

BACKHOE SAILS TO ISLAND ON A PRAYER

The backhoe, dump trailer, and new generator had been held in a secure location at the Global Outreach Mission warehouse on the mainland while Pastor Joe, our field director, searched for a dock that could facilitate loading this large equipment onto a sailboat. When Joe got word that some vehicles had been loaded on boats using the concrete patio at the exiled Baby Doc Duvalier's former resort, he investigated the possibility of using that location as a loading dock for a cargo sailboat.

On September 6th, Joe and Harold Troyer, our mission neighbor from the Allegany Wesleyan Mission in the mountains of LaGonave, went to the mainland to get the backhoe ready to travel, putting the 100KW generator in the dump trailer. The following day they prepared the cargo sailboat, loading lots of rock for ballast, hundreds of concrete blocks for leveling the deck, and piles of lumber for planking.

September 8th was a day Joe said he will never forget! They crossed the sea before sunrise. Harold drove the backhoe and trailer 35 miles down the road from Global Outreach to the "patio" loading dock. Joe secured use of the facility with local authorities. As he related, "The boat sat too high in the water beside the patio, so we had to tip the boat over, which made a steeper angle for the backhoe to climb. Blocks shattered, planking splintered, the boat tipped even further and plywood shot out from under spinning wheels. Some people were expressing their opinion at the top of their lungs while others just watched in awe. The backhoe finally made it to the top – PTL!"

After everyone had a chance to catch their breath, the top-heavy boat was pushed away from the patio and committed to the 13 miles of ocean before reaching LaGonave. As the precious cargo rocked its way across the sea, Joe, Harold and



Nancy Troyer set out in Harold's power boat, which you may remember had been seriously damaged when a hurricane passed earlier this year. The temporary repair sprang a leak midway across the sea. The passengers all began bailing furiously. At times, Nancy's wet dress would brush against the battery terminal, zapping her with twelve-volt shocks! They eventually made it to ground where Harold beached the boat at the point of the bay near Anse a Galets. With the backhoe visible just a mile off shore, they raced to the wharf where it proved to be much easier to UN-load the equipment than it had been to load it. The backhoe was put into

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immediate use as it pulled Harold's boat onto the beach until it could be trailered home for permanent repairs the following day.

We give thanks and praise for the safe transfer of this precious cargo to LaGonave. We also give thanks for the assistance of our mission neighbors, the Troyers, for the years of experience and wisdom they so generously share in His service on LaGonave.

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**THE COST OF FILLING-UP** with diesel fuel has had a significant effect on mission operations. Joe reports that the mission consumes a minimum of 1,300 gallons of diesel a month. He recently had to raise the price of a block of ice to \$9 Haitian (\$1.05 US). He has also laid-off a few workers and cut hours to lower operating expenses. Your financial support is VERY important!

**Work Continues .....**

on the WISH Mall units, the saline church, the saline school, the Youth Center, a 15'X30' Ice Plant storage room, replacing the badly cracked ceiling in the dental clinic, construction of Krisma's house, building a new public water fountain, generator repairs, repairing security walls that crumble due to salty soil that eats away the concrete, and untold numbers of endless equipment repairs including plumbing and electrical problems.

**HELP IS ON THE WAY**

as seven men from the St. Louis area prepare to arrive for a week of *extreme maintenance* November 4th. With ice machines and tractors at the top of their list, the team is willing to assist Joe with a variety of chores.

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Our deepest sympathy goes out to Dan Johnson, former WISH board member and project developer, whose beloved wife, Elsie, passed away September 14.