

NETWORKING

When staying at a guest-house, like the one where we stay in LaGonave, there usually are wonderful missionaries doing great things. It is sometimes uncomfortable at first because most people feel a bit put off when their team meal/ discussions are interrupted for the purpose of information gathering. "Sorry to interrupt, at the risk of sounding like an idiot I just want to introduce myself and make sure that we aren't supposed to be doing something important together in the world. I'm Dr. Dree Stryker with IWISH Foundation. I'm an ObGyn trying to help Haitian ObGyn doctors and nurses take care of their people."

At lunch we spoke with a group of Rotarians from all over the United States who were brought together by a gentleman named George Solomon from Long Island. He was probably a bit taken aback by a smelly blonde ditz, but when he bought into our goals and objectives, he joined us for dinner to talk more. It turns out that Mr. Solomon has been to Haiti many times with various groups and on LaGonave several times. He is the "big deal" Logistics person for Rotary International. His most recent project is at St. Dameons Hospital in Port Au Prince where he is setting up a pediatric thoracic surgery unit, performing open heart surgery on children with congenital heart defects.

We also met the other folks sitting around the dining area: a podiatrist (who shared that HE had to do a cesarean section the week before), a couple of dentists and an ER nurse named Josie.

More Synergy:

The anesthesiologist who asked to come with us, Dr. Stephanie Hubert (pictured here with LaFees, a very popular businessman/translator on LaGonave), was very quiet at Les Messie. She lit right up when we met George Solomon from Rotary International doing work in Haiti. It turns out she is a Rotarian. Evidently the younger "members" aren't members until they turn 30, which in her case will be in a couple of years. She knows all the ins and outs of Rotary. It was wonderful! We are hoping that she will be able to help us upgrade the anesthesia equipment



so that general anesthesia will be an option on the island. Currently they are restricted to using Spinal anesthesia because of the technological impediments to safe utilization of General Anesthesia, even if they have experienced teams with anesthesiologists coming to them. They have the cardiac monitor that we donated and have a beautifully organized shelving system with everything labeled and easily accessible. Although we were surrounded by IWISH donations, the most important future project will be General anesthesia for Lagonave