

Several of us have an electronic boycott going this last week. No cell or regular phones, no computer usage, no TV, no CD player, no nothin'. I get to break it to submit today's blog.

Well, it's our last full day on La Gonave, and there are still many folks living in extreme poverty, and social justice issues prevail. Curing all the world ills is not one of the purposes of VIM trips such as this. However, we have accomplished many things during this short stay. We have many new friends that now know that the Methodist Church in Auburn, Nebraska cares deeply about them: This will give hope and strength to this wonderful community in the days to come. The project money that your church sent has provided employment for about 30 of the village people and will continue for several weeks yet. Some of the left over funds will provide much needed scholarships to secondary [middle] school.

We stop to play, hold, and tickle each kid we pass now, but were somewhat intimidated by them early on. We sing, tease, and limbo with the workers now, sometimes getting them in trouble with the boss, but were somewhat intimidated by them early on. I feel that we are more a part of their community now, and most of us didn't even know this place existed.

The guest house is getting its third and final coat of plaster today, and the outhouse out back is much improved. Lots of sand to tote up the hill, and water to haul out of the cave, but our improvement project is near completion. They will continue this weekend and next week, with finishing and painting.

We walked yesterday to a poorer section of the village, to play with the kids there, that we seldom see around the church compound. On the rocks under a shade tree, we made bead necklaces and painted fingernails. Two kids so far today have walked up and pointed to my necklace and then to theirs, so we grinned and remembered.

Our sailboat leaves at 4:00 tomorrow, yes in the a.m. Perhaps a bit of shopping in Port-au-Prince.

Tom