

Silent Protection: There are a few stars in the sky and left over Gustav clouds but no wind. Morning prayers come wafting up the hill to accompany my hot cup of instant coffee and inspire the first blurb in some time. This will be more a newsletter if I can decide a beginning point.

Gustav sort of blew in and liked us well enough to stay. He did most damage in Jacmel on the south shore mainland. Ti-Guave just across the bay from SaP has downed trees, flooding and no power. Many in SaP have family there and managed to keep in contact.

On La Gonave, the hungry get hungrier as markets are rained out and boats don't float to the mainland. Cooking is done outdoors and charcoal and wood is too wet to burn. A bit of cooking is done on porches. Children are kept warm with small plastic bags on their heads and bigger ones cover their bodies. Only compulsive blans take cold showers.

Haiti Outreach Director, Neil Van Dine, blew down the mountain, Tuesday to discuss water well plans we have tried to negotiate for many months. The E'glisè Methodistè D'Haiti, decided not to cooperate with use of their rig for "in kind projects." An agreement would have put a solar water system in Soucafilip and Dent Griern at no cost to them.

Neil has agreed to a matching funds program with KEC. Haiti Outreach will repair the windmill at Dent Griern which needs only his equipment while they up-grades one of their units with a deep bore rig. Then together we will try to "make happen" a critically needed well near the west end of the island.

Joe and I rode to Dent Griern with Neil yesterday to assess needs with an excited and cooperative Pastor Jerham. Far behind schedule, Neil left there as we slogged back to Soucafilip feeling encouraged and hopeful for the first time in weeks.

As we headed out of Dent Grien a group of youth joined us as if they too were coming to SaP. They visited until we got to the road to Port A Bonheur. As we made the correct turn they wished us farewell and headed back to DG. Their silent protection was obvious.

We are grateful to South Dakota teams who sponsor several young people for university and collage. Costs have risen and registration is complicated but the students persist. Williams and Dorvil have traveled here many times with paperwork to get their money. They also care for younger ones who can't make the journey. A motorcycle crash resulted in road rash for Williams and Mr. B. the translator. Helping them is a blessing for us.

There is a sun behind the clouds this morning and still no wind. Hattie the hen just walked through to clear last night's bugs from the floor. She refuses to wear an apron.

It is ime to prepare another working paper on the water project. This one I will finally send to GBGM. But first we offer our prayers of gratitude instead of lament of the last week.

Shirley, early August 29th, La Gonave, Haiti (waiting Hanna)