

2012 January 12 Home in Haiti

It always surprises me how much I can get done when there is a deadline to meet. I remember details better and get more organized. That was true last week when I had to get many things accomplished before driving to Fort Pierce FL and going from there to Haiti. Just about everything on my “to do” list was checked off before I left on Sunday evening.

Last year I encountered frozen rain and snow on my trip to Fort Pierce. This year it was a full moon and fog (that sounds like a pitiful song title!). The moonlight on the fog was lovely, but I was glad the roads were not closed by those dense clouds. We live in a beautiful world, even though it has been marred by sin.

I traveled from Cap Haitien to St. Raphael in my “new to me” vehicle on Tuesday. It is a 1995 Nissan Patrol R—diesel; standard shift; 153,000 miles. It is very solid. The mechanic that checked it out was impressed with the good condition of the engine, as well as the “old” metal construction. He said this truck was well-built, unlike those “weak” vehicles being made today. Improving fuel efficiency by reducing vehicle weight might work for good roads, but those vehicles do not survive well here. We still need trucks that can be taken into off-road conditions.

There have been many changes in our area in the past few months. The roads in downtown St. Raphael are being paved. There is a new market with cement pads, overhead roofs and buildings that can be rented for storage. Power lines have reached St. Raphael from Hinche. A new public high school is being built. The infrastructure improvements are welcome, but it may take some time to see the results. This is still a poor rural area. Jobs are scarce and education is often lacking. The spiritual needs are great, but so are our opportunities.

Several people have asked about my previous location. The buildings were not damaged by the earthquake of 2010. That was good, because they were available during the cholera epidemic later that year. There was a nurse working in the clinic when I left this past September. Since then the clinic was closed, and is not currently operating.

This week I celebrated my 25th anniversary of arriving in Haiti. It has been a privilege to minister to the people here. It has been a blessing to see spiritual fruit along with physical healing. I am eager to see what God will do this year. The needs are great, but He can meet them. Please pray that I will have wisdom as we make project plans, I meet with people and look into government requirements that I did not deal with in the past.

In our Lord’s service,

Dr. Anne