

Blessed are the Work Teams, for They Serve in the Name of Christ

Work team season is typically the winter months of January through March, but this summer has been exceptionally busy with teams assisting the mission while braving the scorching temperatures of the tropical summer climate.

When the Larakers returned to the island in June, they welcomed a team of five from Heritage Wesleyan Church of Rock Island, Illinois. Some team members held Vacation Bible Schools while others assisted Joe with maintenance projects for the mission. One major project was installing new ceiling fans in the WISH library. This team had a terrific experience and used every opportunity to interact with the Haitian community. Pastor Dwayne Brothers relates: The trip to LaGonave was truly a life-changing experience for me. It was my first mission trip out of the country, but it will not be my last. I believe the whole team was impacted just as I was. Seeing the incredible needs of the Haitian people, coupled with the incredible courage and faith of people like the Larakers have left me asking myself, "Am I laying my life on the line to follow Jesus wherever and however he leads?"

Ken and Carol Thede made a significant contribution of service when Ken spent two weeks rebuilding the 80KW generator. This generator is vital to mission operations as it provides power for the ice plant, mission

compounds, and several outlying community services. There is no public electricity for the village. Spending time with their grandchildren Eli and Anna Thede was an added benefit. Dr. Kris Thede is on staff at the Wesleyan Hospital while husband, Cory works assists both missions while working on agricultural developments, including the moringa project. WISH board members, Bob Port and Wayne Grace made another trip to LaGonave in July to repair and improve ice plant equipment. This was Bob's third trip to the island in eight months. The WISH plant is not able to keep up with the ever-increasing demand for ice on the island. Joe reports that some business owners try to reserve ice so they won't have to wait in line, depleting the supply for others who wait their turn, only to be turned away when the ice is sold-out for the day. Joe wisely defers patron management to the WISH employees who sell the ice.

Prior to opening the WISH ice plant, islanders had to travel to the mainland to purchase 100 pound blocks of ice and transport them up the coast and across the sea, arriving with a much small block. In addition to selling blocks of ice, the plant also sells purified cold water. We anticipate the addition of two more ice machines when we are able to ship a container, increasing ice production by 80 blocks per day.



Heritage Wesleyan team L-R Stephanie Gardner, Pastor Dwayne Brothers, Shawn Wilkinson, Janette Wilkinson, Stepheni Phillips, Reen Glendon, Joel Goetz, & Tyler Scannell.

About 35 girls attended this VBS. Pastor Dwayne and Janette help turn the jumprope.



WISH board president Bob Port and Wayne Grace depart after a week of improvements to the ice plant.

Hanging ceiling fans in the library: Pastor Dwayne, Shawn is on ladder, Stephani, Joel, and Jay Knight.



Long Island Dental Team Enjoys WISH Facilities

Dr. Greg Doroski Sr. a dentist from Long Island, NY has been working through the Service Christian organization on LaGonave for many years. His children have accompanied him on several dental missions where they have roadside dental clinics in the mountains in addition to services they offer through the WISH dental clinic. Dr. Greg has contributed several surgical instruments to the clinic.

This summer Greg Doroski, Jr. made the trip without his father. He was joined by Tom Christianson, Mike DeAngelo, and Mark DeSantis as they assisted Dr. Frank Ianno. This Presbyterian dental team from Long Island was hosted by Service Christian at one of the local Haitian guest houses. However, they enjoyed the luxury of showers at the WISH compound as no such amenity is available at their guest house.

Dr. Rick Bush, from Winchester, Massachusetts will open the clinic in November. We encourage more dental teams to experience the unique opportunities offered by sharing their skills in a third world culture.

Those nasty mosquitoes!

Joe exclaims that "it only took one little mosquito bite" to put him in bed.

Dengue Fever was known to our military troops in the South Pacific as "backbreak fever", referring to the severe musculo-skeletal pain and high fever at the onset of the viral infection. Fatigue, loss of appetite, and depression often follow. Symptoms can last weeks or months. At this writing, Joe felt he was 80% back to normal. Unlike malaria, there is no preventive medication such as chloroquine for Dengue Fever. Please pray for the health and protection of our missionaries.

Joe also reports that this seems to be the season for land-crabs on LaGonave. Some are the size of his fist with leg spans of nine inches! They have a mouth that turns down, giving them a crabby look when they spit on you. Sturdy gloves are required to offset their substantial pincers. Although they are unwelcome houseguests, they do control other pests like mosquitoes, spiders, and snakes.

Construction of God's Church of Freedom on the saline has stalled. The new 35 X 65 foot church will hold about 200. The temporary structure packs in about 50 to 60 worshippers each Sunday. Additional funds are needed to assist Pastor Foglas with construction.