

**Unexpected:** The gospel for the 1 Sunday in Lent is the story only Luke tells of Jesus having his feet washed with the tears of a "lady of the night" and liking it! He blessed this sinner and told her to go in peace. Jesus accepts the sinner and redeems her "because of her compassion." Generally Christian's preach that sin overwhelms goodness. The unexpected story leads us to ponder the mysteries of God.

Our meeting, yesterday, with Pastor Ralph was a quick, 5 minutes on the steps as he prepared to leave. They adjourned early as we have minimal water and the ladies had wiped out our solar power by ironing clothes.

I had little time to appeal re-opening the clinic. I gave him a formal proposal for re-opening as a community clinic. Pastor Ralph listened to a quick synopsis and the report of 3 sudden deaths since November. He said he would get back to me probably in May to discuss it. Although I proposed liability as a line item for a community managed clinic he said since it would be on church property people would automatically think it belonged to the church.

I offered the option of opening the clinic off church property, possibly in Port a Bonheur. This caused his eyes to spark and brought a smile and nod. The unexpected positive response was quick and he agreed to speak with me later this week and suggested I pursue the alternative.

The Eglise Méthodiste D'Haiti, is in a transition phase as they prepare for change of leadership in September. Most people say nothing will change. Feelings concerning Pastor Paul are positive but other leaders than the President will continue to influence the activities of the EMH and COD. Our hope is for unexpected change, like transfer of responsibility to the individual Circuits.

Repair of the windmill at Dent Grien has taken an unexpected turn. The plan is now to replace the first pump and add solar energy and a small wind generator. This is a quicker more manageable repair and stays within the budget. We hope to address both wells before fully into rainy season.

Ash Wednesday is not much of a religious thing for the EMH but a day of a vacation. I understand Ash Wednesday as time to examine all that has separated us from God and God's will. Reflection then leads toward a commitment to change direction and "step back in line."

This is a time for a new understanding of the gospel of God's Kingdom. Luke provides that, for me, this week. Perhaps there is an unexpected spiritual "right" God accepts that is different from social or civil law. Life in Haiti is an exercise in expecting the unexpected.

Yesterday was our 47<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. When our driver, Villien, found out he did the Haitian "aw aw" squeaky thing and said if he had been told he would have brought us a chicken. That was an unexpected response and tradition that makes sense in Haiti, if not the US.