

Trèpese: I'm sitting in the most uncomfortable chair in the house, to write the shortest blurb of all. There are some things I have learned in the last few days I want to share.

- Shushi is great to eat in Japan or the US...but raw fish in Haiti is a no no.

I purchased a funny fish named a koff or something like that. It looks like a turtle bent into a triangle with a head on one end and a swishy tail on the other. Doniz put it whole into a wood fire to blacken before peeling off the shell. The meat was a large white roll with no bones! It looked good enough to taste...she gasp ..I thought, shushi!. Not smart.

- Laser pointers are more fun than bouncing balls.

At dark tonight the kids were trying to play ball with a rolled up bunch of plastic bags. I took my little laser pointer out and began pointing at toes and whatever. They chased that thing all over and every adult that walked by screamed and jumped when it landed on their foot. Eventually all were dancing around trying to step on it until Doniz decided we were just too noisy. Simply fun.

- Popcorn is better popped than fried.

Pastor Larry gave us two big bags of popping corn when we were home last time and I took some out and with Haitian charades showed Doniz what to do. Later she invited me to join them eating this crunchy yellow stuff. I said, "you like?" and she made a face. More charades and today we all had puffy, white popped corn while watching Obama's inauguration speech on CNN Live.com. Cool.

- Who needs a bat?

Sitting here I heard a funny fluttery sound like wind rustling something. There is no wind. Quietly I made rounds looking down for "rat" playing cat! No. Looking up I thought a bat was circling. A closer look revealed the biggest "Mayfly" I have ever seen, but camera shy! He proceeded to eat bugs around the light until he got caught in a hole in a chair and was dumped out the door.

- Passing on is better than dying.

This morning, Luke came to tell me someone was dizzy in the head. English charades. No translator this week so decided this was a "must see". We went up the hill to find a very old man, near death and a frantic family trying to figure a way to the hospital. With his one working hand he kept pulling me to him and shaking his head. I tried delicately to explain he was dying but could not find the right combination of action and word. Finally, Luke said, "trèpese?" I said, "pass on?" Old man closed his eyes and sighed deeply. Quietly, a few hours later the family carried him on his rug to the boat to go home. He had passed on.

Lections this week are all about making decisions that transform life. Jonah, Paul and Andrew all decide to do God's will and are surprised by life. Life in Haiti is one surprise after another. Bon nuit.

Shirley, La Gonave, Haiti, January 20th, 2009