

REPAIRMEN GO THE DISTANCE

The ever-growing list of repairs and maintenance projects around the WISH mission complex spurred Bob Port to contact his resourceful friends and WISH board members. All three tractors were not working and four of the nine ice plant compressors were out of service. The new 100kw generator needed to be installed. It was time to put together another work team. Schedules were consulted and contacts were made with MAF to coordinate plane trips to the island. Arlyn Smits, from Allendale, Michigan joined Wayne Grace, Dale Holzhausen, Bob Port, Bob Praechter, Bruce Roquet, and Larry Stephey, all from the St. Louis area. Since the small mission planes have strict weight limits (each passenger steps on the scale along with any cargo or luggage), the seven-man team would be strategically divided for the most efficient use of space and weight. The first team would cross on November 3 and carry all of the precious repair parts and necessary equipment. The second team had to travel much lighter, leaving additional cargo to be brought over on later flights during the week.

When it was time for the team to leave, the broken ice machines were running and the others had been tuned-up. The 100KW generator was, at long last, settled into its new home with all the switches and wiring installed. All new hydraulic hoses were installed on the John Deere-1450 tractor, a new hydraulic steering unit and all new wiring was installed on the John Deere-2355, and a new hitch was mounted on the John Deere-5300. In addition to completing work on two boats, the guys also installed new parts on two broken welding machines along with cable connectors. They also put four new tires and a new clutch on the Honda ATV.



Arlyn Smits is an expert when it comes to tractor repair. All three John Deere tractors got lots of TLC from Arlyn and Dale.



L-R: Bob Praechter, Larry Stephey, Arlyn Smits, Wayne Grace, Bob Port, Dale Holzhausen, and Bruce Roquet. In front are Pat and Joe Larakers, our full-time WISH field directors.

For seven straight days the men labored in the Haitian heat, pouring their wealth of knowledge and mechanical instincts into the tasks before them. Joe's well-organized work shop of recyclable parts is a terrific resource when there is no Home Depot to be found.

Joe drove the Backhoe while the rest of the men guided the 100KW into place.



Unless you have a mechanical background, it is difficult to truly appreciate the scope of these accomplishments, especially when you take into consideration the logistics of making it all happen under less-than-favorable circumstances. Would you believe the team already has plans to return the end of February to tackle the next items on Joe's TO-DO list?!

Celebrating the Birth of Our Savior And Praying for Peace on Earth

Your WISH Board of Directors

*Bob Port, president; Herb Boelens, treasurer; Bruce Roquet, secretary;
Jane Howard, newsletter editor; Jack Heck, Arlyn Smits, Glenn Englesman,
Bob Praechter, Bob Sheldon, Wayne Grace,*

It's Never Been So Green

Tropical storms this fall brought torrential downpours throughout Haiti turning the usual brown-barren mountainsides into lush carpets of green foliage. The WISH crew continues to repair damage and try to protect the waterline from further flooding and rock slides in the riverbed. Another downside of all that rain has been the erosion of many of the roads within the village. Bruce Roquet reports that they are "as bad as the roads going up to some of the remote areas of the mountains where I've been in the past."

Krisma's House

You may remember the report about the house that was being built by the WISH crew after his friends at the hospital gathered donations to build him and his family a new home. Joe related that he was a "good for nothing Christian" since he was always good in spite of the difficulties that came his way. Krisma has been gravely ill in the mission hospital as work continued on the house. The WISH crew recently hung four metal doors on the house and his family immediately moved in. Joe said Krisma is not doing well and may never see his new home. Perhaps he'll be moving to an even better home....