

Report on December, 2016, Trip to Haiti

December 16, 2016

This report does not contain photographs. I'm having problems with my new camera.

Concept

Make a quick trip to Haiti to take care of some details:

1. Visit Oranges Orphanage and deliver Christmas presents.
2. Visit Colminy and determine what would be required to get the irrigation pump running again. Determine the community's needs.
3. Determine what supplies are available for building the Girls' Dorm at Faith Lutheran Orphanage, and for building additional homes in Jubilee.
4. Deliver Christmas presents to the Faith Lutheran Orphanage.
5. Meet with American University of the Caribbean leaders to arrange for teaching at the American University.
6. Meet with the Mayor of Jacmel to discuss disaster-resistant construction.
7. Check the newly installed roof on the school in Kenskoff. This will give us a chance to eat the best hamburger in the world at The Haiti Baptist Mission in Fermate

Accomplishments of the December Trip

During my December trip to Haiti, God opened a number of doors for us.

In January, 2017, I will be teaching my first 4-semester-hour course in disaster-resistant construction at the American University of the Caribbean in Les Cayes to approximately 50 engineering students. Others classes are to follow.

In February, I will be supervising the building of a Girls' Dorm in Gonaives and a home in Jubilee, as well as training Scott Peters to take over much of the administrative work that I do in Haiti. After I leave, he will continue to build homes in Jubilee. Several of the engineering students from Les Cayes will join us.

In April, I will be teaching building contractors in Port-au-Prince about disaster-resistant construction. This class is being arranged by architect Vanessa Darbouze.

The Mayor of Jacmel has selected land for a demonstration village and wants me to come and teach a class in disaster-resistant construction. He also wants me to teach a class for building inspectors. We have not set a date, but it

will probably happen in May. While in Jacmel, I will be teaching several entrepreneurs how to build a lightweight roofing block I developed, which can be used to build safer concrete roofs.

Thursday, December 8, 2016

I flew to Ft. Lauderdale, waited for 1.5 hours for a shuttle to the Candlewood Motel. Met Helen and had supper with her and two other Mission: Haiti people.

Friday, December 9, 2016

We caught the shuttle at 4:00 am to the airport and flew to Port-au-Prince. We were met by Lophane and Noel. After lunch we headed to the Oranges Orphanage which is located out of Port-au-Prince in a mountainous region. Pastor Jonas Maxime was in the US, but we met with his wife. Pastor Jonas and his family live in a one-room home which is about 150 square feet. They are building a school building; and when it is complete, they will be living on the second floor. Christmas gifts were left with Madam Jonas Maxime, including dresses for the girls. It did not take the girls long to slip into their new dresses so we could take their pictures.

We then headed to Colminy where we met with Pastor Orilus and the church elders to find out how things were progressing and to find out what their major needs were. We had heard that their irrigation pump had quit working. While there, we talked to the man working on it and found out the parts that were needed. Arrangements were made to buy the parts; and before we left Haiti, the pump was running again.

Our plan was to get to San Marc to spend the night before it got dark. We left Colminy as it was getting dark, so we were running behind schedule. Both my large suitcases were hauled up to my room – second floor – and I spent time sorting items for the Faith Lutheran Orphanage from everything else. When we loaded up on Saturday morning, one suitcase was dedicated to the orphanage and one was ultra-heavy.

Saturday, December 10, 2016

After an early breakfast, we departed for Gonaives. At the Guest House in Gonaives we had to wait to get the facility opened up so we could take an inventory. This seemed strange, since arrangements had been made to have keys to open the facility.

We took the inventory and found that some items were missing. A separate report will be developed concerning the inventory, and a list will be made of the items we need to expedite to Haiti before we can build in February.

The generators were missing. Both had been loaned out before our March trip, and it took three days to get one of them back (it needed repair) while we never saw the other one. We were assured that it would be returned and stored with our other equipment within a day or two of our leaving. We have arranged to

get a diesel generator, and Lophane will store it. Diesel is a much better choice in Haiti than gasoline. That is one of the lessons we learned.

The rolls of basalt rebar were missing. The basalt rebar had been at Faith Lutheran Church and were going to be brought to the Guest House for storage. Apparently that never happened. We went to the church, and it was locked and we could not get in. Helen is contacting Pastor Benoit to get photos of the basalt rebar. If she cannot get appropriate photos, we need to buy and ship more. Deadline for that is the end of December.

While working on the inventory, Scott Peters arrived with one of his daughters. Scott is a US citizen who came to Haiti about 5 years ago on a mission trip and decided to stay. He has married a local girl, and they have two daughters. He has a background in construction and construction management. Helen and I separately talked to Scott, and he appears to be capable of learning the dome-building process and keeping the work going when I am not present. In the past if we were not sure we would finish a dome within the time frame we had, we would not start attaching the Airform. Scott will be able to take a partially completed dome and finish it after we leave. After doing that one time, he will probably be able to start and finish the job when I am not there.

We went to the Faith Lutheran Orphanage. While Helen met with the director, Lenz Etienne and the Madam Weslande, Scott and I looked at the slab for the Girls' Dorm and discussed the process.

When I tried to take photos, my camera would not work.

The boys' dorm which was condemned last spring and which we were informed had been dismantled in April, 2016, was still standing. The boys have been moved out, and the doors have been locked.

When Helen counted the dolls that Candice had sent she found there were a few more than there were girls to receive them, so Scott's daughter received a doll for Christmas.

Our plan was to get back to Wall's before dark, but since our plans seldom stay on schedule, we got in after dark. As we drove in, we saw that things were being set up for a wedding reception. Helen looked at Lophane and said, "You made our reservations, didn't you?" Lophane responded, "I thought you were doing that." **There was room in the Inn.** The reception started about 7:00 pm and the loud music, just outside my door, was not able to keep me awake beyond 7:15 pm.

Sunday, December 11, 2016

We had planned on driving to Les Cayes to meet with The Reverend Dr. Paul M. Touloute, Provost of the American University of the Caribbean and Dr. Renaud Bury, Dean of the College of Engineering at the American University of the Caribbean. Instead they flew into Port-au-Prince to save us two days of driving. The Reverend Touloute is LCMS-trained.

We had a very fruitful discussion concerning teaching Concrete Technology at the American University. January is a period between regularly scheduled semesters. We agreed that I would teach classes for two weeks during this time with the starting date January 9, 2017, and ending January 20, 2017. There will be travel time before and after the classes.

The classes will use *Blondet's Manual* concerning disaster-resistant construction using confined masonry construction and *Kay pou Jubilee* using the dome technology. I will furnish Adobe masters of each book, and the university will print copies for all of the students. Additionally, I will ship an appropriate number of *The Stucco Books* for the students to use.

I will be teaching 6 hours per day for 10 days. Helen is arranging a "babysitter" for me, to ensure I have everything I need and that I do not get overtired. He has copies of the books and will be an additional resource for the teaching. Over the next week I will develop lesson plans. Currently I believe it would be appropriate to start with why buildings fail and then take a field trip to look at buildings in Les Cayes which are showing signs of failure. After that, we will be able to refer back to those failures to motivate their building with sound techniques.

While in Les Cayes, I will be staying in the university's Guest House.

After the meeting, we attended church with Lophane.

After lunch, Lophane, Noel, Helen, and I went to the home of Joel, one of our drivers. He was not home, but we met with his wife and children. Their home was destroyed by the 2010 earthquake and then Hurricane Matthew, and fire destroyed the pressed board "temporary" house they had. Their new house is almost done! Mission:Haiti purchased all of the supplies, and members of Bon Berger (Good Shepherd) Lutheran Church are doing the construction. The house should be complete this week. The cost for the two-room home is \$9,000, but would have been about \$15,000 if Joel and his church had not done all the labor.

After that, we returned to Wall's for the evening.

Monday, December 12, 2016

Jacmel is located on the southern side of the southern peninsula of Haiti and is about 20 miles south of Leogane. Since a mountain range separates the two cities, the distance is over twice as far by road. We left Port-au-Prince at 6:00 am and arrived in Jacmel at about 9:00 am.

We met The Reverend Mayor Macky Kessa and his wife Sydney at their home and had breakfast with them. The Reverend Kessa is LCMS-trained. After breakfast we talked about the two books I had with me, *Kay pou Jubilee* and the Creole version of the *Blondet Manuel*. We discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the two different types of construction. Mayor Kessa asked if I could come to Jacmel to teach, and I agreed, but at this point we have not set a date. Besides teaching people how to build the homes, he would like me to teach

the building inspectors so they can better understand what it takes to make a building disaster-resistant.

After our meeting, we toured city hall and went past the church's radio station.

We had hoped to get back to Port-au-Prince by 3:00 pm, but did not make it.

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

We headed to Kenskoff to a school we had looked at during the October trip. Hurricane Matthew had removed the roof. Based on the information we had collected, Helen applied for and received a grant to replace the roof. With this visit, the new roof was in place and school was in session. An examination of the roof showed that the work was done in a good workmanship manner.

Before the Hurricane, the ceiling was deteriorating. Now it is mostly gone. When the sun shines on the metal roof, heat radiates from the underside of the roof, increasing the temperature in the room. With a plywood ceiling, the attic ends up becoming hotter, but it is cooled by vents in the side of the roof structure. As a result, the room remains cooler. The plywood ceiling will cost about \$2,000. Helen is looking for a grant to cover that cost.

On the way back down the mountain, we stopped at the Baptist Haiti Mission in Fermate. They have some of the best hamburgers that I have ever eaten.

Wednesday, December 14, 2016

We left Walls' at 7:30 am and headed for the airport. The airport was not crowded and we cleared security without any problems. Flight home was without any problems until I started down the escalator at the San Antonio Airport. A lady behind me lost control of her bag when she answered her cell phone and it cleared everyone off the escalator. Actually I was the only one below her. No broken bones, just broken ego. The upside was I got to meet some very nice people, including a nurse, a policemen and EMS personnel.

Tentative Schedule for early 2017

January 9 through 20 Teaching at the American University of the Caribbean. Will need to add travel time before and after these dates.

February 16 to March 2 Building the Girls' Dorm at Faith Lutheran Orphanage and one home in Jubilee.

April 7 through 13 While the teacher conference is going on, I will be teaching a class for building contractors.

Jacmel

Not scheduled yet.