

2012 May 19 A New Beginning

*“And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work.”*

The past few weeks have been full of activity. I met with the man who would build the gatehouse/storage building (or depot, as some prefer). He gave me a detailed estimate, and used the highest material costs. That was helpful for giving a good idea of what the maximum cost would be. It also told me that the prices for materials and labor have gone up in the last year.

Many local people are interested in this project and want to be involved. Truckloads of sand and gravel arrived, and soon after there was a delivery of cement, rebar and lumber. It did not take long for some of that sand and cement to be converted into cement blocks—2000 of them. Then I talked to a man who could build the doors and grills. Those arrived on the site this week.

The construction crew staked out the building last week. I am not good at seeing dimensions in my mind, so it was exciting to actually see how big the building will be. This week they went to work on the foundation, and today the men poured the floor. They are getting the water for making cement the way we have done that in the past—by ladies carrying water from the river in buckets on their heads. The building will be all “tied together” to be safe in earthquakes.

I have been in prayer about what to do next. The wall around the property is still needed, but may not be as urgent as previously thought. Sleeping under a large tent sounds rather exciting, but many work crews would not be at ease with that. I designed my house with rooms that would provide space for visitors (students, American work crews, visitors). It seems that building the house is the next thing that needs to be done, and I am looking into the details.

This first building is being built by Haitians. People have told me how encouraged they are that we are going forward, and they are pleased that they have a part. I would like to see collaboration between Americans and Haitians for the other buildings.

Meanwhile, the clinic is busy. We have the preaching service, hand out tracts, and witness to people during the day. We pray that God will use those efforts to bring people to see their need of Jesus Christ as their Savior. Another opportunity for ministry is junior church. It was an encouragement to see a boy that had attended several times go forward in Sunday evening service a few weeks ago.

As I look at this new building, I see a tool that can be used for God’s service. The results of Gospel ministry to the people here will last long beyond the blocks and mortar.

In our Lord’s service,