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W.I.S.H. An Inter-Denominational Mission Serving the People of LaGonave, Haiti Since 1968

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## Building a Wharf and So Much More

The wharf on the mainland at Kwa Lily was built back in 1983 by a team from Illinois. Around 1995 it was resurfaced with a new cement top. The years flew by, and the salt water took its toll on the concrete and iron rebar supporting it.

Perhaps building a wharf doesn't sound like missionary-type work, but it is. Almost all the supplies needed for WISH, the Wesleyan Hospital and for the missionaries must come across the 13 miles of sea via a wooden sailboat with motors. Supplies are trucked from Port-au-Prince, the capital, approximately 60 miles (about 2 hours) up the coast to the wharf and then make another 2-hour trip across the sea.

Dick Doan, former WISH Director from Pennsylvania, and Fred Hoonhorst, a WISH Board member from Michigan with a masonry construction company, came to direct the work over a one month period. The Haitian



First week of crossings were made in a power boat, all others took about 2 hours in this sailboat. Here the team breaks up the old concrete deck as filler.

WISH crew, Andy Troyer and his son, Nathan, from the mountain-top mission at Nan Café, Bob Shelton with the

## Dental Teams Open Wide to Share Love



Children in saline school eat nutritious meal of rice and beans.

Dental teams have a much greater focus than the small oral cavity where their professional skills are utilized. Dr. Jack Heck and Jane Howard, from Port Huron, MI worked long days in the clinic during their two-week mission in early March. However, they took time out from the clinic schedule to host their second annual celebration for the children in the feeding programs on the saline, sponsored by individuals and businesses in their Port Huron Community.

The special event celebrates the spirit of the children, who receive a meal of rice and beans once a day, six days a week. (No meal is served on Sundays.) For one day each year, the menu is changed and the children enjoy a unique day with games and party favors as a reminder that they are God's special children and they are appreciated by the people of Port Huron. For the second year in a row, the community contributed over \$5000 toward the feeding program in addition to supplies and gifts for the parties.



Setting forms required workers to spend many hours working in salt water.

St. Louis team, and a team of 17 men and women from the Atlantic District Wesleyan Church in Canada worked on the wharf. Just as one group could stay no longer, another group came.

The wharf construction project was engineered by Fred Hoonhorst who shipped the forms and plastic coated rebar. Forms for the new walls had to be set beneath the water and filled with concrete. When the old wharf surface was broken up with sledge-hammers, it was used as fill for the new concrete deck, 15 feet wide and 65 feet long, adding an extra five feet to the original length.

The project involved many days of strenuous labor in the hot sun and risky underwater maneuvers setting the forms. Our old WISH cement-mixer churned out more than 350 bags of cement. The crew even over-nighted once with rustic accommodations to get an early start pouring the deck surface. Dick reports that he made thirty-five sea crossings (13 miles each way) that month with only one day cancelled due to rough seas. They were even treated to several dolphin shows at sea. It was important that Andy Troyer was available the first week to transport the team in his powerboat and fluently communicate with the Haitian

crew so they could work alongside the American and Canadian teams. One Haitian worker was struck in the head with a crowbar, but not seriously injured.

The arrival of stainless steel bolts for holding the tires to the sides of the wharf was nothing short of miraculous. The bolts needed to arrive before the final concrete pour. When the St. Louis team returned home, they fabricated the bolts and shipped them to MFI within 24 hours. The Irvine family, only a short distance from MFI in Florida, picked up the bolts and carried them on the plane for their scheduled trip to the Wesleyan Hospital on LaGonave two days later, thereby avoiding delays with shipping and customs.

Fred Hoonhorst was another blessing to the project as he encouraged the teams with his determination and motivating spirit during the most difficult challenges. Fred gave a report at the WISH Board of Directors meeting in April about the success of the project. He testified that the most rewarding work was done in the hearts of the crew as Haitians, Canadians, and Americans shared in the sweat, blisters, and bonds of friendship to further the Lord's work on LaGonave. Crashing waves and corrosive sea water can never erode what was accomplished during those weeks at Kwa Lily in the name of Christ.



Final view as the team made the last boat crossing to LaGonave.



This was an international project accomplished by Americans, Canadians, and Haitians working together in mission spirit.



An American football was a popular item during the games on party day. The children also played soccer, jump rope, Frisbee, and group games.



Arriving just a week after the Port Huron team departed, Dr. Bill Sasser was accompanied by a team of four dental students from the University of Kentucky. Senior dental students Zak Thobaben and Lucas Bowen, third-year classmates Matt Yerski and Whitney Bobrowski, were assisted by Zac's mother, Marcy (an LPN and EMT), and Leslie St. John who speaks some French and has been a member of Dr. Sasser's team on previous missions. As Leslie related in reflections of her experience with the Sasser team of dental students, "this was a group that didn't focus on themselves, but were seeking to serve the people to the best of their abilities. I saw smiles transformed, pain relieved, and concerns cared for. I saw them going out and spending time with the children, not just healing, but learning, asking questions, playing, holding hands, and connecting. Through time, with love, patience, and prayer, we all began to see an impact. The faces, the hearts, the hugs, the prayers, the love ....that's what we are called to be a part of."



L-R: Dr. Bill Sasser, Whitney Bobrowski, Lucas Bowen, Leslie St. John, Zak and Marcy Thobaben, and Matt Yezerski.

## WISH Gifts are Special Way to Pay Tribute

### In memory of C. Van Fleet

*by Mr. and Mrs. Ken Thede*

### In memory of Rev. Harry Moeller

*by Gerd Dudnbostel; Mary J. Tuttle; Sharon Falt; Mr. and Mrs. Randal Tuttle; Robert E. Tuttle; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Maxey; Mr. and Mrs. James Ferber; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hoover; Mr. and Mrs. Rick Kimmel; Nick Kimmel; Mr. and Mrs. Burton Rodman and family; Gladys Rienks; Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Johnson; Mr. and Mrs. John Stewart; Mr. and Mrs. Lester Winterberg; Edna M. Moeller; Mr. and Mrs. Paul W. Banks; Mr. and Mrs. Ken Baker.*

### In Honor of the Stephey-McMullin wedding

*by Cindy J. Lewin; Bonnie S. Wagner; Christopher G. Bossman; Carol S. Fellin;; Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Hulvey; Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Grace; Mr. and Mrs. Miguel Aoun; Sheila Moran; Freda Dibble; Mr. and Mrs. Donald W. Trokey; Irma Spindel; Betty L. McMullin; Donith R. Naylor; Eloise Hatfield; Mr. and Mrs. Frank D. Illingworth; Mr. and Mrs. Keith A. Leahy; Mr. and Mrs. Stephen J. Spiros; Diane R. Grow.*

# WATER CRISIS ON LAGONAVE

Joe Larakers reports that during a two week period in June the water pressure to the village dropped from 40 gallons per minute to zero! Yes, ZERO! There was no water getting through to the public fountains, mission complex and hospital. As public tension mounted, Joe spent several days digging at the water source in the riverbed to locate the receiving galleries. The receiving galleries had become clogged with tree roots. After removing roots from one of seven receiving galleries, the water flow increased from zero to 20 gallons per minute. It took several more days of digging with the backhoe to replace the rest of the clogged pipes and reconnect the system. When that job was finished, Joe recorded the flow at 100 gallons per minute! This should allow the reservoir to recover more quickly at night. However, draught conditions, pipe fractures, and vandalism have put enormous strain on the system. Joe will continue to maintain it, but only with the support and assistance of the mayor and local police to prosecute individuals guilty of abusing the waterline.

During an emergency conference call with the WISH board of directors, it was decided that



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WISH will begin measures to separate the ice plant and the mission complex from the public water supply which has become unstable. A system of reverse osmosis, using sea water, is being researched as a possible solution. During the water crisis, Joe had to suspend all construction projects that would require water to mix concrete. The order of the day involved bucket baths, reusing laundry water for several loads and conserving drinking water stored in every cooler available.

Prayers are requested for replenishing rainfall, wisdom to maintain the waterline, and for cooperation of the local officials to sustain the public water supply and prosecute those who abuse and vandalize it. Remember our field directors in your prayers as they endure the heat of another Haitian summer.



How far could you walk with a five gallon bucket of water on your head?