

TOMORROW !

Received an email this week with a sermon by Tony Campolo, "It's Friday, but Sunday is Coming!" Yesterday we visited a family with a list of needs totaling nearly \$2,000.00 US. Leaving, we said we would address it in some way and, he said, "tomorrow."

Personal study of Paul's letter to the Philippians, asking questions about "resurrection" I think of my friend Tony. He is fasting and praying for direct answers from God related to his mission in Bangladesh. Paul leads my prayer for Tony, 1:3-11. Paul's understanding of a symbiotic relationship, or coming together of God in human life; "in Christ" takes resurrection out of the "miracle category" and makes "tomorrow" a probability.

What seemed a "last ditch effort" or pitiful attempt to address economic and nutritional needs on sud la gonave has resulted in some rather surprising response. An email to PCUSA resulted in reference to AAPLAG and Church World Service, which resulted in contact with CWS and a personal response and information, leading back to GBGM, Chresian Service D'Haiti and AAPLAG, and to personal contacts and information with a great promise of "Hope for Tomorrow."

Yesterday, the newest ordained pastor to join the ranks of clergy with the Haitian Methodist Church came to visit his family in sousafilip. The son of a former EMH captain for Jean Hubet, a respected director of this project for many years, he spoke to us about the need for leaders who care about the people. He has been appointed to serve the Jeremy Circuit, another poor area of Haiti. He could have been appointed to serve anywhere in the Caribbean and feels fortunate they sent him "home to Haiti."

The teachers who completed the week at Matenwa are starry-eyed about the realistic changes they can make to improve education on the island. Teaching the first few grades in their native language and including parents and tasks of everyday life in new ways, seems simple but exciting. Perhaps, teacher development is the proper approach as suggested by a Kansas teacher.

A group, planning association with AAPLAG who provides training and information for farmers, livestock owners and fishing cooperatives is taking command of the program and looking to the future. There is possibility for use of the guest house in a new and productive way.

World Vision is distributing food for old people, pregnant women and underweight children today, which offers emergency relief. We aren't privy to how folks are selected but there are many in need.

There is hope of a long term food initiative for all of La Gonave. It seems to me, the future is in the hands of the people of La Gonave, working together and leading in a new way; seeking and finding information and new programs. With so many needs it could be seen as dark Friday, but is it possible resurrection as Paul understood it is on the horizon? Tomorrow?

Shirley, sud la gonave, June 10, 2009, thinking positively!!