



barry@haitiwish.org  
beth@haitiwish.org

Contributors, Address Changes  
and Newsletter Responses  
WEST INDIES SELF HELP, INC.  
PO BOX 1021  
ANN ARBOR MI 48106-1021  
[www.haitiwish.org](http://www.haitiwish.org)  
Facebook/HaitiWish

Oct/Nov/Dec 2012



Personal Correspondence  
Geiszlers or Goulds  
Unit 2089—WES  
3170 Airmans Drive  
Fort Pierce FL 34946-9131:

Sharing the love of Christ  
through deeds that will  
alleviate the needs of the poor,  
breaking the cycle of poverty.



rod@haitiwish.org  
michelle@haitiwish.org

An Inter-denominational Mission Serving the People of LaGonave, Haiti since 1968

## Hurricane Sandy Hit Haiti First

The island was still recovering from a two hour deluge of rain a month ago that caused massive flood damage to hillsides, homes, and security walls. Then Hurricane Sandy hit, taking dozens of lives and destroying crops, bridges and roads. Although the winds had not yet reached their peak, several days of heavy rain caused additional flooding to areas already saturated by the rain a month before. There are still more than 300,000 earthquake survivors living in tents and under tarps on the mainland. We know of no deaths caused by this storm on LaGonave. Of course, with boat travel interrupted, the suffering was very evident for the island population that gets supplies from the mainland.

Rod Geiszler reports that the waterline was broken and the enormous amount of water coming down the ravine prevented them from making repairs until the rain stopped and the water subsided. The new Kawasaki Mule that just arrived in the container was extremely helpful in gaining access



Latrine collapsed from flood erosion.

to the break in the waterline. Rod said, “ We were able to squeeze through tight spots that the truck would not have passed and get over the bank where a tree had fallen. One of the workers said that the WISH Board was smart to send the Mule in time for us to use it. I think it was an answer to prayer that the container was released from customs

so quickly.”

The storm also damaged the latrines that were built for the new library. Water eroded soil on the uphill side and caused the building to collapse. This is far enough from the new library building that it was not compromised.

The magnitude of “Super Storm Sandy” reminds us that we are all vulnerable to the forces of Nature. It didn’t matter if you lived in a stick and mud shack, a tent, or a million dollar, ocean front home on the East Coast. Tragedy is a great equalizer. So many people have lost everything, including family members. That pain is universal. We unite in prayer as our faith strengthens us for the days ahead.

## Container Released from Customs!



The Mule was put into action in response to the storm damage.

The sea container filled with building materials and the Mule utility vehicle left St. Louis August 6 for arrival in Haiti at the end of August. Rod and Barry were shopping for supplies in Port-au-Prince one day when they got a call that the container was released from customs and they had to meet the truck at the wharf in a couple hours. They had 2 days to get the contents unloaded to a safe storage facility until they could make all the boat trips necessary to transport everything to the island. Barry stayed on the island to organize the items as they arrived, while Rod crossed with the sailboat to load up on the mainland and unload on the island. **The speedy release of this container was a huge blessing.** The hospital has had two containers that include hospital beds and two trucks stuck in customs for two years now!

## WISH Board Holds September Meeting in St. Louis

Report by Bruce Roquet, WISH Secretary

As the challenges of serving the people of La Gonave, Haiti have grown, it became more obvious that the WISH Board needed to meet more frequently. At our meeting in April, the decision was made to hold two meetings per year. Since there is a large contingent of Board members from St. Louis, Missouri it was also decided that one of those meetings should be held in St. Louis.

So, on September 22, a Board meeting was held in St. Louis. Rod and Michelle Geiszler were in attendance to report to the Board how things are going with the work we do in Haiti.

In addition to the Board meeting, the WISH Board held a reception for our local supporters to hear from Rod first-hand on the ministry of WISH. This reception was held at the First Evangelical Free Church, which is one of the local churches in St. Louis that has had a long history of supporting WISH.

The next WISH Board meeting is scheduled to be in St. Louis next March. In September there will be a Board meeting in Grand Haven, Michigan.

Many items were discussed and resolved at the September meeting.

### Two items of note were:

**WISH needs to significantly increase giving to its General Fund.** Our supporters do a great job of providing funds for special projects but the amount of funds given to help run the daily operations have been slow in coming. We have a negative balance in the General Fund which needs to be quickly made up. There is currently an opportunity to have funds given to WISH doubled by an anonymous donor. If you are able to give to this fund, your gifts will be greatly appreciated. You can go to [www.haitiwish.org](http://www.haitiwish.org) to make a contribution by credit card or mail your check in the enclosed envelope.

**The donors who have been giving to the Saline Feeding Program have declined significantly.** If you are willing to make a commitment to provide long-term support feeding the poorest of the poor children on the Saline, this would bring much value. The feeding program provides a large bowl of rice and beans six days a week to many of the Saline children. If you are willing to make a long-term financial commitment to this valuable program, please email [bruce@haitiwish.org](mailto:bruce@haitiwish.org).

***Your prayers and support of WISH are greatly valued and appreciated.***



Front row: Arlyn Smits, Michelle Geiszler, Dick Doan, Dale Holzhausen, Bob Port, Back row: Fred Hoonhorst, Bob Praechter, Rod Geiszler, Tom Larson, Bob Shelton, Wayne Grace, and Bruce Roquet. Not present: Herb Boelens, Peter Fries, Jack Heck and Jane Howard.



Pure Vanilla and Almond from Haiti  
make the perfect Purchase with a Purpose.  
The "secret ingredient" to make your recipes special.

Order additional for gift-giving.

Call 810-985-6558 or Send orders to:

Jack C. Heck, D.D.S.

2934 Pine Grove Ave.

Port Huron, MI 48060

\$5 each

(please include \$3 for shipping)

Make checks payable to W.I.S.H.