

2012 February 18      Mardi Gras and other news

It has been cold here several nights recently—all the way down to the upper 60's. I know that does not sound cold to many of you, but it caused many Haitians (and even Americans!) to get out sweaters and jackets.

Mardi Gras is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21. Our president announced last Thursday that both Monday and Tuesday will be holidays. Many schools will be closed Wednesday as well. We sent our medication purchase request to Cap Haitien yesterday. Many businesses were closing early today, or did not even open.

Some Haitians have already started celebrating. This is a time when people put on costumes and masks, join in parades, and generally party. Sometimes they get pretty rowdy and try to stop vehicles in order to get money. There is a voodoo component to this that will become more prominent once Lent starts.

Many churches have retreats for their young people to get them away from the worldly influences of this time. Maranatha Baptist Church will be sending its young people to a camp on the other side of Cap Haitien. The pastor of the church the Pearts planted in very rural Ravine Joubert will have a retreat at the church for its young people. Please pray that our Christian young people will be drawn closer to Christ during the next few days.

The clinic had some changes today thanks to Harry Peart and his sons Benjamin and Micah. They installed a sink, put up an otoscope/ophthalmoscope unit, redid the table I use to write charts and even hung my calendar. These improvements will help as we take care of the needs of our patients. We are still praying about having our own facility, but we are grateful for the place we have now.

Thanks for your encouragement and prayers! You are a blessing to me.

In our Lord's service,

Dr. Anne