

Bits & Pieces:

We prepared for change in leadership of the MCH, met with Pastor Paul, the "President to be" and made a working/family visit to the US in early August. The status of projects on La Gonave; attendance at the inauguration in PaP; preparation for a Nebraska team and UMCOR and GBGM representatives, were "enhanced" by my first episode of malaria, storm damage to our internet system and problems with the well at Dent Grien. A family issue called for my return to the US as Joe and the team completed work on the guest house.

My "traveling read" was a mindless novel about a self centered woman who created havoc in the lives of many to maintain her power. She manipulated events and even cost the lives of some she deemed a threat to her future plan. I prefer novels with justice endings, but this lady schemes and walks away unscathed. I chose a different author for the return trip.

Marks gospel lesson for this Sunday, according to "process thought," points to working on behalf of the "whole" as Jesus teaches disciples through healing miracles. James reminds readers of the damage done by thoughtless, loveless words. Again, God speaks to my heart concerning the welfare of the whole as "the better plan" than self-centered programs and success of personal goals.

Pastor Paul indicated approval of our programs involving local Haitian organizations for teaching and developing industry and education. He spoke of his plan to appoint an ordained clergy to the La Gonave Circuit if adequate housing were made available in a more central location. Our understanding was for a new focus beyond exclusive focus on programs of the HMC, for the welfare of the whole. As we move into the future, we hope to support church projects that will address the needs of "the whole" of the island people.

I promised Joe I would seek treatment for malaria before returning to La Gonave so headed to KC from Wichita with plans for a brief Lawrence "doctor stop" for medication. Four hours in the medical community turned me into a lawn sprinkler and revealed malaria is not common to Midwest America.

Thinking to return my rental car a couple of days early, I discovered the agency closed early on Saturday and I must pay full price. With no auto discount to off-set the prescription cost of \$394.00 there are now "holes" in my bank account and my arms! I have an improved understanding of how easily one can become self-focused.

Life is lived on many levels and easily vision can become limited to personal needs and desire. Mark tells of healing related to the "cosmic" understanding of sacrifice for the welfare of the whole. Understanding my existence as a cell in the system, or a bolt in the machinery of creation, my prayer is for the "future" of the whole and deep gratitude to all who share space and time with me.

Pastor Shirley, headed for Haiti, full of holes and hope for the future. September 13th, 2009
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