

2013 June 15 Rain, rain, go away. Please don't come again for a few more days!

Rainy season was a bit late this year, but it arrived in force two weeks ago. Most of the spring planting was lost ten days ago because the rains were so heavy that there was water standing in the fields. Last Saturday one of my patients told me that a wall in her house collapsed, but she praised God that her son was able to jump out of bed and harm's way before the blocks caved in. We had two more nights of heavy rains earlier this week. A patient yesterday told me that water pouring off a nearby mountain carried her house and most of her possessions away, but she said, "Praise the Lord, the neighbors are helping." And then, last night, we had heavy rains again starting about 6:30 pm. It was still raining eight hours later. We have had watery sunshine today, but there is still a possibility of more rain.

One encouragement is that the wireless thumb/flash drive ("jump" as it is called here) is working well, even in the rain. However, the "sweet spot" for connection is outside the clinic door. I usually sit there in the evening after clinic and supper to go online. The rain has brought the mosquitoes out in full force. As I sit in the dark outside the clinic trying to balance my laptop, I feel like there is a sign saying "Fresh Meat!" over my head. Spelling and syntax sometimes suffer as I try to avoid being eaten alive and not crash my laptop (literally)! That is why I am writing this letter inside my apartment. But I can return to a screened area with only a few bugs. (A few pesky mosquitoes always find a way to get in!) Most of the people in the area do not have that blessing, so I am not surprised that we are starting to see more cases of malaria.



The men started work on the house last week. They made a lot of progress in laying out the building, digging the foundation, making the cores for the pillars and starting the foundation pour. There were no building codes the last time I built, but my builder Paul Whitfield consulted with a cement company to be sure the



buildings would meet minimum earthquake standards. We built on bedrock that time. Since then, the country has gone through the earthquake of 2010, and Haitians who are serious about how they build have been keeping up with the new recommendations. The man who is in charge of this project told me there is a lot of clay in the soil, and he has planned the foundation accordingly. By this time next week, none of this work may be visible, but it will be a solid base for the rest of the building. We plan to continue as long as funds for the project are available.

"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (1 Thessalonians 5:18) This verse has come to mind often in the past few days, especially since we just learned it in junior church. There is no assurance that our way will be easy, as many of my Haitian friends and patients have learned again the past few days. But our Lord walked among us and experienced joy and sorrow, poverty and difficulties, and the need to rely on His Father, so we know He understands. We have the assurance that our Father is good and always does good, so His will for us is good, even if it does not seem so at the moment. What a great foundation to rest on in difficult times!

In our Lord's service,

*Dr. Anne*