

Dang: Facebook asks "what's on your mind?" Tonight my answer would be, my response to the last question following a Haiti presentation we did this evening. A young woman asked, "after living two years there what would you say is the most important thing you brought home with you?" I replied quickly and weakly to a serious question.

The first five UVMIM trips we made to Mexico, decades ago, I came home with "a word." The first three "words," I received during the flights home, like flashes of light or those "ah ha" moments. The first I recall was "community" and related to a learning incident as we "gringos" forgot we were on Mexican time. The fourth trip I was disappointed as the word came weeks after I quit expecting it and was simply "one". I did a sermon series on those words once.

A very stressful trip to Africa sent me home with the absolute assurance that Jesus is a young Nairobi cab driver, with a bushy mustache, named Andrew. Another African trip helped me understand that God does in fact live on the mountain from "whence cometh the rain" that fills the river and keeps the lions from eating children. You need to think metaphorically for that one.

As nearly every VIM experience has revealed some word or understanding, I'm now pondering why "no word" or "wisdom" from two years of life transforming incidents in Haiti? We returned, "high fived" our friends and went to work. We've a story to tell to...well, you know that one.

The "quote" for today was "look at that, it's today already" by someone I can't remember. It did resonate as I brought my morning coffee to the computer to begin preparing a display board for tonight's presentation. I would not have time to go to the church, pick up a book, study or make needed calls to check on my nephew who just had major "major surgery".

On La Gonave the days were longer and didn't come until I was ready for them. My first cup of coffee was taken with my bible and prayer list, in the dark of early morning with stillness in my soul. I didn't bring that home.

Dang.

Pastor Shirley, pondering in the rain of God, May 19, 2010.