



Contributions, Address Changes
and Newsletter Responses
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W.I.S.H. An Inter-Denominational Mission Serving the People of LaGonave, Haiti Since 1968

The Essence of Self-Help and In Commemoration of 40th Anniversary of West Indies Self-Help A New Public Library for LaGonave

The original WISH library was built in memory of Pearl Wolf, who, alongside her husband Tony, founded the WISH mission in 1967. Pearl knew that education is an important key to unlocking doors for those imprisoned by the cycle of poverty and ignorance. With no source of literary materials on the island, it was Pearl's passion to make books in French and Creole available to the general population through a public library. For over twenty years, the Pearl Wolf Memorial Library was frequented by students and pastors, eager for the knowledge that would help them to rise above their current status.

Through the years, it became apparent that the location of the original building, on one of the busiest and dustiest thoroughfares from the wharf to the village market, was less than satisfactory. Although the books were kept on shelves draped with heavy plastic curtains, the dust permeated everything. It was not possible to seal and air-condition the building since it was located too far from the generator to provide adequate power. The flat roof developed many age-related problems and recent earth tremors opened large cracks in the foundation and walls. Sadly, WISH had to discontinue use of that building as a library. However, the



The site for the new library is just down the road from the WISH mission center near the morenga and date palm gardens. It's perfect for the 40' X 60' structure.

structure will be 40 ft. by 60 ft. with a secure room for the literature and additional space for pastoral meetings and youth activities.

Most schools on LaGonave do not have text books for the students. Lessons are copied by hand into small note books and memorized. Most homes do not have electricity or sufficient light for reading and studying, forcing many students to gather under the limited street lighting. There are no newsstands or book stores on the island. Where is the future for students who are taught to read in school but have no books?

Recently, an all-French high school and elementary school in Sarnia, Ontario, Canada donated *thousands* of books, all in French, including encyclopedias, medical reference books, text books and classic literary works for our library on LaGonave. The hospital nursing students and staff will benefit from the medical reference books. Teachers and pastors will have resources for lesson plans. A children's story-time would surely captivate the attention and motivate those who are yet unable to read. What better way to demon-



New library site is inside these gates.

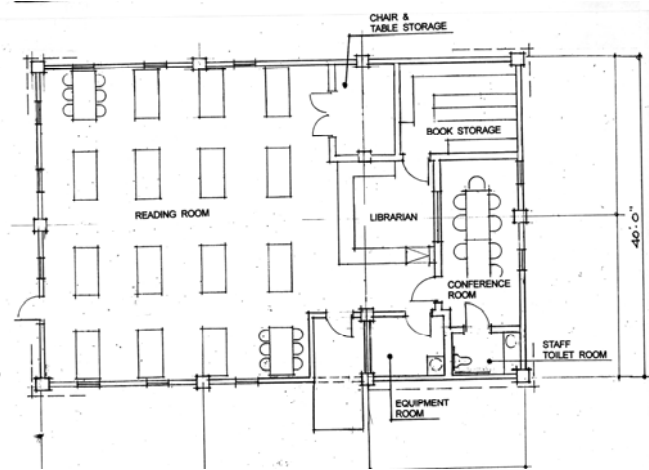
Wesleyan school found it adequate for an additional, much needed, classroom.

A more suitable location has been allocated for construction of a new and larger facility with capability of expanded functions for the community. It will be situated on the same road as the WISH mission center, close to the generator, and set back from the road. The new facility will honor the memory of Pearl Wolf and her vision for a reading center accessible to everyone on LaGonave. The propose-



strate the “self-help” principles of WISH than to provide these educational tools for future generations to have the resources to improve themselves and perhaps even make notable contributions to their country and the world.

We already have the land. Port Huron architect Loton Eastman has donated his professional services. In addition to the previous catalogue of library books, we have over 4,000 books in French, stored in Port Huron, waiting to be shipped to LaGonave. The WISH crew and work teams from the States are ready to build. We are only lacking the funds to proceed with this project. At this time we have nearly \$10,000 allocated toward a projected cost of \$60,000 for the new library. What a joy it will be to see the new library tables filled with adults and children devouring the contents of all those books! What is more basic to education than a library? Please consider how you can participate in this exceptional and rewarding project. Let’s make this new facility a reality in 2007, as WISH celebrates its 40th anniversary ministering to the people of LaGonave.



Proposed floor plan—Just picture these tables filled with people, meetings in the conference room, youth activities, and so many more possibilities!



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Who Will Volunteer to Work in Tropical Temperatures?

Colder weather marks the beginning of work team season in Haiti. Dr. Bill Sasser and his wife, Susalee brought a team of seven senior dental school students to the WISH dental clinic the first week of September for some extensive extracurricular experience. Hundreds of patients benefited from their training and the students gained valuable experience. Thanks to Dr. Bill and Susalee Sasser, Rhett Baker, Tait Gaston, Me’Chell James, Jason Prescott, Jason Davis, Leslie St. John, and Danielle Ezell.

The St. Louis team that had to cancel twice in the last year finally made it to LaGonave the last week of October but not without another airline delay that put their arrival a day later than planned. WISH president, Bob Port, led the team of Tom Dunn, Dale Holzhausen, Frank Illingworth, and Bob Praechter. These men got all ice plant compressors

and equipment back in working order, the welding machines repaired, and an ATV and tractor running again.

November brings a team of eight people from Central Presbyterian Church in St. Louis. A pastor from Central’s church will conduct a 3-day pastor’s seminar for the pastors in Anse-a-Galets. Other members of the team will hold kid’s clubs and help with other work projects.

The last team of the year will be Dr. Ric Bush’s dental team, consisting of Dr. Bush, Kristen Silvano and Alice Fuller, from Massachusetts. They will open the dental clinic the first week of December. We’ll look forward to first-hand reports and pictures from these teams when they return. After much hard work and preparation for the work teams, Joe and Pat Larakers will spend a few days in the States with their family over the Christmas season.

The WISH board of directors extends our best wishes to everyone for a safe and meaningful Christmas season, rich in the blessings of our Savior’s birth.