

Bring Me Doilies!

I delight in throwing out items that don't work, or haven't been used for 6 months; Joe, hoards and keeps "toys" he seldom uses. I have to "talk about it," Joe needs to "think it over." He starts crossword puzzles and I finish them. I believe "clutter is full of negative ions" and Joe finds "peace and tranquility" in little pieces of paper on every flat surface. Rocks, shells, and little bottles of sand are of critical importance to me while he protects things like checkbooks, passports and car titles!

Once I "cleaned the house" (translation ...trashed all his pieces of paper) and later all my "doilies, and little 'pretties'" were gone! Now I find cute boxes for receipts and telephone numbers. He has even been known to bring me doilies'!

Many issues are before us as we return to residency in the US. Equipment for use by the new development association for communication must be available. We budgeted the expense but debate the wisdom of "renting" the space where we live or creating angst by moving the solar and satellite equipment purchased for our use to a more secure location. We hope to resolve this issue with Pastor Paul.

With direction from the HMC, Project Profiles will be filed with jurisdictional VIM directors for Methodist schools, churches, cisterns and the building of a manse / parsonage in the highlands. Of course we will need direction from Pastor Paul concerning project funds. Determining accountability will be a consideration of how we proceed.

We have people in place to help with students enrolled in the Star-thrower Scholarship program. Most are La gonave church youth, many, children of local pastors. Primary schools still receive little tuition money and seldom pay teacher salaries. The directors and Pastor Paul have asked us to focus on training for effective change in program and design of schools.

The new association agrees to handle distribution of food and clothing for us in communities on the south side and have proven trustworthy although they are just getting organized. We plan to redirect donations for health care to purchase food which is often the medicine of choice for old and chronically ill. Baby deliveries that are unattended will have one positive with UMCOR Birthing Kits available but the many underweight babies and other child health issues are barely addressed by World Vision.

The last of October, a special geological group will be checking 6 areas on the west end of the island for water. The one dry well drilled for us by Haiti Outreach raised the question of just how deep water may be. Repair of the well at Dent Griern is an on-going challenge but Haiti Outreach seems as determined as we are to get water on this end of the island. Additional funding is anticipated.

We've questioned the wisdom of the past two years, and then a young man says, "You have changed my life forever." That is a plural "you" and, we pray you will all share the "doilies" with us.

Shirley, hot on la gonave, September 22nd, 2009 www.centralumclawrence.org