

Day 3 Reflection

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Monday was Day 1 of both VBS and construction of the future Port Loyola Church Sunday School building. I started with certain hopes and expectations of how the day was to go, and they were far exceeded.

I am part of the construction crew, and it is a pleasure to work with the local carpenters as well as my fellow SVPC members. Bonding with everyone came easily

while working toward a shared goal and surviving the pouring rain and muggy heat of a typical day in Belize.

Everyone got dirty, but stayed cheerful.

Work started slowly as the tools and needed supplies to get the job done were acquired. Mistakes were made, but the Belizean carpenters were kind, patient, friendly and instructive.

Everyone was included – no one was an outsider.

I bore witness to a multitude of fantastical ways that a chain saw can be used in construction, not demolition. The few tools that were shared were used to their maximum capacity. There was little waste.

What was striking was how a group of people with very different backgrounds came together without bickering, without a mean word said, and enjoyed each other's company and comaraderie despite the adversities that presented themselves along the way.

Friendships were born and strengthened.

I felt that I was part of something greater. I believe that everyone walked away feeling proud of what was accomplished, knowing that each had played a significant, needed role in the process.