
Jay Bruce, a third-year dental student, his father, Dr. Art Bruce, with supporting staff of Jacob Hunt and Jim Mullins, all from South Carolina, opened the WISH dental clinic during Jay's break from school the last week of May.

Dental Student Gains Valuable Experience in WISH Clinic

Submitted By Jay Bruce

Several months ago, I indicated to my dad that I would like to go on another mission trip while I was still in school. After consultations with several mission groups and being unable to find dates that suited our schedules, Dr. Bill Sasser enlightened my dad to the opportunity of working several days at the WISH clinic on LaGonave Island, Haiti. Initially I was very hesitant because I knew that Haiti was an international hotspot, notoriously known for violence and kidnappings. I didn't know if I could handle the worry of going to such a dangerous country, distracting my thinking while I was in the midst of a very tough stretch in dental school. However, after much prayer and consultation with a student who had recently been there, I decided that I would go and serve. Soon after, we were able to recruit two other team members, Jim Mullins and Jacob Hunt, and were able to make definitive plans for the trip.

Admittedly, I was not able to do much research on the geography and demographics of LaGonave previous to going because I was so busy with school at the time. But I don't think even a lot of preparation could have prepared me for the abject poverty that plagues the island. It was indeed a sobering sight and made me so very grateful for what I have in this country. While I have been on mission trips to the Ukraine and Honduras, I had never experienced a place quite like LaGonave. Probably the most eye opening part of the trip was visiting the Wesleyan hospital. I



really can't put into words the feelings that welled up inside when I saw the facilities, the sick patients, and the committed medical staff so desperately trying to accomplish seemingly impossible tasks.

The facilities of the WISH dental clinic were nothing short of remarkable. Just being there helped me to really appreciate the contributions of the supporting churches and the dentists who had been there before me. We had absolutely everything we needed and more to run

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Vision for WISH Growth

The WISH board of directors met for their annual day-long session in Grand Haven, April 22, followed by the evening potluck dinner and social with the general membership.

Last year a Hospitality Center to house elderly and homeless people was approved by the board. Joe Larakers presented his vision and project plans for further discussion at the meeting. Recently, as the work crew finished installing the iron gates at the entrance to the project site, an old man asked Joe if it was true that they were building housing for elderly and homeless people. Joe reports that his confirmation brought a huge smile to the man's face.

There is an increased need for additional housing accommodations for work teams and missionaries. WISH is searching for assistant field directors who would be able to work

with the Larakers until they choose to retire. At that time, the assistants would be familiar enough with the mission operations and the Haitian culture to assume the director's position. Housing must be available to host a prospective couple or family within the mission compound without eliminating work team facilities. Once the new facility is completed, the Lord will lead us to the new assistants.

Plans were also formulated to repair and extend the wharf on the mainland side. Joe is currently building a new wharf on the island for unloading diesel fuel. He just finished the first half which is 15' X 15'. These loading docks are vital to transporting supplies and heavy equipment necessary to support operations on the island.

an efficient, successful clinic. There were only two of us (and just one dentist) providing dental care, but the room was big enough and the facilities plentiful enough for up to four dentists to work there. Our most common procedure was extractions (of course), but it did give us great satisfaction to occasionally do some restorative work. I was so amazed at the amount of materials in that clinic. DeDe was a huge help.

What can I say about the missionaries that are called to serve on LaGonave? The Larakers were such gracious hosts. Without their facilities, fellowship, and Pat's great cooking, I really don't think our experience would have been nearly as rewarding as it was. The other missionaries were also a joy to be around. They are such wonderful people and are truly called to serve. They, and the Lord who works through them, are what made our trip what it was.

My impressions of LaGonave and the WISH Mission are of sadness for the condition of the inhabitants but also of hope in a God that is merciful and does not turn His back on His children. I truly hope that I will be able to return, but I also hope

that more dental teams will be able to take advantage of the facilities that the Lord has provided.



Jay Bruce, Dr. Art Bruce, Jacob Hunt and Jim Mullins are ready to board the WISH truck for the short ride to the airstrip and their 20-minute MAF flight to Port-au-Prince. Thank you for providing much-needed dental care for the people of LaGonave!

The Larakers Have Moved!!!

But no packing was necessary! The mailing address for personal letters or packages sent to the Larakers through MFI is now:

**Unit 2089—WES
3170 Airmans Drive
Ft. Pierce, FL 34946.**

**All WISH mail and contributions should be sent to
PO Box 365**

Grand Haven, MI 49417

Please notify WISH if your address has changed or if you would like to be dropped from our mailing list.

A Family Legacy for LaGonave

The Allegheny Wesleyan mission at NanCafe located in the mountains over Anse a Galets recently said farewell to their retiring mission directors. Levy Troyer founded the mission over 50 years ago and his son, Harold, and wife, Nancy have continued the work with the assistance of Judy who has devoted more than 30 years to mission work in Haiti. Judy and her husband, Clyde, have retired from the mission field.

The Troyers have been long-time friends and mentors for the WISH mission. Although the NanCafe mission is temporarily without mission staffing, expectations are that Harold and Nancy's son, Andy, and his family of eight will continue the work started by his grandfather. This family legacy for LaGonave lives on!