



OCT—DEC
2014

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Through Christ's love,
WISH is partnering with Haitians
to build a sustainable community.

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

Fall Board Meeting Convened in Howard City, Michigan

The WISH Board of Directors were hosted by Pine Grove Community Church in Howard City, Michigan September 19 and 20 as board members traveled from St. Louis, Pennsylvania, and other parts of Michigan for the fall planning meeting. Members of the church prepared meals for the board each day and hosted a community meal on Saturday evening during a time of fellowship. The Geiszlers shared personal stories of their work and relationships on LaGonave.

During the two days of meetings, board members worked diligently to put the finishing touches on the development of a Board Manual which will provide a clear foundation of mission operations and communications for future directors and board members.

It was noted that we have almost half of the funding needed for the first phase of the solar energy project, vital to reducing our dependency on expensive diesel fuel. We are hopeful that our

current generators can handle the demand until the solar energy can reduce the load on them.

WISH has been the facilitator for the Pastoral Leadership Institute and the Youth Discipleship Program, developed and funded by ministries at Central Presbyterian and First Evangelical Free Church and Quest Church in St. Louis. Recent reports show encouraging response to these programs which would not be possible without the involvement of our field directors.

The saline feeding program continues to sustain children from the poorest families living on the salt flats by the sea.

The Geiszlers enjoyed a few weeks with their families in the Oregon area, getting son, Ben, oriented to the states and prepared to start college. Please keep them in your prayers as they adjust to this separation, often difficult for state-side students but surely more stressful with so many miles and cultures involved.



Dr. Jack C. Heck

March 25, 1938—August 31, 2014

From the heart of Jane Howard

More than anything, Jack valued relationships. His personal relationship with the Lord was at the heart of his kindness, compassion and generosity. He was a devoted husband, proud father and grandfather, and respected dentist with a family practice that included five generations of patients during his 45 years of private practice in Port Huron, Michigan. He served more than 30 years on the WISH board of directors, 6 years as president. Jack passed after a month-long illness from complications of melanoma.

I shared 34 of Jack's 76 years as his office manager, dental assistant, mission partner and friend. Throughout the years, I observed the many sincere connections Jack made with individuals that were life-changing for both par-

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The Pros and Cons of being A Missionary Kid in Haiti

Insight from Joe Geiszler



There are many pros and cons to being a missionary kid in Haiti. The pros make my life a fun and exciting experience. The cons set things back a bit, but there are always two pros for every con, sometimes you just have to look for them. I love being a missionary kid in Haiti because of all the positives.

Sometimes my life in Haiti can be difficult. One of the cons to being a missionary kid in Haiti is having to learn a new language. Learning a new language is a very difficult task. Leaving friends to go to Haiti was also a hard thing to do. Where I live in Haiti there are no stores with books or movies I like and the ones they have are in French. My brother is my only classmate so I can't make friends in the classroom. To raise money to

live in Haiti I had to stand in front of people I didn't know and speak. I always messed up somehow in front of large groups of people staring at me. All my missionary friends have left and new people aren't coming for a while. Another hard thing is the people in Haiti have a completely different mindset than me and that can get annoying. For example, asking for anything is okay.

Most of the time my life in Haiti is great. Even though earlier I stated that language learning is a difficulty, one of the pros of being a missionary kid in Haiti is getting to learn a new language. They say the more languages you know the better because you can talk to more people and it can help you get a job in the future. You also get to meet new people and make new friends. Another nice thing is teams of people are often willing to bring in books and movies that we cannot get here. Because my brother is my only classmate, I usually finish school before lunch. Then I can be free to do whatever I want to. Now I have a different place to explore. There is a completely new culture to learn about. I get new foods to taste, like legim, a delicious mixture of meat and vegetables on beans and rice. In Haiti I am also exposed to new diseases, but that is good too because it gives me a stronger immune system.

More pros to being a missionary kid in Haiti involve transportation. I get to fly to and from Haiti. Then I get to ride a boat from the main land to the island where I live. It makes me appreciate how little time things take in the US, like getting a meal from a restaurant. I also get to swim by the coral reefs almost every Sunday. Living in Haiti, I get to learn about all sorts of new and interesting things like how to fix a motorcycle tire tube without removing the wheel. One more pro is that the soda has real sugar in it so it tastes better than the soda you get in the US.

There are definitely more pros to being a missionary kid in Haiti than cons. My life in Haiti is wonderful because God designed it that way. Living in Haiti is a great benefit to me. I "wouldn't" rather live anywhere else.



College Students Excited about Youth Discipleship Program

Submitted by Makayla

"Our college group from St. Louis spent 10 days in Anse-a-Galets focusing on youth discipleship. We have long had a heart for the Jr. High and High School age kids who are often ignored or left out of the traditional VBS style missions. Our team of 10 entered the trip extremely excited for what God would do through us and the kids during our stay, and in typical fashion, He exceeded our expectations. Our small groups were some of the best we ever had in Anse-a-Galets, and we were encouraged by the eagerness and curiosity of the teens.

Lauren, who came to Haiti for the first time, said that she was "encouraged by building relationships, and I'm encouraged that the ministry will go on after we leave." The ministry to these young people is under daily direction of three individuals, Jean Bena, Fridy, and Berline. They have amazing hearts for these teenagers, and we are so excited that this is God's calling on their lives. One of our returning team members, David, expressed his thankfulness for this program we have been able to build over the last four years, and he's excited for what's to come. Brandon offered the reflection, that, "we've only been able to accomplish our continued long term goals through developing strong relationships with the people of La Gonave." We are so thankful for the hospitality and the support of the Geiszler family when we come to La Gonave. Our team is continually blessed by them and know that we could not continue in our ministry without their support. Thank You for all you do in La Gonave!"

A Good and Faithful Servant.....

ties. He opened his heart to the suffering, hardships and aspirations of others and then did whatever he could to help. He mentored young boys through the school Lunch Buddy program, walked in every community Crop Walk fundraiser for world hunger relief, was a confirmation partner for church youth, and a top fundraiser for March of Dimes Jail and Bail. He loved to share his passion for WISH and the people of LaGonave through presentations at many local service clubs and churches.

Dr. Heck sincerely appreciated the advantage of his education as a graduate of the University of Michigan. He used that advantage to help others with educational goals, including a young girl he met on his first trip to Haiti in 1981 at an orphanage in the slums of Port au Prince. Jack recognized that she was exceptional and helped her to realize her dream of graduating from medical school in the Dominican Republic where he attended her graduation. He also sponsored the education of another girl from LaGonave who graduated from an accredited nursing school in Port au Prince this past year. Jack personally assisted many other children with tuition for elementary school, realizing that education is the key to opening doors for a promising future.

Of all his trips to Haiti, spanning more than three decades, I believe Jack enjoyed his last trip in March the most. His personal reflections were shared in the last newsletter, published just before his passing. He was so excited to introduce Haiti to others. There were no symptoms of his illness as he walked on the salt flats by the sea, holding hands with the children, tossing Frisbees, and taking instant photographs to give to his subjects. He carefully orchestrated the details of our special sunrise devotion at the seashore. He instructed each of us to be fully present in the moment, to see and feel the surroundings. He wanted us to capture the moment, the magenta sky and glistening sea as the first dot of fire appeared on the horizon and rapidly rose as a beacon to the new day. He wanted us to hold onto that "unforgettable" moment.

Dr. Jack Heck touched so many hearts with his humanitarian spirit. He walked the walk. He changed lives. What could be better than a life well-lived? He reminded us to be present in the moment and take time for some of the details in life. You never know where they will lead. Jack Heck is an "unforgettable man" whose legacy lives in the hearts he touched as he lived his faith. The Heck family requests contributions be given to WISH and designated for ***Jack Heck memorial***.

Unfinished Library Used for Pastoral Leadership Institute

Daryl Madi is a pastor and teacher from West County Fellowship, a site church of Central Presbyterian Church in St Louis Missouri, one of the joint churches along with First Evangelical Free Church and Quest Church. He writes of his recent teaching trip to the island of La Gonave as a guest of WISH Ministries and as the teaching professor at the inaugural session of the Pastoral Leadership Institute of Anse-a-Galets, Haiti:

October 10, 2014,
Anse-a-Galets, La Gonave, Haiti, 4:00 PM
local time.

We finished the first class! I can't express how excited I am... not that I am done... but that we have established the beachhead for this institute! This thing that was a dream some 10 years ago... that several have labored so hard to see come to life and almost abandoned... is now a living, breathing ministry! And what a ministry! The work these Haitian pastors are doing... sharing Christ with people who have so little hope or who are in the grips of spiritual animism or voodoo... is awe-inspiring. And we get to help them! What a privilege. And we have helped establish an infrastructure that is going to keep on helping them. So exciting!

Pastor Alinx had such a wonderful illustration of the work we have among these pastors. It is not as if they couldn't do the work without us or without the resources we bring. No... their calling and love for the Haitian people compels no matter how hard the work may be... no matter how dull their tools may be. They have the Word of God and the Spirit! But as we come with training, we can help sharpen their tools and make the work easier... more efficient.



Daryl Madi proudly poses with his class of local pastors.



Above: Information was projected on a white sheet as the pastors listened attentively from their seats at the new library tables.

Left: The building was put to use even before the floor tiles, stacked against the wall, could be installed. Extension cords provided necessary electricity until the electrical plan can be completed.



I thought this was a good and noble work before I came. I felt it was important enough to endure the plane rides (I don't care for flying), even in a teeny prop plane! I thought it important enough

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to endure the risk of illness! But, I am so enthralled with what we are doing, I will be excited to take the trip next year.

Today we finished talking about application and began discussing problems we encounter in interpretation. And the pastors pressed in hard about application and if every passage in scripture has some significance for us today. I replied that, yes, all scripture is useful for teaching and equipping. Then they asked about some of the hardest passages imaginable! (They know their Bibles and they have wrestled with it!). Immediately after affirming the usefulness of all scripture, I could hear... even in his Kreyol... the pastor ask about a passage in Leviticus. I could tell this was going to be challenging. Leviticus 15... a chapter about how bodily discharges cause uncleanness. I chuckled and told him he was testing the limits of my statement.

But we were able to refer to the application methods I had taught earlier to find our way and see that even this passage has significance for us today. We all had fun finding together the eternal worth of God's Word!

There are so many stories to tell. I feel so blessed to have been a part of them. I feel so blessed to be a small part of this larger story of the Pastoral Leadership Institute of Anse-a-Galets. I pray God will bless these efforts and help lead to a great revival on the island of La Gonave.

All that being said... I can't wait to see my family tomorrow! May the Lord bless our travels home!

Daryl Madi
Pastor
West County Fellowship
Central Presbyterian Church
St Louis, MO, USA

Did You Get Free Shipping?

As many of us begin holiday shopping and placing online orders, we look for free shipping and delivery in time for Christmas. Another container shipment was packed in St. Louis in collaboration with other organizations working in Haiti. Included in this container are 20,000 pounds of food, construction materials for the library and solar energy project, waterline pipe and equipment parts. That's some Christmas list! ***Shipping NOT included and delivery unpredictable due to customs delays.***

***Please consider a gift to WISH this holiday season.
Your gift will be used responsibly to continue community project development
with a Christian foundation on LaGonave Island .***



*Merry Christmas
Everyone*

