

Wrapped up in Time,
Past - Present - Future
We have the gifts of
Gratitude - Faith - Hope:
but timeless and free,
all are sourced from Love
and destined to Love.
(cf. 1Cor.13:13)

A recent e-mail from my friend Thomas Flood included these words borrowed from Paul in his first letter to the people of Corinth.

Thomas, a member of our faith community at OSLC, is a registered nurse. For as long as I've known him, Thomas has offered his gifts as an RN to various medical missions overseas, working with some of the world's most under served populations. Currently he is working in Haiti where he arrived on the 21st of February.

I had sent Thomas an e-mail inquiring about such things as his accommodations and living conditions, his current project, and how he stays "afloat" both financially and spiritually. Although he's extremely busy, he promptly replied with some answers to my inquiries. Here are excerpts from that e-mail which I'd like to share with the people of Our Savior's.

Bo Joo! (Good Day!)

Well, I have had some great adventures. Sunday I returned to the little village where I was on Friday, volunteering in the medical clinic there. All the other Americans on the medical team have returned to USA. I am the only 'blanco' (white person) in the village of 1000 (about half of whom are children). It is such a peaceful village of fishermen, right on the ocean shore. There is no electricity service, so no loud amplified music, thank God!

So wonderful to fall asleep to the sound of the ocean waves-- and awake to the same...

It is a 'one light town' : someone had donated an outdoor light pole, that accumulates charge from a solar panel during the day, then turns on a light at night. Other than that, are revealed the thousand stars-- I saw planet Mars more brilliant than ever before in my life, very impressive. The people call it the 'fiery star'.

There are several American and Canadian benefactors to this village. They do something like 'Habitat for Humanity', where the old bamboo&thatch houses are replaced with nice 4-room concrete ones-- the family to live there provides most the labor to build it, in concert with a few skilled builders; the materials are free to them.

The Canadian benefactor also built a fine school and medical clinic. There is no charge for either, which is very rare in Haiti -- the 'free' government clinics charge fees too high for most villagers to afford. So this little 4-room clinic (which has 1 full-time female Nurse and 1 part-time male Doctor) gets 100 - 200 patients every day from many miles around, all the surrounding villages. They asked me to stay and help whenever I can.

I came to Haiti with only a small backpack, 2 changes of clothes-- so must return to collect my luggage from my friend's house in Santiago RD. Will do that at the end of this week. In the meantime I am staying with the family of my translator/guide, a young (25?) man who spent several years in USA but

returned with the determination to help his country... he's founded a 'community-empowerment' organization and has been quite successful recruiting a cadre of young people with the same motivation. There are also a few key elders that contribute ideas-- I guess one of them would be me, haha. We've often spoken of our religious motivation, and this is the basis for our friendship. But I was shocked when he asked me for an English Bible-- it turns out that he could only find a French one here, and he does not read much french. I only had a copy of the gospel of john in simple English, and he received it with joy, reading it diligently... I will get him a full English NT in Santiago.

It reminds me how fortunate we are, we take such things for granted.
I'm quite well taken care of by his mother, who is an excellent creole cook -- YUM!
I might return to USA 'fattened' this time, haha.

Thank you for your prayers for the people of Haiti.
cheers, Thomas

Please affirm our brother Thomas by keeping him and those whom he serves in your prayers. And let me know if you wish to show your support of his ministry in any other form.

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