



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.com/haitiWISH](https://www.facebook.com/haitiWISH)

**April-June 2014**



**Personal Correspondence**  
Geizlers  
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**

## WISH Board Convened in St. Louis for Spring Meeting

Field directors, Barry Gould and Rod Geizler joined the board of directors in St. Louis April 21 for a weekend of meetings to assess mission operations and develop plans for further progress in community development that aligns with our mission statement. **Barry and Beth Gould leave the mission field in June to return to their home in New Brunswick, Canada.** Rod Geizler has assumed the sole field director position as WISH begins the search for another qualified assistant director. Together, Barry and Rod have worked diligently to improve the efficiency and management of existing WISH programs and staff. Barry directed the building blitz that demolished and rebuilt the dental clinic in four months last summer. **WISH appreciates the service and personal sacrifices the Goulds have made as field directors and Christian leaders in Anse a Galets. May they continue to be blessed in all that awaits them.**



## WISH Secretary documents week on island with facebook postings, renewed friendships and appreciation for mission accomplishments

Bruce Roquet, WISH secretary, and his brother-in-law, Ken Napper from Grand Rapids, spent the last week of May in Haiti. Bruce has led several youth teams to Haiti but had not been back to the island in nine years. He enjoyed this opportunity to renew friendships with many of the Haitians he met during those youth ministries who have grown into young adults with families and good jobs. **Be sure to check [facebook.com/haitiWISH](https://www.facebook.com/haitiWISH) for the postings Bruce added from the island.**



Bruce and Ken were there during the celebration and tribute the WISH staff hosted on Barry's last day. Bruce reports:

*Barry did a great job as Director. This is a challenging role in a challenging setting! He had spent a significant amount of time in Haiti before becoming our Director and the experience showed in all that he did. He has a great passion for the people of Haiti and he used his talents greatly in serving them. We will miss him. The Haitian staff of WISH had a celebration in his honor. They prayed for him and almost every worker stood up to give a testimonial about how much they appreciated what he had done and for his leadership. The impact Barry had on the workers was evident in a discussion he had with one of our workers when the ceremony was over. The employee was telling Barry how sad he felt about Barry leaving. Barry encouragingly stated that there is an English saying that it is not "good-bye" but "until we meet again". The worker had none of that! His response was that it still hurt to see Barry leave. Barry left a great mark in his service to the Lord--and it does hurt to see him leave! We were blessed by God to have him as our Director for the past 3 years.*



*The team experience related by Jane Howard*

mission was to paint the inside of the new library building, with the other four members of the team providing dental care at the WISH clinic.

**Our team t-shirts were designed with the slogan: Unforgettable LaGonave Island, inspired by the beauty of the dawning days and the memorable people that make this island Unforgettable.**

**Follow our team's reflections of this unforgettable experience.**



Church bells ring in the new day at 4 am. Roosters begin crowing long before dawn. The sun rises over the mountains, painting the sky and sea with a pallet of radiant warmth. Sailboats and dugouts glide across the horizon on their morning quest. Students find a solitary place to study as they walk along the shore reciting the day's lessons. Motorcycle taxis carry passengers and cargo to departing ferries at the wharf. Children lug jugs of water from the nearest fountain before school. Soon they emerge from stick and mud huts, proudly dressed in their colorful school uniform. A crowd gathers at the ice plant window. The smell of charcoal fires and fried dough draw hungry patrons to the local vendors. Wheelbarrows and carts rattle down the road, loaded with merchandise or cookware to prepare for another day in the market. Goats playfully butt heads as they climb the tombs in the cemetery. Ladies sway gracefully over the rough roads, carrying baskets of produce and buckets of water on their heads.



**Sunrise at the seashore was a favorite site for spiritual rejuvenation.**

Carolyn Ahlquist, Sheri Kaiser, Gayle Page, Pam Goode, Maddie Howard, and Jason Pittman eagerly accepted the task of painting two coats of oil-based paint on both floors of the 40 X 60 foot

Church bells ring in the new day at 4 am. Roosters begin crowing long before dawn. The sun rises over the mountains, painting the sky and sea with a pallet of radiant warmth. Sailboats and dugouts glide across the horizon on their morning quest. Students find a solitary place to study as they walk along the shore reciting the day's lessons. Motorcycle taxis carry passengers and cargo to departing ferries at the wharf. Children lug jugs of water from the nearest fountain before school. Soon they emerge from stick and mud huts, proudly dressed in their colorful school uniform. A crowd gathers at the ice plant window. The smell of charcoal fires and fried dough draw hungry patrons to the local vendors. Wheelbarrows and carts rattle down the road, loaded with merchandise or cookware to prepare for another day in the market. Goats playfully butt heads as they climb the tombs in the cemetery. Ladies sway gracefully over the rough roads, carrying baskets of produce and buckets of water on their heads.



**Gayle Page, Jason Pittman, Carolyn Ahlquist and Maddie Howard tackle the dirty job of sweeping the building.**

**The village of Anse a Galets begins a new day, much unlike the dawning of our stateside days.**

Our team came together with complimentary personalities and talents. Pastor Jason Pittman provided us with 14 days of devotions that fit the circumstances of every day and prepared us for the next.



**Debbie Berns educates her patients with help from our translator, Daham.**

library building. The prep-work involved sweeping and shoveling out heavy layers of concrete dust and construction waste from the entire building. Sheri remembers the **“DUST, wearing surgical masks, sweating, and joyful music as the rollers and brushes transformed the building into a bright and cheerful space that will serve generations of local families with a variety of educational resources.”**

While the library crew focused on their project, the dental team had no shortage of patients. Dr. Jack Heck, Jane Howard, and hygienist, Debbie Berns were joined by Haitian dentist, Donald Joaquim with translation assistance from Daham, a former mayor and WISH employee. Dr.

Randy Goode arrived the second week for his first experience in Haiti. We got off to a slow start on the first day. Debbie remembers, “all the dental units needed repair of one thing or another. Rod and Barry were right there fixing the equipment and by lunchtime everything was working and we had a full clinic. It was a joy working with our translator, Daham. **I absolutely loved cleaning the Haitian’s teeth. They were so appreciative and eager to learn how to take better care of their teeth.”**

A family from a distant village brought a 3 year-old girl to the clinic on Dr. Marilyn Dahms’ last day in February. This child required multiple extractions and would need to be sedated in the hospital for the procedure so there was not time for Dr. Dahms to treat her. We were able to contact the family and arrange to use the hospital OR with Mme Vero, the nurse anesthetist. **It was sad that this little girl had 9 teeth extracted but satisfying that she would be relieved of the pain and infection they caused her.** Oral hygiene instructions and dietary education were emphasized to her parents with the hope that her permanent teeth will be free of decay. The Haitian diet contains a lot of sugar, an



easy source of energy when you are hungry, but an invitation for tooth decay.



I have been assisting Dr. Heck on our annual dental missions since 1983 but **this trip was exceptional as I was blessed to share it with my 13 year-old granddaughter, Maddie.** She began earning her airfare last summer and remained focused on her goal

to experience LaGonave for herself. In addition to Haitian culture, this was Maddie’s first time on an airplane, first time on a sailboat, and first time to see the ocean. Maddie says, **“It was truly a great experience that I would happily do again. I learned that people in America take everything for granted; food, clean water, showers, ‘non-oil based paint’ and so much more. It was just amazing to see how people who have nothing survive, not just living, but they are happy.”** Maddie purchased hundreds of pencils and sharpeners for school children.



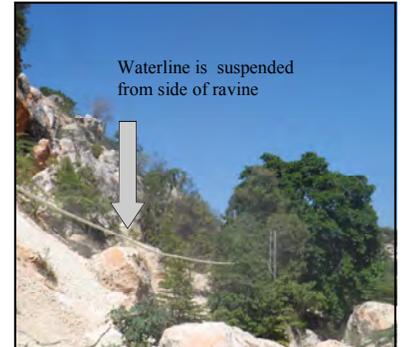
Dr. Randy and Pam Goode can now add LaGonave Island to their list of travel adventures.

Rod Geiszler gave an impressive tour of the mission projects and services. Randy duly noted that, "WISH'S work to supply fresh water to the town of Anse a Galets, multiple fountains for the people to obtain good water, the new library building and commercial enterprises like the welding shop and kiosk shops is effective, well thought-out and executed. **The deep need of the people in the area is quite evident and WISH is giving the people hope and offering a start for the people working toward self sufficiency.**"

Debbie Berns said the tour was one of her most memorable experiences when she and Gayle sat in the truck cab with Rod as he "navigated the rough roads, narrating along the way, showing us all the wonderful things that have been accomplished through WISH and talking about the people who live on the island." **A first-hand observation of mission operations is a valuable connection to your funding dollars.** It is all so

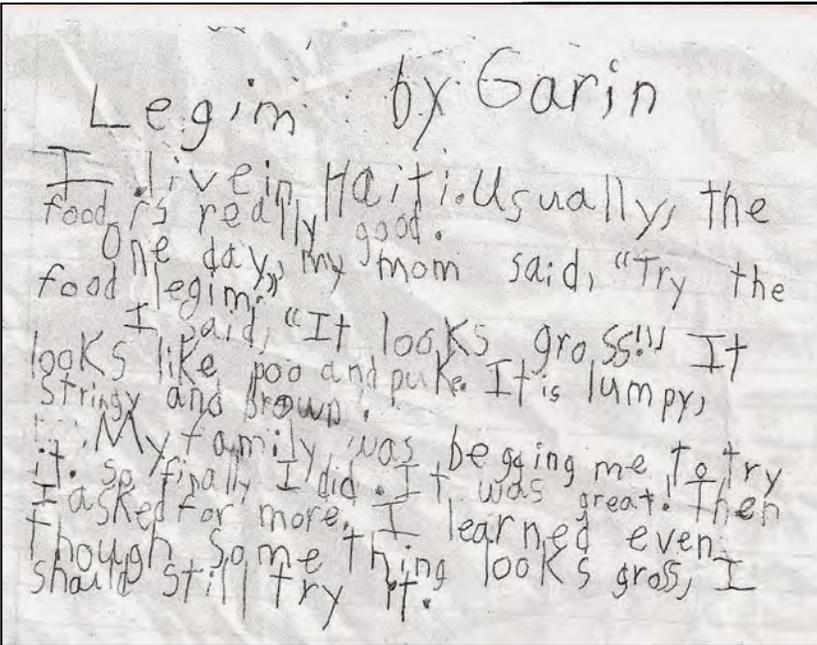
remarkable when you personally encounter the challenges of working in a Third World country on an island separated by 14 miles of sea from the mainland.

Rod's tour took us into the ravine in the riverbed to the source of the capped underground spring. The water is piped into the reservoir to maintain pressure as the waterline carries it 3 miles to the 17 public fountains throughout the village.



*More "Unforgettable LaGonave" in the next Newsletter*

**Work Teams Always Enjoy Meals with The Geiszler Family**



I live in Haiti. usually, the food is really good. One day, my mom said, "Try the food Legim." I said, "It looks gross! It looks like poo and puke. It is lumpy, stringy, and brown." My family was begging me to try it. So finally I did. It was GREAT! Then I asked for more. I learned even though something looks gross, I should still try it.

**Legim (lay-geem) is a dish with lots of cooked vegetables and gravy served over rice, similar to chopped suey. Preparation is quite time-intensive which makes it a special treat and Garin's FAVORITE Haitian meal. Our team agreed with Garin. It is GREAT!**