

Stranded : Pastor Maria teases me about the "God Things" that seem to happen so often in my life. It's what I call the unexplainable and unexpected, events, meetings, situations that could only happen in a "master" plan. As our friend, Louis, would say, "let me splain you."

In recent "blurbs" I have invited you to agonize with us the many problems we encounter daily on La Gonave. We managed to get off the island between Hanna and Ike to be able to fly to the US on Sunday. But that was thwarted by a fast moving storm and I had another melt down being stranded in Poaprinz. Unable to fly while friends on La Gonave suffered Ike's winds, waves, downpour and earth tremor countered thoughts of those waiting to play with Grandma.

Davilma said last week, "where is God in all this hunger and misery?" He pointed up, and I pointed to his heart. In my frustration, I have been questioning which of us was right.

We drank great Haitian coffee this morning then I had to "do" something. Thinking it a futile move I phoned the Haiti UMCOR office and with all Haiti in chaos I had a long visit with Dellaphine, the Haiti director. She knew nothing of our presence so I vented and she vented and I sent her an email about La Gonave and she came to lunch with us.

After the invitation to lunch, Dellaphine opened her emails for my information and had a forward from Sam Dixon, I sent yesterday. He suggested she "locate us" and perhaps include La Gonave in an emergency request for food aid following the series of storms in Haiti. A God thing?

As we waited for our guest in the entry, we had a conversation with a young man attending university who ask for assistance. He wanted to know where we lived and where La Gonave was located in Petion-Ville. Looking at a large map with Joe, he respectfully admitted he had never heard of it. To us it seems no one, even God at times, is aware of the 80,000 plus people living on this tropical rock pile in the Caribbean.

I would guess, at this moment, two thirds of those people are hungry. The boats did not leave for market on the mainland today; some are broken and it still storms. Markets will not open this week as there will be no food for retailers. Even if there is food the cost will be "jacked" so high few will be able to buy. Fish were smashed in the waves. It will be another week of occasional "bonbons" a few fry breads and no meals. It will be crying babies at night because titties are dry and all are cold and wet.

Today, a God thing happened. La Gonave will be included in a rather healthy request for food containers to feed families of six. Dellaphine is uncertain how soon but this is as close as we have come to feeding the hungry on La Gonave.

Our trip home may be a bit shorter than planned, but when God seems to make it happen, who are we to argue.

Shirley, Poaprinz, Ayiti, September 8, 2008