



Lacahobas, September 24, 2010

... Before 1981 and 1982 we had no water in the town of Lascahobas. We used spring and river water for all household services. We had to travel long distances to fetch it. But this water was not potable. People who drank it often were hit by diarrhea and intestinal pain.

In 1982, the city applied for potable water services to the Haitian state, and the National Service of Potable Water (NSPW.) In Lascahobas we have a great source of water known as Laping Beach which is located to the southwest of the town, at about five kilometers. This water source was captured by the service of drinking water and led by PVC pipes underground throughout the town streets. At that time, a National Service of Potable Water office was created in our town to accommodate people who wanted to subscribe to the service of drinking water at home. The director of this office is Jean-Claude François. He is an active parishioner at St. Gabriel Church and a member of the Brotherhood parish choir.

To subscribe to this service, families must pay in between 3,000 and 4,000 Haitian dollars (\$75 - \$100 US) to the NSPW depending on the distance traveled by the pipes and pay a monthly fee of 17.60 Haitian dollars.

However, the water from this service is not potable. In order to be drinkable, it must be treated by liquid Clorax, Aquatable or other methods. People use this water for household chores and bathing purposes but cannot drink it. Therefore we must buy purified water like Culligan, Aquafine and others.

There are also a few rare public fountains built in some intersections of the town. They are to serve the people who cannot afford the water service at home. However, these fountains are not reliable...

Written by Jean Bédel PIERROT, 16 years old, a St. Gabriel student in Lascahobas, Haiti.