

**Another Perspective:** Following is an email sent by the VIM Volunteer teacher who is spending some time with us and looking in on schools. She has been here several times on teams and is looking forward to taking GBGM Long Term Training in March. Another perspective is interesting. She is currently practicing Kreyòl with Louis as she does her homework.

Subject: ISLAND LIFE

Date: Sun, 12 Oct 2008 21:16:10 -0400

Sunny Sunday on South LaGonave,

Waking up to 'Old McDonald's Farm' seems to be a daily routine here in SAP. Roosters, birds, insects, burros, dogs barking, goats worrying about who is going to market and mosquitoes buzzing in my ear?? They must know that it is Sunday on the island. After listening to the Animal choir for a half hour, one needs to get up and start the day.

Church starts at 7:30Am as the days get very hot early in the day. The people have to shower and wear their best clothing to church. They are required to tithe a certain amount to maintain their membership and the right to communion. Church was very similar to that in the US, but I didn't have a clue what he said as our translator was sick this morning. I did read the scriptures out of my Bible. Shirley filled me in after church and we were back at the house.

Besides being Mrs. Doubtfire, cleaning and cleaning with bales or brooms has become a habit. The bats are driving me nuts-are there any 'Bat busters' out there in my e-mail group?? If anyone has a solution to our problem please send us an e-mail and feel free to let us know.

Shirley and I have been working in the clinic. Shirley has been working and I have been pretending to help her. We have seen 16-17 patients one day. Mostly babies with high fevers and horrific coughs. They call this the 'GRIPH'. in Creole. We also have seen many malnourished children. We are hoping that the food will come while I am here so that we can get everything organized and maybe even delivered.

Tomorrow, I will go to visit the schools here in town and walk to Port A Bonheur to the school there, also. I am going to share in one of the schools as we have a teacher that is our translator that has invited me to come to his class.

Talking about school, I am also going to classes while here in SAP. There is a local gentleman that is teaching Joe and Shirley Creole and he invited me to come along and join in the fun!! Wilter just laughs when I butcher the language.

Tonight in the town square they had a meeting. It was interesting and the Community leader was a bit on the testy side. There are three different types of people in the village. The fishermen, merchants, and farmers(livestock and gardeners). During the meeting there were goats, burros, dogs, screaming children, and a motorcycle that was passing through. This was all happening at the same time. Do you think that the City Council could handle all of that chaos during their meetings??

I'm sure that I have bored you all to sleep and hope that this finds all well and looking forward to a wonderful autumn week in KS!!

Thanks to all of you for your support through kind, encouraging words and prays for the people on LaGonave and Shirley, Joe, and myself. We appreciate everything!!

Blessings and peace to all, DI

It appears we will be receiving food this week and seems like a bunch. UMCOR is providing \$3000.00 from GBGM and we received an additional \$4666.00 from GBGM on our water grant to use for food. Transportation will be a bit pricey but purchase in bulk has really cut the price. Last night, a man asked, "what have you done for us in the year you have lived here?" So much we do seems invisible to those who think mostly of food and survival. Shirley, La Gonave, 10-13-08