

The Haitian Project, Inc.
Community Update: All in a Day
April 14, 2010



5:00 a.m. - First Round of Email Checks

It is good to have THP community members in several time zones. This morning provided an opportunity to catch up with Stephen Keppel [ND grad, former Volunteer and Staff Member], who works for the Economist, and discuss his upcoming visit. Steve continues to head up EGI, our sister project for economic development in Haiti.

5:30 a.m. - Wakeup Call for Timmy and Mikhaila

Timothy and Mikhaila attend LCS as "quasi day students". They are on campus from 7:00 a.m. [First Class Period] until 5:30 p.m. They sometimes eat dinner with friends at the school and sometimes at home. Timothy heads back to campus for evening study hours. Mikhaila's schedule is more independent. She prefers to wake herself up.

6:00 a.m. - Wakeup Call for Robbie

Robert is organizing the pickup of two representatives from a British-based human rights group who would like to visit Christina's Timoun activity--the Early Childhood Development Program. He will leave for the airport at 7:00 a.m. Yesterday, he arranged their housing at Santo 19 [Seminary] and their rental car. He is a BIG me.

6:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

I have the privilege to proclaim the gospel as part of our standard daily prayer. It is amazing to have the opportunity to proclaim the Word in a group that is living it so well.

7:00 a.m. - Good Bye to Robbie and First Meeting of the Day

Meeting with LCS alum Abdiel Volmar, who is a graduate of the State University for Electronic Engineering. We discuss a past personal loan and future job prospect. We discuss Solar Energy. Abdiel is the son of the mason who taught me to build, who died shortly after completing our last major building. His name, Marcel, is memorialized on the first ornamental grating of our library.

7:30 a.m. - Office work

A little writing & communication in between meetings.

7:45 a.m. - Morning Meeting with the Student Body

An opportunity to practice my non-existent Spanish--but easy comedy--and to continue to thank our students who are amazing witnesses to Haiti's spirit and ability to bounce back. I thanked the students for being first back to living indoors, first back to school and always willing to serve others ahead of caring for themselves.

8:00 a.m. - An Hour of Fun

We have been asked by the local Ministry of Public Works [MTPC] to remove an exterior fill wall. No need to head to the gym in Haiti. It is always a great day if I get the chance to participate in a work project with the Maintenance team. On a serious note, we received confirmation from the MTPC of our earlier engineering assessments from - We are good to go. Quite a relief.

9:30 a.m. - Meet with representatives of the British-based human rights group

Quick overview of the current situation in Haiti, our school's mission, and what is and is not moving forward with the large NGO efforts. The group provides indications of Muhammad Ali's foundation's interest in Haiti's youth and potential interest in supporting our Timoun Activity--which is aimed at providing early development for children of the neighborhood.

11:00 a.m. - Head to the Nuncio's to meet with visiting Delegation from Poland

Archbishop Auza, Vatican Ambassador to Haiti, provided us with an excellent opportunity to meet and talk with a group from Poland [Polish Caritas and a private foundation]. Also at lunch was a delegation from the Archdiocese of Newark--this may lead to another sister school for LCS.

2:00 p.m. - Conference call on the Nuncio's lawn between dessert and coffee

Conference call with Penn Group/Michael D. McDonald, Dr.P.H. President Global Health Initiatives, Inc. To quote the group: "Dr McDonald is behind the group. There is an entire educational component that Mike is eager to share with you. We shared your model with the group and they're very excited."

3:00 p.m. - Back to school with the Polish Delegation

Conversations went well enough at lunch to inspire the delegation to change their plans and come to LCS for afternoon, stay overnight and wake up with the school.

4:00 p.m. - Adjust airport pickup for delayed flight; More office work

Catch up with Elissa Kergosien, Lead Volunteer and visitor coordinator, who has a handle on our delayed guests. I thank my lucky stars that Elissa has agreed to stay on for another year. She is amazing and smoothes out every bump in the road--there are a lot of those in Haiti.

5:00 p.m. - Second meeting with the representatives from the British-based human rights group

6:00 p.m. - Dinner with the representatives from the British-based group and the Polish Delegation

Somehow Christina and the team can expand dinner for 8 to 13 [plus the five advanced medical students for leftovers] without a problem!

7:00 p.m. - Development Committee Conference Call

Exciting participation in the discussion of how we should seek the funding necessary for the long-term building rehabs we need to do.

7:30 p.m. - Meet With Patrick Brun, THP Board Chair

Patrick stopped by after his long work day to meet with me and LCS Alum/former Head of Operations-Haiti/current Board Member Michelet Lofficial. It is amazing how Patrick keeps THP/LCS a priority even in a time when demands on the hardware/building supply industry are absolutely crazy. I thank him for taking time to help us find a dozen support jacks that we needed for the morning demolition.

7:45 p.m. - Meet with Advanced Medical Students

Discussion on the current status of the medical schools in Haiti, which reopened after Easter. Discussion on how the group can continue medical service even with school back on--at least to some degree. We will see after exams.

8:30 p.m. - Meet with the Polish Delegation and plan there LCS early morning wake-up

The group is very excited about LCS and very serious about starting discussion of the possibility of LCS II. A great evening pick me up!

9:00 p.m. - Quick Conversation with the new guests - two Physical Therapists, one of whom is the brother of Volunteer Jonathan Kennedy.

A great introduction which starts with asking them to help with the dishes from our rolling evening of diners--we had 18 for dinner, in the end.

10:00 p.m. - Final Edits with Corey

Volunteer Corey Paulino, who is heading up our medical relief work and organizing the efforts of medical students [when he is not teaching biology], prepared a report on a recent meeting with our partners. He does a great job. I am inspired by his willingness to put off dental school by also agreeing to stay another year.

10:30 p.m. - Back to the House

Peace, Patrick
THP President

--

To make a donation or to read our archived updates since the time of the earthquake go to www.haitianproject.org