

Six Weeks To Live!

Six weeks to live – that is a poignant phrase. It can mean a lot of things but for us, it means we have had six weeks to experience life and walk alongside the people of Leogane.

CRWRC seeks to serve communities around the world in circumstances of injustice, poverty, or disaster in such a way that they are transformed and their situations improved in sustainable ways.

CRWRC also remembers that survivors of disasters are image bearers of God, and, as such, are participants in their recovery rather than “objects” of relief activities.

With these thoughts as our “measuring sticks,” we ask – “How are things going in Leogane?” The answers are many; here are a few:

- CRWRC is working through Community Based Organizations, which existed before the earthquake. From these organizations, which represent five communities, we work with a community advisory group which helps to shape the path of the response.

- So what’s up? HOUSES! 103 in fact - with more about to be erected. We have paused briefly in the construction process to take care of some paper work that needs to be

done due to the lack of official land titles in the country. It does not mean we are not still working on houses though. Site selection goes on, site preparation goes on, procurement of materials and pre fabricated components goes on – there is concrete work and plywood to fit ... the list is endless!

Teams of locals from the community and from a local technical school form the building crews under the direction of our construction team which, until last week, was comprised of three men – Alan, Theodore and Sem. What a joy that local employment is created! We are now blessed to have a new team member – Phil Westra from Florida, the new construction manager. He ‘hit the ground running’ with immediate helpful input and is a good fit with Alan.

- Speaking of blessings, we also have a new finance manager – Smart Clement from Abbotsford, BC. He comes with all the gifts needed to manage a complex project. He is also Haitian so he speaks the language. He is coaching another employee, San Diego, in office management skills. Building capacity is an important part of the work! For those



Transitional shelter being built, while people look on.

who know Lauris well, you can probably hear her sigh of relief!

- Psycho-social meetings to help people process their trauma are on-going. There are now locally trained leaders for these sessions. As the sessions are conducted, participants are expressing the value of the experience.

We hoped to hold many sessions for children but they are often unavailable for a good reason – they are back in school!! We are exploring ideas to reach the children and to conduct sessions for those who are available. Everything is a process.

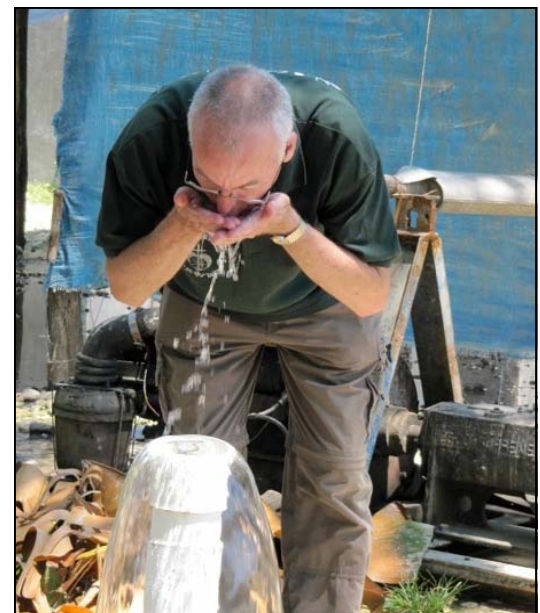
WASH in NGO Land

Haiti is ripe with lingo! WASH stands for “water sanitation and hygiene.” NGO stands for “Non Government Organization.” I sometimes wonder how many NGOs there are in Haiti at the moment!

The good news is that wells continue to be drilled and latrines are being built as part of the CRWRC response. One exciting piece from our perspective is the excellent water quality being found. By drilling deep into sand and gravel, the water is very clean and the wells are productive. Some are artesian wells and just to see the abundance of beautiful fresh water is a thrill.

Enter thoughts of the Samaritan woman at the well. Enter thoughts of Jesus’ gift of living water. Enter thoughts of thanksgiving!

(Pictured: Ron drinking water from a new well)



THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

We are thankful for:

- God's amazing grace
- Waking up alive to live each day
- The privilege of coming along side the people of Haiti and for the trust of CRWRC to serve under their program.
- The culture of CRWRC which provides for meaningful follow-through in a geographically defined holistic response.
- Support from CRWRC, family and friends
- Great staff
- A safe place to live and recreate

We ask for prayers for:

- Wisdom
- Good communications
- Eyes to see and ears to hear
- Good decisions and
- Safety on the roads



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Visitors!

There is much to tell about our life in Haiti. Here is a tiny glimpse of a few visitors we've had recently:

- **Wayne DeJong, Andy Ryskamp, and Ken Little** from CRWRC. They all have enabled us to gain from their vision and wisdom.
- **Work Groups** who are volunteering with Sous Espwa, the long term CRWRC presence in Haiti, have come to tour the project with great enthusiasm.
- **Partnering agency representatives** have come by to see the work. They refresh us with their experience and feedback. It is particularly fun when we find we have mutual connections.
- CRWRC sent a film crew headed by CRWRC's **Christina deJong** (Communications). You will see the work of this crew when the 6 month update comes out soon. It will be linked on the CRWRC website www.crwrc.org.
- **ACT Alliance monitors** also spent time with us to review the work of CRWRC and to make suggestions. We surely gained from their visit. The ACT alliance is an umbrella organization under which we are aligned. www.actalliance.org



Snapshots

- There is a woman who lives near our office who is so grateful to have received food and a small cash grant to replace items lost in the earthquake. She regularly greets us with a big smile and looks for ways to 'look after us'. For example - we were waiting in the truck to safely enter onto the highway, when she stepped out onto the road and signaled the driver to proceed. It is touching to see her 'give back' according to her means. Enter thoughts of the widow's mite.
- We were passing by a collapsed building in Port au Prince and noticed the end of a crumpled computer key board sticking out of the pile of rubble. What was life like before the earthquake? What is it like now? Enter thoughts of "live today for we do not know what tomorrow will bring".
- A green shoot grows up in a pile of rubble like a reminder that life must continue and will continue. Enter thoughts of hope and a future. CRWRC is here to bring hope along with practical solutions.
- An elderly lady watches as her transitional house nears completion. She can hardly walk but indicates with her hands that she is clapping, cheering, dancing and praising God! Sign language!
- "Digage"... just make do, find a way to make it work, haywire it together... a very common phrase here... Haitians just find a way. Sometimes we do not know the way forward. Enter thoughts that 'God will make a way when there seems to be no way!' We are thankful for His faithfulness.



A community meeting



Unloading trusses



Well Drilling