

March, 2009

This past winter, for the months of October, January and February, my husband Russ and I were privileged to work at EGO. During October, we were there with Don and Doris Peavey, doing general maintenance. Then, after returning home to spend the Christmas holidays with our family, we returned to EGO to spend the next two months helping out once again at EGO. This time, returning while Don and Doris went to the states to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary and take a “rest break”.

During our time there we spent a lot of time on the road, going back and forth to Port Au Prince for various items. First were the trips to get Visas for little Nixon and Ruth, which Doris wrote about in the previous newsletter. If you were not a patient person before coming to Haiti, you will learn how to patient there. The only thing Haitians do in a hurry is drive busses too fast! After several days of waiting, the Lord came through and allowed Visas for both Nixon and Ruth. Then there were the trips to take Pierre to medical appointments for his injuries received while walking down the sidewalk and being hit by a “tap tap” He has had several weeks of seizures and severe headaches. At the time of this writing, his symptoms have finally lessened. We made another trip in February to pick up Ruth and Nixon from the airport after the corrective eye surgery Nixon received in the states. We also took Pierre back to Dessalines with us. Because of his headaches, we had to go very slowly. There are many, many bumps, ruts and rocky places to drive over, so the trip which usually takes 3 hours, took 5. Nixon rode on my lap and we had 4 adults in the back seat of the Toyota. It was crowded to me, but nothing out of the ordinary for Haiti. The Lord protected us from harm during our drives back and forth to Port au Prince from Dessalines. The trip can hold many aspects of excitement. There are many people, goats, cows, and even a few pigs on the road, along with many speeding busses, trucks and tap taps. Very few of them use the American traffic rules. Your horn and brakes seem to be the most important things in your vehicle!

Russ worked on many items in need of repair while we were at EGO. When we arrived you could hear the pump that is used for washing clothes and bathing children going from early morning until late at night. It was the first pump that Don had installed over 30 years old. We thought it possibly had a hole in the pump as it took lots of pumps to get water. (It also squealed loudly with each pump!) Milot, a former orphan, now a Pastor and maintenance person, and Russ tried pulling the pipe with the tractor and it wouldn't budge. They ended up drilling a new well next to the old one as the pipe was filled with holes and kept breaking off. The well now pumps water with the first pump and no squealing. He also got the big generator running, repaired many of the children's beds with new iron supports. We purchased a new solar pump for EGO, thanks to generous donors of the Quincy Free Methodist Church. With this pump, EGO can pump water, not only with the generator, but also with solar power. It pumps 10-12 gallons per minute and 6-8 gallons per minute on cloudy days. On a side note, during Mardi gras time, EGO hosted a church camp of over 50 kids from Port Au Prince, and also provided water to a group of 120 kids from another church. While they were lined up at the Solar pump, EGO's resident bull decided to get excited and ran right through a line of students. We had a little excitement then! Russ worked on many other projects too, and some of the fun ones were fixing the swings for the kids. There were 3 swing sets that needed repair, so we purchased new chain and put swings back up. Another thing we did for fun was have the boys paint all the trash cans. The next week the girls painted decorations on them. We were hoping the painted “pou belles” would encourage the children to put the “fatra” in them. They are trying to remember and the yard shows it.

EGO also received a donation so that work on the school could be continued. Before Don and Doris left, Don ordered the windows and doors for the first floor of the school. The windows have since been

picked up and are stored at EGO. Milot worked on pouring more forms for the second floor of the school. We also stock-piled sand and gravel for building with.

Also, while we were there, the 42' container was delivered to EGO. This took two trips by a smaller truck to get the supplies shipped on that container to us. It was filled primarily with Muscle Milk. Small drinkable containers of milk shake products filled with vitamins. The kids love it and it is just what these children need. The milk that Haiti has is a powdered substance called "Alaska". While it also has vitamins in it, it just isn't the real stuff. (I know it is, but I missed the milk I purchased in the states!) Also, in the container were several big boxes of plastic water jugs. We weren't sure what we were to do with those, but a few weeks later, during Mardi Gras, we needed those water jugs to provide water to the many extra people in Dessalines. The town couldn't supply enough water for them, but EGO did. Again, the Lord knew! Someone else donated six large boxes of fabric to EGO. Those of you, who know how much I enjoy sewing, can imagine my delight at this 'find'.

The day before we left, a new little boy was brought to EGO. Little Abraham was seven days old when his mother died due to complications from his birth. The last three times we have been at EGO, they have received new little ones. The two who have come before are healthy, learning to walk, and most of all, learning about Jesus and the love He has for them. Even little Nixon, while riding home to EGO on my lap, was playing with a toy like it was a microphone and sang into it, "La, la, la, AMEN!" He is two years old and is already praising Jesus.

Over and over again, while we were at EGO we saw how God provided not only for us, but for EGO. Don and Doris are able to send many of the older students to college in Port Au Prince, only through the donations from many of you. The school project has only been able to be built through the donations of people who are listening to God and doing His will. EGO itself would not be in existence without two special people listening to God and going forward with His will.

We left for home on March 11th, with the knowledge that God takes care of His children. God's children at EGO will always have a special place in our hearts and we hope to return again next year. We are especially grateful to Him, and Don and Doris, for giving us this opportunity to serve.

Russ and Sherrie Cole
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