

**Living Water:** I was fascinated by the “dancing water” in Branson, Missouri, years ago. Colored lights with cascading water in harmony with beautiful music made the water seem to have a life of its own. Jesus is referred to as both water and light, and, God’s plan for a transformed world of peace and justice. Water and light are gifts of grace, peace and justice, require covenant with God.

Most of Haiti lives with limited safe water, a life giving commodity. More than a year ago we formed a water committee in Sous a fillip to manage water from the well. The committee was to sell water to the communities of SAP and Dent Griern and use the money to maintain the pipe, cisterns, and generators to provide water for all people at all times.

A committee meeting at the beginning of the dry season revealed no water had been sold for several months and the money from the early sales of water was all spent. PVC pipe and cisterns needed repair, the generator needed maintenance and there was no money for fuel to pump water. With good records of income and expense, the committee had no good reason why they had spent the money yet sold no water. The solution? The Edgerton’s could give them the money as they did last year.

Water and light are, for Christians, symbolic of Jesus, God’s plan for transforming the entire world. Human life is literally sustained by water and light. By God’s grace they are made possible but through human commitment and responsibility they are made available to sustain life.

Often I’ve experienced God’s grace in my life, being blessed when in my ignorance God cared enough to comfort and protect. Greater blessings I’ve experienced in covenant with God, sharing a vision of justice. Trying to make a difference in the lives of hurt people feels more like grace than ethic; an issue of giving, rather than expecting responsible action. Grace feels more “Christian.”

In the gospel according to Luke, Mary says, “Nothing is impossible with God.” God had an impossible plan for Mary’s life, but she had to accept the commitment that went with the request, and she had to do “the work.” God has a vision for all people yet God doesn’t bail out empires or change tires.

A required written plan for repayment of a loan and future management of the water source for the communities has been developed by the SAP water board. We will send the money today. We ask for repayment and expect responsible future management. Nothing is impossible with God, but God has some expectations. May blessings accompany covenant in Sous a fillip.

May covenant and commitment be our choice and grace our gift this Christmas.

**Wishing You a Blessed Christmas**

*Shirley, La Gonave, Haiti, Dec 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008. In the ice and snow of Kansas.*