

September 7, 2017 Hurricane Irma on the way

We started getting bands of rain this morning before 7 am. Those were pretty steady through most of the morning, but have slowed down for the moment. The report from Cap Haitien is that they have already had a lot of rain. There is much more on the way.

I greatly appreciated the comments of the meteorologist on Accuweather. He noted that the mountains of Hispaniola have usually slowed hurricanes coming through the area. While he said that would be good, he also said it would be good if the hurricane would stay just far enough away that there were not be a lot of devastation. The distance he mentioned was 70 miles—far enough away for “just” rain, but close enough to slow the storm. As he talked, I started talking to my Heavenly Father, the only one who can make that happen. He can also steer this storm more to the east, but all of this is as He wills.

“When we work, we work. When we pray, God works.” Thanks for praying for the many, many people who are being affected by this storm

September 8, 2017 After Hurricane Irma

We got the back part of the storm last night—much more wind and rain than in the morning, and a big temperature drop compared to two days earlier. It may have been good sleeping weather here, but many people barely had clothes on their bodies after the storm, let alone a safe and comfortable place to sleep. It looks like we are going to get some sunshine today. That will help people dry out a bit, at least before the next storm comes through.

I saw the moon briefly last night, and thought how beautiful it was. But I forgot that tides are higher during the full moon, which has contributed to the astounding waves seen with this storm. The climate is far more complicated and intertwined than we can imagine. We can only bow in awe and worship before our God who created it.

Thank you for praying. I have prayed for years for a Christian in Antigua. He is now the head of search and rescue for Antigua-Barbuda, with tremendous responsibilities in the last two days. Yesterday, I learned that my pharmacy representative in New York has family in Puerto Rico, now without water and electricity. His wife’s family is “only” without electricity. We do not know how many people and situations our prayers affect, but our Heavenly Father does. And now, I am praying for those further north, which includes some of you. And I know my Father hears and will do what is best.

September 9, 2017

Friends and patients from Cap Haitien arrived here yesterday and today. They reported that there had been a lot of wind, but not a lot of rain, as the storm went through. Several expressed thanks to God that the storm moved off shore enough to prevent catastrophic damage. The comment was that people here are more serious about hurricanes after seeing what happened on the southern peninsula last year.

I suspect people in Florida are also more serious after seeing what happened to Houston with Hurricane Harvey and to the islands east of Hispaniola with this hurricane. It looks like Florida is going to sustain major damage, and people here are praying for people there. Many Haitians have relatives in Florida, and they have reason to be concerned.

The internet service has been very good through all of this, for which I have been grateful. There was a funny moment on Thursday. The smartphone allows Skype calls to my US number to come through, but I usually do not know the caller (or number) and do not rush to pick the phone up. The phone rang on Thursday, and a voice said (suitably edited), "Hi, this is Mike calling for Acme Electrical Supplies. How are you doing today?" "I am in the middle of a hurricane, thank you." Long pause, and then a click. Guess he did not think it was a good selling opportunity.

Please continue praying for those in the path of the hurricane. Much preparation has been done, but there are always things beyond our power to predict or control. That is why we go to our Heavenly Father.