



Andy and Carol Brooke. Quartier Morin Baptist Church

After 7 weeks, our 8th dose of Chloroquine anti-malarial still tastes as disgusting as the first. I just don't know why the manufacturers can't sugar coat them. Still, we shouldn't complain should we. After all, at least we have medicine to prevent malaria which is more than could be said of many of our missionary predecessors.

Our duties over the last weeks have been many and varied both at the HCBH hospital and the volunteer village. For Andy, this has involved everything from clearing out old buildings infested with rats, wasp nests and tarantulas, tracking down faulty Solar



Andy's latest pet, name suggestions please?

Inverters to send away for repair, and playing around with test tubes and various powders to try to adjust chlorine levels on the hospital's newly installed water filtration systems, (see Newsletter 1). Meanwhile, Carol has attended a monthly networking conference for aid organisations working in the area which was held at an old colonial hotel in the city, (while Andy took advantage of their swimming pool!). Carol also attends a regular infant mortality review meeting together with doctors from a state-run hospital as well as from HCBH. Carol spends a lot of time knee deep in all kinds of data, reports and spreadsheets.



But she also gets to do some really cool fun stuff too. At the moment Carol is spending time at a beautiful building called the "Maison de Benediction", or "House of Blessing", (this is a respite centre for children with disabilities and is located in the hospital

grounds.). She is already getting into the Christmas spirit and is currently making preparations for some of the children to begin producing Christmas cards that will be sold in support of the amazing work that goes on there. They are also making preparations too for their first nativity play.

Andy still mourns the demise of his laptop screen that died just 3 weeks after our arrival, and so continues to moan about having to do all his office work on his mobile phone which he says "int easy when yer've fingers like pork sausages".

More recently, we've both been cracking on with improvements to the "village", (the accommodation compound that we manage), carrying out repairs, maintenance and generally improving the overall appearance of the place, all in preparation for the arrival of our first influx of volunteers.



Some of the "Village" accommodation

Last week we had the pleasure of welcoming an American doctor who came to assist at the hospital and for the next 2 weeks we have a clinical scientist with us from London. Arriving from the USA next Sunday will be a nurse from Devon and a group of 10 volunteers who'll be carrying out various duties around the hospital as well as some ground works in

the village. So, it's all systems go as we spend our energy on supplying their material needs over the coming 2 weeks before the 2 of us are left with 3½ weeks to ourselves before our trip home for Christmas.

Our Creole language training continues and our progress is steady. We are both more confident in our speaking but our listening and understanding is still in need of some work, (a sermon illustration if ever there was one), and we are constantly asking people to "palè dousman silvouple" - "speak slowly please".

We are now fairly accustomed to the heat and no longer need the fan to be on all night to enable us to sleep; that said, the weather has cooled somewhat as we enter the rainy season and we're now down to a very manageable 30°C. The days remain hot though and Andy continues to sweat like a pig whilst Carol "gently glows" of course.

Despite the heat, the mosquito bites, the ants, rats, Chloroquine, the liberal application of sticky insect repellent after every shower, cockerels that wake you every half hour through the night, and the lack of real ale and Merlot, life is very good. We love being here and it hasn't really sunk in yet that this is now our "home"; God is good and we do have so very much to be thankful for:

- Wonderful friendly local work colleagues.
- British and American friends we have met from the ex-pat community; most of whom we work alongside.
- The lovely church, (Quartier Morin Baptist Church) in the nearby town who have made us very welcome.
- The old ambulance we drive ourselves around in.



- The beautiful Caribbean beach just a half hour's drive away.
- The immense privilege of serving God in this beautiful, but desperately poor, country.

In all honesty the only things we miss are you – our families, our church family, especially our grandchildren. Oh - and the real ale and Merlot I mentioned earlier. So, if any of you out there ever fancy coming out here to visit and fancy a first-hand view of amazing things happening in the poorest country in the western hemisphere, then drop us a line and we'll reserve a room for you right here at the Village, where the hospitality is second to none! Don't be put off by the less glamorous things mentioned earlier, as the Chloroquine manufacturers would say, "What's the point in sugar coating it?" and anyway, the good things easily outweigh the bad! You would be welcome to either volunteer your skills, medical or otherwise, or just to simply come for a visit and experience the delights of Haitian life and visit our wonderful hospital. Whatever you choose it would be great to see you! Don't forget to bring the Ale and Merlot!

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. That we continue to make good progress with the creole language
2. For the poor living in inadequate housing who are likely to suffer most during the rainy season
3. To be a source of encouragement and support to co-workers, work colleagues and staff members and to work well as a team.
4. For the Christ centered hospital and the work of HHA to prosper. .
5. To be effective witnesses to our faith as we work alongside many who have none.
6. Good health and strength to work as we take on increased responsibilities

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