



Supporting the Haitian ministries of Sam Rice, R.N.

Nov., 2008

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"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."
Philippians 4:13 NIV

It took me a couple of weeks to get to Dariol from the time I landed in Cayes on Aug. 24th. The four hurricanes that ravaged Haiti: Faye, Hannah, Gustav, and Ike—also played havoc with their road system. Many roads were washed out everywhere. Water run down from the mountains making it impossible for transportation to function. For the first time in the memories of older Haitians, whole slabs of mountain sides simply broke away and slid into the valleys far below, taking crops, trees, animals, and houses. Gonaives, Cabaret, and Cote de Fer were inundated with rivers of water, which upon receding, deposited tons of mud. For the average Haitian, 2008 will be a year to remember !

On Sept. 10th, I decided to get to Dariol no matter what ! The day started out with sun in Cayes, so after prayer we took off. It seemed a good day to travel. When we were halfway to Dariol, dark rain laden clouds rolled in from the ocean and suddenly the road was like a stream as rain fell in sheets from the sky. The Lord was with us, for at each point that looked dangerous we were able to make it through. When we got to the Cote de Fer River, we found a rain swollen torrent. Leaving the truck at a local Pastor's house, we made our way to the river bank.

It was amazing to see how the landscape had been changed by the removal of land and trees by the river. As we pondered what to do, men who took advantage of the opportunity to make some mone, offered to carry us and our belongings across the river. Talk about a moment of indecision !

Finally dark clouds moving in from the ocean forced us to decide, it was now or never ! I was pulled and carried across the torrent by four men and let me tell you, the pull of the water was such that I can understand how someone can be carried off by water alone. I would have kissed the ground upon being deposited on the other side, but was distracted by the burst of rain that suddenly started to fall. We met up with some young men from Dariol who had arrived to help carry our belongs.

(continued on back)

Ephesians 2:8—10

I had been inspired to bring large plastic garbage bags, so everything was protected and dry, and so we started to trek to Dariol. We trudged through the mud filled streets of Cote de Fer, the mud trying to hold us in place. Finally we got to the other side of town and climbed the mountain side, which led to the road to Dariol. There were huge ravines and holes caused by water run off. I prayed and claimed Philippians 4:13—"I can do all things through the strength that Christ gives me". I have never walked so far under such unfavorable conditions. The distance to Dariol was 12 kilometers and we had to cross over five rain swollen streams. At one point, I was carried over the water by one of the men, on his back! It seemed a perfect symbol of what Jesus was doing for me. He was carrying me through. It took us 3.5 hours, but we made it with no rest stops (I knew if I stopped, I wouldn't be able to start again).

It was wonderful to see Dariol and to be amazed at how the Lord had spared it from damage! Some trees and crops were lost in the ravines, but no houses damaged or roofs lost. My yard was virtually intact. Only my porch roof was taken away. Praise the Lord!

It seems the high elevations were more affected by the winds, and the ravines and valleys by the water. It's Oct. 17th now, and large vehicles still can't get to Dariol, but my 4X4 truck can. The problem of transport has caused a rise in the price of everything. Tanker trucks carrying gasoline from Port-Au-Prince can't get through to the area where I am in the south. Gas is selling at \$10 per gallon in Cayes, while it's about \$6.50 in Port-Au-Prince. Food can be had, but at much greater cost.

The good news and reason for praise is:

- The Radio Station is fine and working
- The Medical Clinic is fine, but getting meds is difficult
- None of the Christian Schools we help were damaged
- I am doing great, with the Lord's help

I am only going to be able to get three letters out from the kids this year instead of four, due to the difficulties. Please be patient and continue to lift us up in your prayers! May God bless you for your help and prayers!

Together in Service to the LORD, Sam

Remember my new personal address in Haiti that delivers to me each week in Cayes. Now I don't have to go to Port au Prince where so much of the violence is. Please make a note of this new address, but please, please, do not send money here! Continue to send all checks and donations to our Smithville Office.....Thanks, Sam

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