



December 2011

Here we are in the midst of celebrations of the birth of our Lord. We are thankful to be able to spend this time with our family and friends back in Chautauqua County, NY. We have been sharing with them the events of the last month at Village of Hope.



We had two teams during December. Grace Lutheran Church from Ada, MN led by Cathy Jacobson arrived on the scene on November 30th. None of them had been to Haiti previously. They were inspired by a presentation by Rev Dick Hafer. When they saw the clinic they were overwhelmed by the tasks before them. They maneuvered around construction scaffolding, shoveled and swept the first floor, and applied the initial primer coat of paint. By the end of the week, they were impressed with their own work as they should be. The team signed their work. A cabinet will be built in front of it, preserving their signatures.



We celebrated a few birthdays the week they were here. Bert's on the first, Lucien Blanc, a staff member at the guest house, and team member Chad Qualley. We turned a mango cake into a birthday cake for a special treat.

While they were here, the team visited Food for the Poor, Little Children of Jesus, and the tin shops. They saw another side of Haiti when they ate at the Sugar Cane Museum. A little bit of relaxation after all the hard, hard work.

The Christmas team arrived ready to prepare the Christmas gifts for the students (at the school and the university students) and staff. We set up tables on the lawn at the guest house. Marni Maree (Peace, Alexandria, VA) and Faith Dunne (Christ Our Redeemer, Temple Terrace, FL) kept things rolling along. Ellie Aubel (Christ Our Redeemer Temple Terrace, FL) had everything well organized. By Friday, Papa Noel was well prepared to spread Christmas joy to all the kids at VOH School.

Throughout the week the Christmas team also spread holiday joy to the people at Little Children of Jesus and to the girls at Marie Majors' orphanage. The children at Little Children of Jesus enjoyed songs and music provided by the team while the girls at Marie's savored Christmas cookies after decorating them.

While the team prepared for the gift distribution, we were trying to take care of business so everything would be in place while we came home for Christmas. Roberta completed the payroll, including the thirteenth month bonus that everyone receives. Bert made arrangements with Manuel to move forward on some projects. Agreements were made with a local electrician (trained in Canada) to complete the electrical work on the second floor and a local carpenter to build cabinets and shelves for the lab and the pharmacy. The clinic is still a little behind schedule as the labor involved to make the building compliant with US earthquake standards was extensive.

For some beautiful pictures taken by team members click [HERE](#).

May this season be full of joy and blessings for all of the VOH faithful supporters. We are humbled by your generosity. May Christ bless you and give you peace always.

Merry Christmas

Bert & Roberta