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## They Give Thanks for Food

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*By Pat Larakers*

WISH tries to live up to its name, West Indies **Self-Help**, by developing programs to help Haitians help themselves. Most development missions, though, find that there will always be people in need of relief, a more immediate form of help. One or two of WISH's supporters have each year given a substantial gift just to feed the poor. Most of that went to help the elderly and infirm and mentally handicapped people who came to the WISH gate week after week.



Then the Crosswalk Sunday School Class of Central Presbyterian in St. Louis sent a team to work at WISH, and their hearts were touched by schoolchildren who went to school hungry each day. They said they could raise some money if we could find a way to help these children. Eventually the feeding program at the school on the Saline was begun. Others heard of it, like the children from First Evangelical Free mentioned in the last newsletter, and contributed their means to help,

too. WISH is involved in other food distribution programs as well, but it's only because of the caring people who supported Donna Doan's "Angel Fund", or who are even now contributing to the WISH Benevolence Fund. To these supporting people we send along the many thanks that we as WISH Directors receive from those who have been helped. Jesus said, "Inasmuch as you have done it unto the least of these, My brethren, you have done it unto Me." (Matthew 25:40)



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## Dental Team Enjoys Island's Charm and Unique Cases

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*By Dr. Jack Heck*

After 23 years of travel to Haiti, the island of LaGonave and the WISH mission outreach have lost none of their original charm. Pastor Joe and Pat Larakers were wonderful hosts in March for the Port Huron dental team. Pat did a great job of spoiling us with many home-cooked meals. Pastor Joe was always up-beat as he faced the daily challenges of working on the various projects with the WISH crew. WISH is truly blessed to have them as our field directors.

In addition to the many extractions and, now increased number of requests for cleanings and fillings, there are always some "only in Haiti" cases encountered in the dental clinic. We saw a lady who had endured a golf-ball sized swelling in her upper jaw for one year and a young boy who had

fallen out of a mango tree and fractured two upper teeth. And never in our Port Huron office would we see a 14-year-old girl who had fallen off her donkey, splitting her upper lip and pushing two front teeth back, breaking the palatal bone



This girl lost 2 front teeth after falling from her donkey. Dr. Heck hopes to deliver replacement teeth next year.

behind them. She came from a village six hours away by foot. Praise God for the opportunity to serve these people in their time of need.

Mixing with the culture is an important part of every mission trip. Donna Doan taught many young Haitian children to speak English. What fun it was to be escorted by several of these now young men to the Anse-a-Galets market to shop for fabric. The material was then taken to the tailor who occupies shop #4 in the WISH mall. Tailor “Kal” produced a very nice custom-made shirt in one day. Several pairs of hand-made sandals were purchased from the shoemaker in the mall shop #5 as gifts for grandchildren back home. The WISH mall provides the opportunity for local Haitians to earn an income and provide for their families – the very essence of the WISH (self-help) outreach.



**Tailor “Kal” stands in front of his shop beneath the new lighted sign he installed. Inside, Kal measures Jack for a shirt.**

## Prayers Answered – Neighboring Missions Help

We are very pleased to report that most of the contents of the long-delayed WISH container have been safely transported to LaGonave. The container was released from customs just after the Larakers left Haiti for the annual board meeting in April. Harold Troyer, director of the Allegany Wesleyan mission in the mountains above Anse a Galets, along with Cory Thede, supervised the WISH crew as they made several sea crossings, sometimes arriving back on the island well after dark. The large items (backhoe, generator, and dump trailer) are being held at another mission on the mainland until Joe is able to move them to the island.

The Larakers returned to the mission the middle of May. Armed with encouragement and renewed stamina following the board meeting in Grand Haven, they are addressing several challenges that awaited their return.

