



The view from *This Little Row in the Lord's Vineyard*

The Dohn Family ~ SAMS Missionaries in Health Ministries

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Michael, Elizabeth & Anita

We Are The Chosen Ones!

It is exciting to have our work recognized for excellence by the Dominican Ministry of Health. We were selected to pilot a medical record system for people living with HIV who are receiving treatment. We were selected because the Clinic's HIV unit is up-to-date in the present national electronic data-base for HIV/AIDS.

The present national HIV/AIDS database is incomplete, full of errors, and rife with discrepancies. In contrast, the Clinic's data has always been accurate and current.

We are told that the present system is apparently too complex for most centers to manage. For example, some units had registered 2,000 patients, but had less than 500 patients when audited. Problems with the list of active patients included multiple registrations for the same patient and failure to remove deceased patients. Which medicines the patients are taking is frequently uncertain in the present database – a big problem for the Ministry of Health as it wants to use the database for ordering anti-HIV medicines and planning future needs.

We will be piloting the new streamlined system while continuing to duplicate entries in the old system. This means that we will have triplicate records on our patients. We rely on "old-fashioned" paper charts because of the frequent electricity outages.

For the Clinic's efforts, the Ministry of Health has provided two new file cabinets, a new computer, and a data entry technician (the technician is temporary for the pilot program, but the Clinic keeps the file cabinets and computer).

One might argue that the Ministry of Health should choose one of the worst centers to pilot the new system to determine how well it works under "real life" conditions. We are committed to quality patient care. We have the resolve to make whatever system work because at some point we know that it does impact the quality of patient care. Whatever improvements in are made in the hardware and software, commitment and resolve is probably not something that can be programmed into the system.

Keep praying, Anita

**SAMS MISSIONARIES
MUST RAISE THEIR
OWN SUPPORT.**

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