

Hallelujah Moment from Haiti

"Hope in The Midst of Poverty"

By Gene Hill, Volunteer in Mission

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Woman carries solar ovens. Photo supplied by Rick Jost.

I remember the painstaking way in which sinew and fat were removed from the "goat parts" and laid out in the solar ovens on a barren field in preparation for cooking.

I smile recollecting the patient and exacting instructions given by Raymonde on how to mix batter for a cake.

I visualize Martin's hands covered with grated coconut—cutting those peppers just so.

I recall Philippe, a very able 23-year-old, unable to get a job. His parents cannot afford for him to live or even eat at home.

I feel shame as I remember the woman in the green dress who stepped into the road every time we passed by and asked for food because she was hungry. She really was hungry. And we—well, we passed by on the other side of the

road, hurrying to see if there was any "safe" Coca-Cola at the roadside stand.

I live with the thought that although I have seen poverty before—I have never seen anything like the poverty of Haiti.

Then I see again the smiling faces of the children, women, and men we met while making solar ovens. I wonder how they could not be in the deepest depression and feeling that God had abandoned them. Yet they have hope! I wonder if I could maintain hope if I were in their place. I am truly afraid of the answer.

There was and remains an extreme shortage of increasingly expensive wood and charcoal as the primary commodity for cooking fuel. People cannot afford this fuel source and neither can the environment. Through Haitian-directed solar cooking seminars, the Haiti Solar Oven Project has provided more than 2,800 solar ovens and training for their use.

Ways to Support this Ministry

You can support this ministry by sharing your gifts through The Advance or by designated giving through your local church:

[# 418812](#) — Haiti Solar Oven Project

To learn more about the Haiti Solar Oven Project, go to:

<http://www.gb-gm-umc.org/solarovenshaiti/>



Hallelujah Moments

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