

**Hidden Commodity:** I'm taking a coffee break from thinking about all the work I should have been doing while doing other things. We tend to work as hard at home as we did on La Gonave! Thank God, we never suffer boredom.

Home, October '09, we were blessed with opportunities to tell about living in Haiti, and of the people on La Gonave. Part of the story was the "connection" made between a remote people and generous people of the United Methodist Church in the US.

Following holidays with family, in January we went to La Gonave for a reunion and some work. In Port au Prince, we met with Haitian Methodist Church leaders and invited guests for discussions cut short by the devastating earthquake of January 12<sup>th</sup>.

This return home was different, as Haiti was in the news and on the lips of nearly everyone who was not watching the Olympics. A place and people known to a few "missioners" was now of interest to the world; an infamous nation now famous because of death and destruction at the hands of Mother Nature. A response of phenomenal generosity poured into Haiti and inspired heart rending photos, prayers and poetry.

For many decades, individuals, church denominations, health agencies and drilling companies have worked to improve life for the people of Haiti. A land of mountainous rock, severely limited natural resources and a variety of human challenges made it impossible to thrive even with dedicated, if occasionally misdirected help. Abuse and militarism struck a balance with benevolence that attracted only the most determined idealists. Hope was a hidden commodity.

Midway to Easter, our Conference is considering a negotiated covenant with the Haitian Methodist Church. Like others, the Methodist Church in Haiti has survived a 100 years of frequently dysfunctional ministry with support of only the most dedicated.

Theological giants attempt to explain "where God is in the creative process." I believe, we may have opportunity to see God at work in the "saving" of a nation, the healing of a people, and a visual definition of God's creative grace. Perhaps the question is not "where is God" in hope for the hopeless, but "where are we" and will we be as faithful?

Pastor Shirley, March 2, 2010.

