

Port a Prince for the week end was a bust. Missoule, our cook, met us but had not accomplished any tasks necessary for her visa appointment on Monday. After the fifth try her husband's funds are depleted and we have to admit she just may not want to go. No luck contacting the UMCOR-Haiti people to find out about food, or the director of World Vision. There were reams of emails from "Teacup" who is trying to talk a bunch a pilots into flying food to us!

Returned yesterday with a volunteer who suffered the 4 hour, 13 mile ride with us. Hard rains every night, as now, have turned all roads into riverbeds of loose rock and swamp bogs. Tides are high with a waxing moon and overgrowth would make a great movie for a short "Medicine Man". Corn is talllll, kongo beans will be a bumper crop and eventually there will be food. We discussed how people will buy it, then ate, hung Diane's bed net, showered and slept well.

Began the day with a long list of people to call, emails to send and patients in the clinic. Good things happened in the clinic. Friday, I did an incision and drainage on the hand of a 14 year old boy injured cutting wood for charcoal. He lives with his sister in Port Trou Louis as his parents died in 1995. He stoically permitted the scalpel to release a pan full of "yuck" so I could agonize (Dial a Doc.) about the best combo of antibiotics before leaving for 3 days. Removing the dressings today and delighted at the response, I played wicked nurse and once again subjected him to the knife to keep the wound open for another round of pills. He smiled, I smiled, his sister asked for a pregnancy test. We were on a roll of "God things, "Maria!

UMCOR-Haiti sent names and phone numbers and the promise we are not forgotten! World Vision in CANADA sent the cell phone number of Dr. Jerome! To the clinic again for two malnourished children whose diarrhea had stopped, and they were eating. After lobster and spaghetti, Joe read an e-mail from David Sadoo, GBGM Secretary of International Disaster Response, telling us the money for the water projects was being sent to our church and forms for the grant agreement were on-line from Sam Dixon. Just happens, Neil, Haiti Outreach, is to be here tomorrow! Good news for west La Gonave as we go to gaze at their storm damage.

Quickly we filled out forms for GBGM then another email arrived. Would we mind adding \$4,666.00 to the GBGM grant for La Gonave! We could use it for FOOD if we prefer! Oh Yeah!

We are excited about attending the Haiti Consultation to be held this month in Atlanta. Hopefully, we will discuss a future for Haiti following the storms. Haiti is a place of both/and. A history of brutal acts by them and to them, balanced with color and cultural rhythms; greetings that leave multitasking Americans wanting to cut to the chase, balanced with hidden agendas of greed; and, balding children dressed in yellow for school, where teachers sign contracts that say they must expect to go long periods without salary; and, our day ending with an email from Pastor Maria, telling us a North Carolina conference wants to know how they can help. Today ends with "and".

Pastor Shirley, La Gonave, Haiti, October 7, 2008, smiling in the rain.