

2016 May 14 Losses

This past week seemed to be one of loss for many people

We had a lot of rain from May 5 through May 7, and many people were rejoicing. However, one of my patients last Monday was very discouraged. He had planned to pay his bank loan back soon, but his crop was destroyed by the heavy rains. The man is a Christian, but he seemed to think that bad things never happen to God's people. I reminded him of the heroes of the faith and what they went through, and how much more our Lord Jesus Christ gave for our salvation. God has a reason for everything He does, and we cannot begin to understand the smallest part of His activity. However, we can trust that He is always acting for our good. I was reminded of II Corinthians 1:3,4, and how personal experiences can be used to encourage others.

A man came in later that day with severe back pain. He had been out on Sunday setting up the wood to burn for charcoal. When I asked if he didn't have time for God, he looked sheepish. It was an opportunity to talk to him about his need for faith in Christ and for doing something about his loss of worship of the living God.

A mother brought her very sick 28-year-old son on Friday. He had bags with the medication labels from his visit elsewhere in March, which was very helpful since he said he was not sure what was wrong. The only thing he was sure about was syphilis, but he said his AIDS test was negative. The medications told a different story: AIDS; TB; fungal disease. It sounded like his right chest might be full of fluid. He said he was converted. After all, he went to church, and that should be enough. We talked to him about his need of salvation and how little time he might have. His situation reminded me of an old song with the refrain, "My body is ruined, and I'm bound to die." It was bad enough that he had lost his health and hope, but losing his soul would be eternal. My worker Madame Pollion saw him on his porch late that day and encouraged him to trust Christ. A few minutes later, he was in eternity.

The last patient on Friday was a 90-year-old woman brought by a neighbor. This elderly woman had very high blood pressure and heart disease, and had already suffered a stroke a couple of years ago. Something has happened in this family, and the children and grandchildren will not care for her, which is unusual in this culture. Whatever happened, this disabled lady is coming to the end of her days without family. It sounds like she is relying on a church to get her into Heaven rather than faith in Jesus Christ.

The week ended on a happy note. Madame Louizane has been ready to see her Lord for the past seven years. She is ready to lose her aches and pains and tiredness. She smiles as she says she is ready to go to Heaven, and we rejoiced today that she will be getting more life, unending life in the presence of her Savior.

The clinic ministry continues to use the tool of medical care to encourage the saints and evangelize the lost in this area of Haiti. Thank you for your prayers and encouragement as we minister to the Haitian people for the glory of God.

In our Lord's service,

*Dr. Anne*