

Fat Tuesday: That may be an oxymoron on La Gonave but I will let the day play out and see. Lent is not recognizable in a different culture although the days are observed; it is with a different understanding.

We returned late afternoon, yesterday, with a brilliant sun sinking into the dark blue sea. A journey to the far east end of La Gonave, Boucan Lamare, to see a well, pumped by 34 solar panels, took us to Anse A Galets, north west "metropolitan" city, for much needed "culligan water" and a recommended bottle of rum! If a hot toddy won't stop Joe's terrible cough at night I'll take a slug and sleep through it!

Matt: 6 text for Ash Wednesday, says, "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." That will be my search this year for the next seven weeks as I begin reading "A Portrait of Jesus, by Joseph F. Girzone. Pray my search will be humble and honest enough to recognize his presence.

The young engineer for Haiti Outreach and Ellèphon, the committee coordinator from Pignon, met us Saturday at the well in Dent Gryren then stayed the night to discuss pulling the pump and going with solar. Since it is all within the budget we are thrilled. Yesterday as we came down a rocky slope far east of here, the HO truck sat with a broken front axle while Ellèphone removed all the drilling tools waiting for repair parts. Nice reunion. Small island.

President Raphael said yesterday the paperwork is done on the Toyota Pickup donated by GBGM /UMCR for our use on La Gonave, and we will somehow arrange to go to PaP Wed. to transport it and 2 small Honda motorcycles to the island. Have arranged with a sailboat that will carry the truck sideways on 2x4's for \$250.00 plus all the port taxes they can drum up! I think I'll wear a life jacket for this journey. There are hundreds of trucks on the island and they got here somehow!

The acquisition is timely as Pastor Ralph will be spending several days on La Gonave, ending in Sousafilip to talk with us about "particulars" of my proposal to reopen the clinic as a community clinic with a local board of directors managing the finances and operation. Think that won't fly so are developing plans B,C and W. Since I was confronted 2 days ago early am, with a young fisherman in shock from a stingray and had no epinephrine, I am more convinced than ever the clinic is critical to the area. Whether here or Port a Bonheur.

Teachers on the mainland are demonstrating to be paid the last 5 months salaries owed, and our teachers are beginning to revolt. They must show up or forfeit all back pay but are threatening to refuse to teach. The plans from Atlanta Consultation have resulted in no money for Methodist schools so I contacted out group leader. Seemed he just needed some information and support as he has begun raising money in the Pennsylvania Conference. Our KEC Round-up funds are tied up with school books that have never been paid for or given to students. Another opps we are dealing with.

Where will I find the Jesus Girzone knows in all this? I'm guessing right where he does; with the poor, hungry and oppressed that surrounds me daily. The question in my mind, is, "what is he doing and why is it not working?" I will search; not only for Christ, but for the elusive "treasure" that claims my heart. Look at GBGM's Web site the next couple weeks, and gbgmlagonave@blogspot.com.
Shirley, La Gonave, Fat Tuesday, February 17, 2009.