

**Contingencies:** Scripture this week is about the disciples doubt seeing a resurrected Jesus, and peoples surprise at a healing by some disciples. Jesus asked why they doubted, and Peter asks why they are surprised. According to the prophets God's plan for salvation had been fulfilled. Some say, "that was then, today is different." Do we doubt peace? Do we not expect healing in a broken world?

We began to doubt ever using the GBGM water grant after first one circumstance then another, but the first of April we ordered all the parts for a solar pumping system for Dent Griern. Just hours following return to sousafilip, we were told the rig was at the "correct" Picqa-Maby and drilling was to begin the next day. Seems there are two communities; one happy and one disappointed!

The elections were held in Haiti, but no one attended. The 90,000 or so on La Gonave don't have opportunity to vote so they take a few days off to hope for rain, eat expensive mangos and attend weddings. Some are making Haitian Prayer Angels to fill unexpected orders and others wait for clouds to plant a few seeds. Goats chomp dry seeds like potato chips and dead burros bob in the sea.

Kansas Leadership approved the use of undesignated funds in our account, to start a full service clinic; extend the water projects; do another food distribution; or provide more scholarships for schools and teachers. In the 4<sup>th</sup> most corrupt nation in the world we met this morning with a group to explore which is the greatest need.

Haiti is not a place where God's plan for the common good of all is easily understood by all. It is not a place for quick consensus, but it is a place of passionate debate. We meet again in two weeks hoping leaders from 11 communities will begin to address the common good for the people of sud la gonav.

A children's sermon for Sunday used Band-Aids and ointments to ask the question of how the body is healed. Does God do it? Do the medicines? Why are some healed and others not? Is there possibly some healing power within that can be nurtured and supported, that in time, will heal the brokenness? Could that be a contingency of God's plan for the common good of man and creation? A new world view, a different time, yet, the same game plan?

It is a hungry and thirsty world. Raw sewage flows freely where there is water, and cisterns crumble where there is no rain. There is little food, no health care, political, religious and industrial corruption and we have difficulty selecting a board of directors because we said they must be able to read and write. Do we really believe in resurrection, healing and a plan for a world of justice?

When the wedding ends in Pastor Abners' church they will play my CD of Percy Sledge singing, "When a Man Loves a Woman" and I'll remember the circumstances of my wedding so long ago. It is a radically different time, and certainly a different place, but the same song of love. I think God set little in stone, rock perhaps, but I do believe in the story of resurrection and the promise of justice rather than "perpetual perishing."

*Pastor Shirley, sud la gonav, 25 Avril 2009*

