill them.



We quickly went out and bought as much food as we could to hold us over, knowing that food would become scarce out here in the country. We also filled drums with diesel and gasoline so that we had fuel for our generators and truck. It spurred us to raise money for a solar system so we aren't dependent on fossil fuels! Our next consideration was figuring out what we could do for the people of Marfranc. We decided to buy cement so that people could begin to repair their homes. Pastor Plaisir agreed and said it was a great idea!



Implementing such a great idea proved to be the most difficult part of the entire process. We finally got it down to a system to assure that those in need really were getting help. Vilex photographed the homes of each person who requested cement so we could assess how much they would get. Then lists were made, cement was purchased, and Pastor gave out the cement. Sounds easy? HA!!!! Never! People were getting mad because they weren't on the list, people wanted more than what we decided to give them, it never ended. However, we persevered and have helped over

100 homes be rebuilt and have given away over 400 bags of cement. We also were able to give some financial assistance to about 36 people to help pay for the masons to do their homes.

However, for all of the headaches in helping the people, in return we had many, many people thank us for the help they were given. They were truly amazed that an organization and people in the states would help them out here in the villages when most of the damage was in Port. They said over and over how grateful they were to everyone for their donations to help them live in their homes again.



We want to add our thanks to that. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Earthquake Relief fund through us and through NLH and also those who gave personal donations to us to help us buy food, supplies and fuel for our truck and house.....it was nice to have TP and peanut butter, ha! Seriously, we thank you all for sending help to us. We truly, truly could not have made it through all of this without you.



Efforts are still being made to finish helping those that have not repaired their homes. We are still buying cement and giving away food to those in need and will probably continue to do so, for some time.

Our Schedule.....

I hesitate to even tell all of you our schedule, since God has rearranged it once already! We were planning to come back to the US in February this year, and then the Earthquake struck. Since it would have been difficult to get back, we decided that it was better to stay and work with the people in our area who needed help. We are glad that we stayed; it has been a blessing to those that we know here to be able to help them as much as possible.

We are now scheduled to go home on May 25th...arriving in Seattle and spending a few days there. Then we will be in Lewiston until July 7th. My daughter, Robin, will be graduating with her MSW in Seattle, so we will attend the ceremony, and will stop by Steve's mom's on the Oregon Coast to visit, and go to Portland to visit Steve's daughter, Beth, and her husband. Time at home always goes by too quickly. We are looking forward to seeing everyone and being in our home church.

In October, we will be going to Plainfield, Illinois (near Chicago) to attend the 5th annual NLH Haiti Gala, spending about two weeks there. We hope to attend the NLH banquet at the Crossover in Indiana, if we can coordinate it. We are excited about finally getting to go to a Gala and spending an evening talking about Haiti and visiting with friends.

Visitors in March

We enjoyed having Pastor Fran (NLH director) and John Frankel, from Ohio, visit us for two weeks in March. Pastor Fran has said he would love to come and stay with us for a month to work on his Kreyol, get to know the people here better and take a lot of walks to the outlying churches. He couldn't get away for a month, but did manage two weeks here. John was able to come with him and we enjoyed them immensely.

They went to Plik (about three hours by foot from Marfranc, across the river and up in the mountains) to take pictures of the unfinished church there, which is also being used as the school. NLH wants to build a school at Plik so Fran wanted to take pictures of the existing school and the church. Steve drove them most of the way there; and then it's only a 45 minute walk to the village. Unfortunately Fran's video camera wasn't working and all of his shots were blank.

Pastor Fran also wanted to go to Plaine Marie. This village is up the same mountain as Plik, only further; about six hours walking from Marfranc. Since Fran needed to retake the pictures at Plik, they decided to go up to Plaine Marie, spend the night, then hike back down to Plik and Steve would get them the next day. HA!!!! They did it, but boy were they tired. They hiked three hours uphill (all the way, they say) to Plaine Marie, slept on mats, hiked three hours down, then another 45 minutes each way down to Plik and back. Steve said they almost fell into the truck. However, Fran says that John and Vilex ran UP the hill from Plik to the truck, and Pastor Plaisir did NOT walk down into Plik! It was quite an adventure; one that they will not soon forget.



Walking to Plaine Marie.



John working on the gate.

John also helped Steve do projects around the house, including completing my kitchen counters!!! Thanks for all the work John. We told both of them that they could come back and stay as long as they wanted! Both of them increased their Kreyol vocabulary by leaps and bounds!

Praises and Prayer Requests



Blessings

- That Joline is no longer sick and is feeling much better.
- That no one in Marfranc was hurt during the earthquake or aftermath.
- For God's protection of family member in Port and that they were able to return home to their families in Marfranc.
- For the support and outpouring of love from friends and church members to help the people of Marfranc whose homes were partially destroyed and for the food and provision their support provided.
- That we are so blessed with family, friends, and church families all over the US, who love us, support us and pray for us each and every day!
- That Baby Erlande is much better and on the road to recovery.

Prayer requests

- Prayers for Erlande that she will continue to be healed and grow strong in body and in spirit and for her mother, Darline for strength and perseverance.
- Prayers for continued good health for both of us. Steve broke his little toe; healing for it.
- Prayers for safety on the road and travel.
- Prayers for travel mercies for the teams that will be arriving to work in and get to know the people of Marfranc district.
- Prayers for Pastor Plaisir and his family and also for the churches in the district of Marfranc.
- Prayers for the congregation in Marfranc, especially for the elderly in our church.
- Continued prayers for those affected by the earthquake, in Port and also here in our valley.