

ISLAND RECOVERS FROM HURRICANE DENNIS

Hurricane season is only beginning and there has already been lots of storm activity in the Caribbean. Joe Larakers reports that hurricane Dennis didn't hit LaGonave directly but it brought the strongest winds he's seen since arriving in Haiti along with substantial rain, causing erosion from flash floods throughout the island. A large tree branch brought down electrical lines leading to the Ice Plant and loosened roof supports in the generator building. Several mission buildings sustained minor roof damage. Most of the 2" water pipe for the fountain near the water source

up the riverbed was washed away. The most serious damage was the erosion of the huge embankment that had been built to keep the floods away from the 4" water main that supplies the village. It was sad to learn that a new boat belonging to our mission neighbor, Harold Troyer, was seriously damaged when it broke loose from its moorings at the mainland dock. Fortunately the motors were still functional. We are grateful that no one was seriously injured on the island and pray that the resources will be available to complete the necessary repairs.

SCHOOL PREPARES LAGONAVE STUDENTS FOR COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

The new Logitek Computer School opened in July. Teacher Johny Desir opened the first computer school on LaGonave in WISH Mall unit #1. To date, 34 students are enrolled in seven different groups with each group meeting for two hour classes twice a week. The mall unit had to be specially wired to accommodate six computers and a second steel security door. Since this is the only computer school on the island,



Furniture and computers for the school arrived in the last container.

many students are eager for this opportunity to enter the computer age. Registration was established at \$2.50 (US) with a monthly tuition of \$7.50. The textbook cost is \$12.50.



REACHING OUT TO A 'GOOD FOR NOTHING' CHRISTIAN

Krisma was born on Christmas Day 55 years ago. As a young man he was hired by the Wesleyan Hospital and through his kindly spirit and faithful service he continues to be a valued employee. His life has become a series of financial and physical struggles. When friends at the hospital saw the dreadful condition of his house, they collected money to help him build a new one. Joe readily volunteered the labors of the WISH construction crew to help build a 2-room house for Krisma and his family.

Pastor Joe was reminded of something one of his Chicago parishioners had once said, "We pay our pastor to be a godly man, but the rest of us have to be good for nothing." Joe relates that: **Krisma has been good for nothing, meaning he has not gained much (materially) from having honored God with his life, but he has been faithful anyway. His wife has been the source of much personal grief, his children do not appreciate the sacrifices he makes for them, there is always too much month at the end of the money, and then he developed serious physical problems including prostate cancer. Friends paid for him to visit a specialist in Port-au-Prince to diagnose unexplained leg pain. On his way to the specialist, he fell and fractured his hip. I can imagine the bitterness that could develop in his heart, but my guess is that Krisma will continue to honor the Lord as he always has. God help us all to be faithful and good servants – *for nothing* (Luke 17:10).**



RISKY TRAVEL SENDS PRICES SKY-HIGH

Travel to and from the island has become very risky. Unpredictable weather patterns in the Caribbean at this time of year create unstable sea conditions. A smooth crossing may suddenly switch to treacherous seas for the return trip. As Haiti prepares for elections this fall, civil unrest, demonstrations, and crime along the mainland routes into Port-au-Prince have increased. It has become more difficult to find food and supplies in the island marketplace since many of the shop keepers are reluctant to travel to the mainland carrying money to purchase merchandise to sell on the

island. This has resulted in high prices for basic necessities.

MAF is making as many flights as possible to and from LaGonave for those passengers willing to pay the extra cost to avoid land and sea travel. Some work teams have cancelled or postponed plans until conditions stabilize. Please remember our missionaries and other islanders in your prayers as they make only the most necessary trips to the mainland. We must also pray for a resolution to Haiti's political situation.