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Sharing the love of Christ  
through deeds that will  
alleviate the needs of the poor,  
breaking the cycle of poverty.



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**Sept/Oct 2011**

**An Inter-denominational Mission Serving the People of LaGonave, Haiti since 1968**

## A Greeting from Barry Gould

Our first few weeks in Haiti have been great. We are getting to know and are learning much from our co-workers, Rod & Michelle Geiszler. We have already seen some of the many ways that WISH's ministry here is making **SUCH a big difference** for the people of this community. Just seeing people coming to get clean **drinking water** that WISH pipes to public fountains, warms our hearts because we know the hardship and sickness that would be the case if their drinking water came from other sources. We feel blessed that our previous experience with the Wesleyan Hospital mission is serving us well. Settling in and getting reacquainted with many of our old friends and acquaintances has been a joy. I have been busy trying to learn as much as possible about the many different projects and ministries that WISH supports throughout the community. Getting to know the names of each WISH employee and trying to pick up and improve my Creole has been hard on my head. Even though the next few weeks and months will be stressful, we feel blessed to be part of this great team that the Lord has brought around us. Together, we will do what we can to help our brothers and sisters in Haiti. Thank you all for making this ministry possible with your financial and prayer support.

## St. Louis Youth Team Brings Bible Stories, Music, Crafts and Games to Saline Children

By Leslie Harris



**From L to R: Tim Corbett, Paula Vaught, Jake Schuchardt, Leslie Harris, Josh Smith, Belle Sartin, Detta Brennan, David O'Connell, Jamie and Dan Hartke.**

This trip was the first to LaGonave for these college students, but for the adults on the team, it was the opportunity to reconnect with friends made years before. Dan and Jamie Hartke both came here on mission trips as college students themselves; Jamie had come on five separate trips. Leslie Harris also went on one of those trips with her son Matthew who worked on the water line. So, for them it was a wonderful chance to see familiar faces and to reconnect with

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\* **Double Your Dollars!!** \*  
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a place and people that they had held in their hearts for a very long time. In particular, Jamie was able to reconnect with Beatrice, whom Jamie had met when Beatrice was an 8 year old girl 13 years ago before. Jamie showed her Christ's love and faithfully prayed for her, and over the years was able to help get Beatrice the help she needed to be able to walk. It was wonderful for Jamie to be able to re-connect and share God's truth with her once again. There were many happy reunions with friends who we'd first met long ago, and many wonderful new friendships formed by both leaders and students that we anticipate developing in the years to come.



Beatrice was a severely crippled 8 year old until Jamie showed her Christ's love and got help for her 13 years ago.

pound where we could share with them about Jesus' love, provide a craft and a snack, play, and laugh with them!

During the week we held Bible clubs each morning at Pastor Foglas' church. The college students shared Biblical truth with the children each day, told through the story of Joseph. The children learned how God gives us

hope, how He made each one special, and how He offers each of us forgiveness and life with Him. The older students (11-17) broke down into

On Saturday we had the privilege of ministering to the 70+ children from Mme. Soliette's orphanage. These children live in a three story building in Anse a Galets and currently have no place where they can play outside like other kids. What a joy it was to be able to bring them to the

WISH com-



David O'Connell has a captive audience at the soccer stadium as he tells the boys how God changed his life.



Detta and Paula enjoy a game with children from orphanage. The WISH compound is a safe place for them to run and play outside.

smaller groups for discussions about the Bible lesson in the morning, and in the afternoons we met with the older students again for classes in English, sports, and music. After that, we usually went to the Tony Wolfe soccer park. The guys would play soccer with the Haitians and the ladies would play with the children and initiate conversations on the sidelines. After one such day, one of our college men shared his testimony with all the young men gathered there. Only eternity will tell the results of that time together! Then in the evening we had our team meetings, worshipped and planned for the next day. All in all, a very full day!

At night during our team meetings Dan would ask the question, "Where did you see God

today?" Come back with us and "hear" some of their God-sightings:

- In the older boy's club, they divided into small groups where some of the boys opened up and asked bold and honest questions. "Some shared how difficult it is for a Haitian male to forgive; that to forgive someone is to "lose respect".

- They saw God in "the guy at the soccer field who refused to be distracted by his friends while David was sharing his testimony."

- They saw God in the "new relationships that were formed between our team and the children we spent time with. THEY showed us Jesus as much and probably more than we showed them."

- A few of the older girls who had exhibited a negative attitude in the beginning, "shared the song "Ancient Words" in the music class in preparation for the parents program when we couldn't decide what to sing. It ended up being a gift from God as they stepped up and became leaders and taught the rest of the group." God was working in their lives.



Joseph (Tim Corbett) and his "brothers" (Jake Schuchardt and friends) portraying the Bible story.

We left LaGonave with hearts full of gratitude to God for what He had done, love for our old and new Haitian friends, respect, love, and appreciation for the Geiszlers and their ministry, and a desire to return and once again have the opportunity to bless, and be blessed by, the Haitian people.

## Reflections from Belle Sartin

As a student going on my first international missions trip, I had no expectations since I had no idea what to expect! Needless to say, a lot of what I saw in Haiti was shocking to me. I had never before seen a third-world country face to face like that, seeing it, hearing it, smelling it, putting names and faces with such poverty. But God showed me that He walks the streets of Anse-a-Galets, holding the hands of the children that I got to spend a few short days with, loving them and knowing them deeply when I could only scratch the surface.

Part of me had thought that I was going to bring Christ to a place He had never been before; I was going to bring the Light to a very dark place. And while I was a light, *The Light* had never left LaGonave. The Lord knows Haiti and loves her people. He has never abandoned them and never will because that is not who He is. I hope that I get to go back to Haiti very soon. The Lord is clearly present and is doing miraculous things, big and small, that will make their mark on eternity.



Belle Sartin meets the mother and younger sibling of one of her students.

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*Visit the WISH website to see this newsletter in full color and read field updates as they are received from our directors on the island.*  
[www.haitiwish.org](http://www.haitiwish.org)

**Memorial Gifts Honor  
Passing of WISH  
Friend and Supporter**

Bill Vander Wall, Jr., 88, from Spring Lake, Michigan, a long-time WISH supporter and friend of WISH founder, Tony Wolf, passed on to his eternal home August 12, 2011. He is survived by his loving wife, Lois. Bill, owner of Brothers Concrete Products and Ludington Concrete Products, brought his skills to LaGonave in the late 1970's with a block machine which was used to build the original Pearl Wolf Memorial library and the WISH dental clinic. The family asked that memorial gifts be sent to WISH, Bill's favorite charity.

The WISH mission family has grown!  
Please remember to keep them all in your prayers  
as they extend our Christian love to the  
people of LaGonave Island.



The Geizler family; back: Ben, Rod, Michelle and in front, Joe and Garin are joined by Barry and Beth Gould.