



Contributions, Address Changes
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W.I.S.H. An Inter-Denominational Mission Serving the People of LaGonave, Haiti Since 1968 June/July/August 2009

Dental Community Fellowship's Trip to LaGonave

Submitted by Ashley Webb

During our recent trip to LaGonave, Haiti, we discussed a verse of scripture that comes from the Book of Romans 12:1-2 and reads, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing, and perfect



From left, clockwise: Chris Carter, Paul Goforth, Ashley Webb, Dr. Bill Saser, Dr. John Pfefferle, Interpreter Jean Bernard Cajuste, Elizabeth Brown, Ashley McAuley, and Caroline Jarrell.

will."

A renewing of your mind is such an appropriate description of what happens when you commit to a mission trip and venture to an unfamiliar

place to serve others. The kindness and hospitality that was shown to our team by the Alexanders and the beautiful people of LaGonave, humble

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Points of Interest

- Dental Team
- Tricia returns
- Butch does it all
- Summer temps top 110 degrees
- Joans' house finished
- High-rise construction
- Orphanage children enjoy visits
- WISH needs YOU

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I heard it from the Island



With Tricia stateside since the end of June for orthopedic surgery and recovery, Butch has had his hands full managing the office and work crew.

Butch was able to get all of the ice boxes in working order,

although it is a continuous process of repairs until new ice machines can be made in St. Louis. Butch reports that the heat peaks in the mid afternoon with temps around 100-110 degrees. Of course the

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Butch says, "I've learned it takes much longer in Haiti for the construction process, especially since we can't call a truck for redi-mix concrete."

Dental Community Fellowship - continued from page 1

Below, Chris treats a patient in the WISH dental clinic while Elizabeth offers emotional support.



each member of our team and revealed God's presence. When you are interacting with people who have little more than the joy on their faces and in their hearts, we can all learn an incredible lesson of God's will for our own lives.

Our mission team was lead by Dr. Bill Sasser, a retired periodontist from Mt. Pleasant, SC, who graciously volunteers his time and talent through the Dental Community Fellowship, a chapter of the Christian Medical and Dental Association. Equally adept, Dr. John Pfefferle, a retired pediatric dentist from Pisgah Forest, NC, contributed his enthusiasm and his gift of serving the Lord through dentistry. The team was also comprised of four dental students from Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, SC, including: Caroline Jarrell, Chris Carter, Paul Goforth and myself, Ashley Webb. Rounding out our group was Ashley McAuley, a senior from Francis Marion University in Florence, SC and Elizabeth Brown, a senior at Providence Academy in Kingsport, TN, all together, a great team of individuals who tirelessly worked and served together.

Even as a small group of young students, God was able to use us in incredible ways. We were able to treat and serve an amazing number

of people over the course of the week. While we focused primarily on cleanings and extractions, we were also able to break away for some memorable visits to the school on the saline and the orphanage, Foyer Splendeur des Enfants Demunis. For the many children we encountered, we were able to administer fluoride varnish treatments, plenty of face painting, and lots of love and attention.

A fundamental aspect of any mission trip is the sense of the unknown, the unknown of what exactly God has in store for you as well as for those you serve. You hope and pray to make a positive impact on their lives as well as to help them experience the Lord's presence. Incredible, mission trips consist of more than just giving ... often you receive as much or more than you give! It is safe to say that each of us left Haiti with some very precious memories of the people who truly needed and appreciated our assistance. Whether it was that precious look from a child, a warm and appreciative smile, or the simple touch of a small hand in yours ... You can't help but leave a different, changed person and that simple transformation can shake you to the core. I know I left Haiti with an altered sense of my own self and have felt it was something the Lord placed on my heart to share with friends and family back home.

The people of LaGonave Island remind us all that true happiness and joy comes from the Lord and not from material possessions. Experiences like this truly awaken your spirit and remind us that God's love knows no bounds and is

"When you are interacting with people who have little more than the joy on their faces and in their hearts, we can all learn an incredible lesson of God's will for our own lives."

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to all of us, in spite of our imperfections. I left Haiti with a profound love and respect for the people of LaGonave, Tricia and Butch Alexander from WISH, and the hard work and testimony of my colleagues on the trip. Praise God for all His works in Haiti and around the world!

Caroline and Paul take a break from the clinic to visit a classroom in the saline school.

...from the Island



summer heat brings increased demand for ice from the community.

The waterline has only sustained one major break when a huge rock fell on it. Two fountains that haven't had water for six months to a year are now back in operation to the delight of the people in those neighborhoods.

The crew has also completed work on the house for our airport manager, Jonas. Everyone who arrives at the LaGonave airstrip is greeted by Jonas as he waves the flag and assures that all animals and people are clear for the landing.

Butch and the crew are always busy with the ongoing maintenance of tractors, trailers, buildings and the truck.

At this writing, Tricia is happy to be back on LaGonave and assisting Butch with mission operations.

Jonas patrols the airstrip and proudly waves the Haitian flag with each landing and departure from the LaGonave International Airport.



A Solid Foundation and Up We Go

Butch reports, "I've learned it takes much longer in Haiti for the construction process, especially since we can't call a truck for red-mix concrete." The WISH cement mixer is in continuous operation as the crew manually mixes each batch of sand, water and concrete. The crew added additional rebar to the footer for support columns and finished

the main supports.

It's wonderful to see the progress that's been made on this enormous project. The two-story building will serve as a resource center and meeting venue for the community. This modern facility will open doors to the rest of the world for islanders limited by their circumstances of poverty and ignorance.



Below, children at the only island orphanage, Foyer Splendeur des Enfants Demunis, enjoy visits from work teams. Several teams have donated clothing, toys, vitamins, toothbrushes and children's medications.



What YOU can do

Even as you sit in the comfort of your home, YOU can be involved in the WISH outreach and ministry on LaGonave. The Alexanders still need both prayer and financial sponsors for their support on the mission field. Mission operating expenses are ongoing as well as the continued funds necessary to maintain the feeding program. Remember WISH for memorials, tributes, and estate planning. WISH needs YOUR help! As they say in Haiti, "Thank you before."