

“Remember that the good we can experience and do even in a miserably unredeemed world is of lasting value”
(commentary from Faith & Process for May 24th)

A lesson learned: no matter what one does for the most noble of reasons, there will always be the questions asked, “why?”, or the statement “you should have...”

The gospel this week is a prime example of duality of meaning and action. Whoever wrote this gospel was about as schizoid as I feel at times here in the land of the lost and found. This full day of work has been a reawakening of “why we are here.”

My disappointment over a clinic unopened is replaced by the “rightness” of a new industry. We now have a nurse running a full-time clinic and providing adequate care with expectation of payment. Earlier today I thought I would have opportunity to teach her “delivery technique” (how to pray!!) but the mid-wife arrived. Instead, we will send her to the hospital in AAG to learn in a controlled environment and look forward to the arrival of many birthing kits.

This morning we purchased nearly \$3000.00 US worth of Haitian Prayer Angels that will pay salary for many in two communities, and awaken awareness of those who are asked to pray for the billions of hungry in the world. The wood carver is “eating” the cost of those we rejected but agrees that “quality” is as important in Haiti as at Helzburgs!

Yesterday, we met with the Church Evangelist and his wife in Ansagale to plan the Women’s Conference and Retreat that will be held in July. Hard to believe we are paying “only” \$500.00 US to purchase food and materials for women from all the Methodist churches for 3 days! I get to speak on “women’s issues” and as I research, I find those are the same all over the world. Food, family and faith works everywhere. We are more alike than we are different.

June 1st through the 5th we will be sending 10 school directors and teachers to a training program at Matenwa to experience a different way to manage education. They will encounter issues of children’s rights and learning techniques that most have never known. They are excited and comment it is hard to believe “they” are important enough for this. Not once have they mentioned unpaid salaries!

The other side of the Haitian Duality is the poverty and hunger we face each day. The boats that leave filled with hope only to be sunk or abandoned by criminals who steal from the poor. Naked children bother me; not that they are naked, it’s hot enough to join them, but that they have no cloths except for church or school or the doctor. One team will recall a youngster being punished for appearing at a showing of the “Jesus” movie without shoes. Like Jesus would care?

We experience such great goodness in this place with gentle people and laughter and homemade toys and cooks singing while they work. Yet, we are told no one “wants” to live in this miserable place. May the good we do, with the help of many, have lasting value, because God so loved us all.