

**Co-creative Efforts:** This seems a "down time" as we wait for things to happen. We wait to work on the wells. We wait on word from the church to begin working on a badly needed clinic. We wait for NGO's to respond about possible food for the poor. We wait for the wind to stop.

While waiting I read Lenten lessons and "A Portrait of Jesus" by Girzone and "look for Jesus in the waiting".

The last few days we have had some rain and cisterns have a bit of water, momentarily ending one crisis. Goat and pork for one meal costs \$18:50 US at island markets and a fisherman is angry we won't buy lobster for \$20.00US at our back door. Some are making it but others of us just purchase in smaller amounts and our staff doesn't eat as well as they did, nor do we.

The very ill go to St. Theresa's in Marigone or General Hospital in PaP. The family then comes to us for money or the patient will not be released from the hospital resulting in higher bills. By the way, Dalese' baby died and since he isn't married to manman, he could not see the baby, only gets to pay the multiple bills. He is a teacher unpaid for 6 months.

There is water, there is food, there is health care for some, and things are changing while we wait.

The story in Genesis leads us to believe God did and can "bring life out of the deadliest situations" and Mark has Jesus tell disciples that to gain life it must be given away. Some confusion can come out of this lesson unless we believe God creates by using components of creation to give life, to bring peace, and to build a just world.

I believe God created the rain but does not make it rain; God created life but does make the pain; and, that need for nurture and nutrient is God created but God does not plant corn. There is a time for waiting but perhaps we are not waiting on God, but God is waiting for us.

Children are dying all over the world from hunger, faster in some places than others, but dying. People are thirsty and walk miles for water, or villages are flooded with sewage floating knee deep. Trees are poached so people can cook what food they have to eat, and the very ill walk miles to be examined and return without medicines because they have no money.

Millions live in "the deadliest of situations" without safe water, adequate food or health care, surrounded by violence, pestilence or absence of nurture and natural resources. I believe God can bring quality life to these situations, and offers us the opportunity to become co-creators; planters, care givers, teachers, organizers, managers, builders, economists, lovers and water-bearers in the dry lands.

It is my birthday in a country where most cannot tell you how old they are. I'm waiting to be old enough to forget how old I am! I'm also waiting for justice, equity, economy and dinner in Haiti.

Pastor Shirley, La Gonave, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Fun & Photos <http://gbgmlagonave.blogspot.com>