

To be Thankful is to Share our Blessings with Those Less Fortunate

Each week, Joe Larakers sends an update to WISH board members, reporting progress and problems of the previous week. We, as a board, are concerned with the administrative aspects of running the mission; acquiring the necessary supplies, funding for general operations and project development, and work teams for maintenance and spiritual growth.

Joe and Pat have a different perspective of mission operations. They are surrounded by the poverty and desperate living conditions on a daily basis. They struggle with how to minister without contributing to the notion that Americans have unlimited wealth and resources. Joe writes that, "Our mission is abundantly privileged with all kinds of supplies and equipment that very few, if any, have on this island." He says the church ministers to

the people as a congregation for a few hours on Sunday, when they arrive fresh and clean in their best clothing. "We have them as individuals, up-close-and-personal for the rest of the week. We see them dirty and wet with working sweat during the week. So, where does ministry take place? People who come through the WISH gate may not get all they ask for, but they'll find someone sympathetic to their needs and problems. **Each and every Haitian is a person of value to God. WE'RE HERE FOR THE PEOPLE!**"

We haven't made the tremendous personal sacrifices that our field directors make to minister on a personal basis, but we have an important obligation to share whatever we can to support them and the work of WISH on LaGonave. They need our prayers, as well as our personal and financial assistance. **We are abundantly privileged!**

Ice Plant – an addition to the ice plant is now completed. The area provides space for two cold-water boxes and storage for the plastic ice bags and other supplies. Increased fuel and maintenance costs recently prompted Joe to increase the price for a 12 pound block of ice to 25 gourdes (85cents US). The plant workers support his decision although patrons are not pleased. Joe hopes they will realize that they still have a bargain since a 10 pound block of ice in Port au Prince sells for 35 gourdes.

Welding Shop – Work continues on this project as we now have 5 welding units with 8 12'X17' concrete work areas. Local welders pay to use the welding facility and equipment enabling them to earn a living selling their work. Metal shelves, furniture, and doors outlast wooden products which are vulnerable to termites. The rough roads create constant work to repair broken frames on everything from bicycles to bulldozers. Two men have been so successful that they were able to



Bob Port solders the freezer plates on an ice machine during his June trip. He plans to return in January to install 2 more machines pending the timely shipment of the container.

purchase small generators and welding units to open their own welding shops. That says much for the success of this project, which was intended to supply the electricity and equipment to provide employment opportunities. Self-Help is working!

WISH Mall – Haiti’s economy thrives on concession-stand businesses. The WISH Mall will consist of sheltered areas with electricity to provide income for some of the very poor ladies from the saline. The 4-way intersection in front of the ice plant is the perfect location for these small businesses. The first two units are nearly completed and will operate a battery-charging shop and a popsicle shop. Previously, the “Tikarol” (popsicle in Creole) lady had been using the WISH freezer so this will give her the opportunity to work in her own facility where she will have electricity. Future units are planned for tire repair and barber shops. Joe is looking for a heavy-duty manual floor jack and a barber chair. Can you help?

WISH employee, Wacson, died recently after a long battle with glandular TB. His 2 yr-old son died unexpectedly the end of September. The

Larakers’ benevolence fund helped with burial costs. Joe and Pat share Christ’s love on a daily basis.

E-Mail– Star Band Satellite equipment and computers are ready to ship in the WISH container as soon as funding and transportation arrangements can be completed. A team of technicians are planning to arrive in January to install the equipment. Telephone service has been out for several months with no plans for the telephone company to restore service for the twelve customers on the island. Joe takes a laptop computer to the local Teleco building to send and receive email a couple times a week. Line interference makes transmissions unreliable. Communication with stateside support is necessary to receive advice and order supplies for efficient mission operations. Joe said, “**the remoteness of LaGonave never really leaves our**

consciousness – we’re reminded of it everyday in one way or another.”

Recent Storms brought a deluge of rain to the island, washing out roads, and exposing areas of water pipe around the captaj (source) in the ravine. Joe reports that the poorest of the poor who live on the wetlands of the saline suffered greatly with crumbling buildings and missing roofs.

Roofing is a primary need for three large buildings. The ice plant and supply depot need replacement roofs while there is still no roof on

the saline church. These would be wonderful projects for work teams this winter.

PLEASE PRAY that we will soon have the funding and transportation details confirmed to ship the WISH container. We must find a secure location near Port au Prince where the container can be opened and safely stored until the contents can be moved to LaGonave. Two ice machines, plastic bags, waterline pipe, roofing materials, Star Band equipment, welders, and fungus fuel treatment will be included in the container. We still need about \$5,000.

PURE VANILLA ESSENCE for Holiday Baking and Gifts

SEND ORDERS TO: Jack Heck 2934 Pine Grove, Port Huron, MI 48060

Suggested donation of \$5 each includes shipping. Make checks payable to WISH.