

Team Credits Supreme Orchestration for Successful Mission

Long distance communication is vital to sustain WISH operations in Haiti. Telephone service has been unreliable and currently non-existent for residents of the island. One year ago, in February of 2002, we asked for help in locating a technician who could install the Starband satellite equipment for internet service on LaGonave. Dave Mytyk, in St. Louis, was the answer to our prayers.

When Dave learned about West Indies Self Help and the perils of our internet service, he volunteered to travel to LaGonave and donate all of the computer and satellite equipment needed to get our mission center online.

Months of planning and timing were involved to enable Dave and fellow technician Budd Burgmeyer, to join Bob Port, Bob Shelton, Bob Praechter, and Wayne Grace on LaGonave for one week in January. The computer equipment was released for customs just days before the team's arrival.



Wayne Grace, Bob Port, Bob Shelton, Bob Praechter, Budd Burgmeyer, and Dave Mytyk (not shown) prepare to board MAF plane to LaGonave.

Frustration grew as the men encountered complications with the installation of the 4-foot dish satellite system. Experience has taught seasoned individuals that Haiti promises unique challenges. The



Above: Budd installs new dish.

Below: Dave checks for strong signal.



men prayed for the Lord's guidance and Neil Van Dine, an American living in Cap Haitian and experienced in Satellite systems, came to the rescue.

It just happened that Neil was able to travel the 5 1/2 hours into Port-au-Prince to pick up the necessary supplies for a 6-foot dish. WISH foreman, Jean Claude drove him to the boat dock at Montrouis where he was met by Bob Port, Bob Praechter, Bob Shelton, and Wayne Grace in the WISH boat. After bobbing around in rough seas for several hours with only one engine running poorly, the crew arrived safely, but well after dark.

With Neil's assistance, the new satellite system was successfully installed just in time for the team's departure. It is now possible for several users to access the internet system at the same time. The Larakers, Wesleyan Hospital, mission

nurses, and Dr. Kris and Cory Thede, can all use the internet from their living quarters and work stations for information searches, and email communications.

We praise the Lord for introducing Dave Mytyk to WISH. Dave is already making plans for his second trip. Neil Van Dine answered God's call when the men prayed for direction. We now have an in-country technician for future reference. Our work team had faith that the Lord would protect and guide them through the darkness and rough seas to successfully complete their mission.



L-R: Dave Mytyk, Wayne Grace, Neil Van Dine, Bob Shelton, Bob Port, Pat and Joe Larakers enjoy after-dinner devotion time.

Cory Thede is excited about the new computer system which will allow all of the missionaries to access the internet for research information, medical consultations, world news, and emails.

Ice Plant Expands to Meet Future Demand

While the computer technicians were busy on the mission compounds, Bob Port, skilled in refrigeration systems, was assisted by Bob Shelton, Bob Praechter, and Wayne Grace as they completed the installation of two new ice



machines at the WISH ice plant. Some design changes have improved techniques for harvesting the plastic ice bags.

Joe reports that with the decreased hours of electricity, they are able to produce 175 blocks of ice each day. He estimates that there is enough diesel fuel in reserve to last about one more month. Fuel has become available in some areas of the mainland at a much higher price. He is able to continue selling the ice at the same price (\$5 Haitian dollars per block) until he is forced to purchase fuel at the higher rate.

At right: Wayne Grace connects wiring for the new ice machines.



Above: Bob Port and Bob Shelton install refrigeration lines for new machines.





The WISH Mall project continues to develop under the direction of Joe Larakers. The first two units are nearly completed, with entrepreneurs ready to open for business.

The Mall is located along the roadside next to the ice plant so the businesses will have access to electricity.



Above Mme Cajuste and her children are grateful for this opportunity to own a business.

Mme Cajuste and her four children stand in front of their new shop at the WISH Mall. This sweet lady sells frozen flavored water in small plastic bags, like a popsicle without the stick. She began this little cottage business a few years ago, borrowing space in the WISH freezer to produce her tasty treats. Now she has her own space with electricity to operate a couple small freezers.

The first mall unit is a battery charging business. With no residential electricity, 12V batteries are used with an inverter to operate

small fans and even televisions.

Walls are now up on units #3 and #4 as this project continues to expand along with the potentials. A barber shop and tire changing business are anticipated for these spaces. Shop owners will pay a small "rental" fee to offset cost of electricity, maintenance, and wages for the manager.

Joe is now faced with finding a capable Christian manager for the WISH Mall. The Welding Shop has been expertly managed by a young man, Bonheur. Joe said he is a natural-born leader who understands the importance of being gracious to the people with whom he works. He is exactly the type of person Joe is looking for to manage the mall, however, Bonheur

has no interest in leaving his position with the Welding Shop.

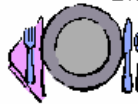
The Lord has blessed WISH many times since 1988 in answer to our prayers. Joe has asked that we pray for the Lord to bless this project in a significant way by leading us to the right Haitian man or woman to fill this important position. **For this we pray**

A team of __ people with His Hands from western Michigan will assist the hospital and WISH missions in Feb. and March. The Port Huron dental team of Jack Heck and Jane Howard will open the dental clinic the first two weeks of March. We ask that your prayers for safety and a successful mission go with these teams.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

To be with us in Grand Haven April 26 for the Annual WISH Pot Luck Dinner and Membership Meeting.

We'll gather at the Community Center, 426 Columbus St. at 5:30PM.



Bring a dish to pass, your table service, and don't forget to invite a friend to share this evening of fellowship and our common concern for the people of LaGonave Island. Joe and Pat will bring us up-to-date on the latest conditions and project status. Don't miss this opportunity to witness the blessings that have only been possible through your prayers and contributions.



INFLATION MEASURED BY RELATED ILLNESSES

Inflation of 16% in one month! One American dollar is now equal to 42.7 Haitian gourdes. Tough economic times always hit the poorest people the hardest, no matter where you live. In Haiti, the poorest people live on the salt flats near the sea. They suffer from rising tides and a declining economy. Most of these people are unemployed and have no assistance coming from family or friends in the States. Experienced medical personnel at the mission hospital predict widespread hunger-related problems for the people of LaGonave.

Hospital services have already been effected by the decrease in electricity. It is difficult to safely suture patients by the flickering light of a kerosene lamp. Diagnostic tests and xrays cannot be done without power. It is hoped that new backup batteries will arrive with the next His Hands work team from Michigan scheduled later this month. Cory Thede's moringa gardens continue to produce nutritious powder dispensed through the hospital clinic as a protein supplement. There is no substitute for the Grace of God to resolve this situation.