

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



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

Follow the Churchill's Blog
Beyond the Fence
Churchillsinhaiti.com

FALL 2015



Peter, Robin, Beth and Gaëlle

Contributors, Address Changes and Newsletter Responses:
WEST INDIES SELF HELP, INC.
PO BOX 1021
ANN ARBOR MI 48106-1021
www.haitiwish.org

Contact the Churchills
Unit # 2089 -WE
3170 Airmans Dr
Ft. Pierce, FL 34946

Robin@haitiwish.org
Beth@haitiwish.org



The Board of Directors meets twice a year but WISH depends on YOU, ALL YEAR, to pray for our ministry and field directors and provide resources to make it happen.

Merry Christmas to you and your family as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. Let there be Peace on Earth



Thank you Trinity Christian Reformed Church in Fremont, Michigan for hosting our two-day fall board meeting. Our director, Robin Churchill, was able to join us while the rest of his family remained on the island to get settled into their new home.

Upper Level of Library Leased by LimeAid for Agricultural College

Submitted by Field Reporter, Beth Churchill



In October, six men from Ontario, Canada came to La Gonave to work on the 2nd floor of the WISH library. Several of them stated that the best part about this trip was seeing the way three different organizations worked together. The Canadian team, led by Simon Stenekes, represented LimeAid. The project was in a WISH building. The Wesleyans housed the team and own the land on which the library sits. The men were impressed at the way those three organizations came together to make this project happen and the way the three groups on the ground worked together for a common goal.

The team worked at a pace not usually seen in this hot climate. Some of the Haitian workers just shook their head at the speed. Five of the men grew up together and as they all laughingly said, "Then they met Fred." Even the Canadians admit, "Fred is fast!" This was a good thing, as their organization, called LimeAid, has leased the 2nd floor of the library for an agricultural college starting in January. Rent to WISH from the lease will help to offset costs for the operation of the lower level.

View the newsletter in color on the WISH website and www.facebook/haitiwish

Canadian Team Transforms Upper Level of Library



(Continued from page 1)

Two of the men were on a mission trip for the first time. When asked why they came to Haiti, one of them said that his wife has been on several mission trips and encouraged him to come. He felt so privileged to have this chance to give a little back to others.

This team had a lot to accomplish in one small week, and yet upon hear-

ing that several of the freezers in the ice house needed repair, they allowed one of their team members to focus all of his time and energy on the freezers. The people working in the ice house were so thankful for his skill, as all of the freezers were fully functioning by the time he left.

After five days, the team was able to finish about 85% of the 2nd floor. They went through 40 pounds of nails and 5,000 staples. We are all excited to see the continued progress on the library and the future of the agricultural college.



North Carolina Dental Team was Impressed with First Experience in WISH Dental Clinic

Beth Churchill

Collaboration is a great word to describe the ministry of the Durham, NC dental team. The New Hope Church team was a 20-member medical group, of which 8 members worked in the WISH dental clinic. The dental team embraced the opportunity to work with a local dentist and to share information and techniques with each other; to truly collaborate. During the 3 days of working with the local dentist, they learned quite a bit about his working conditions and the entire team was impressed with his willingness to help with consultations, his calm demeanor, his openness to suggestions and his desire to learn all that he could from them.

Harriet and Dana were in Haiti for the second time and on both trips they felt that the strength of the Haitian people made the strongest impact on them. They were amazed by the patience, grace and thankfulness the Haitians, particularly the women, exhibited while undergoing difficult procedures.

Brianna, in Haiti for the first time, was impressed with the WISH dental clinic. She was surprised to see how well-stocked and neat and clean it was. The entire group from New Hope was full of gratitude for the way they were treated and for all of the assistance from those working full time in Haiti. The blessings really flowed both ways and we look forward to working with this group again.



1992 Donation Still at Work on LaGonave



Back in 1992, Ralph and Celia Sietsema, farmers and long time supporters of WISH from West Michigan, decided to donate a John Deere tractor to help with the heavy work and rough roads of LaGonave. This John Deere has truly been a work-horse for WISH and many other missions on the island. It has been used for hauling rocks and water to construction sites, hauling fuel drums, towing broken-down vehicles, transporting the boat to and from the wharf, and at the time of the earthquake in 2010 JD hauled tons of food for distribution on the island. No other mission has the equipment to handle these heavy loads. Over the years, it has been painted a few times (with that trademark JD Green)

to protect it from the salt and sand in the air and mechanics have maintained and replaced parts. Most recently, JD received a new set of tires that arrived in the container from St. Louis. It is impossible to measure the impact this gift has had on the community and the WISH ministry for more than 23 years. Our continued thanks, Sietsema family!

Memorial and Honorarium Gifts are perfect remembrances during the holidays or other special days throughout the year.

What's Your Gift Size?

General funds are always needed to maintain equipment, cover fuel costs and operating and shipping expenses for the mission.

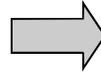
Project funds are still needed for the completion of the lower level of the library and building security features. We are very excited about the opportunities and possibilities this facility will offer to the community.

Please consider how your gift will assist WISH in this Christian outreach to the people of LaGonave Island.

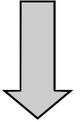
All things are possible when we join together to share Christ's love.

The process of shipping a container of supplies to LaGonave is very involved and labor intensive. This does not reflect the acquisition and paperwork involved stateside.

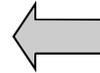
These items were transported from Michigan to St. Louis where a team of volunteers strategically labeled and efficiently packed the container aided by a fork lift.



Robin waited for it to arrive in Port-au-Prince and clear the customs process. Then it was trucked to a secured location where it was stored while individual loads could be moved 60 miles up the coast to the wharf.



At the wharf it was unloaded and loaded into the sailboat during calm seas for the 14 mile crossing to LaGonave.



The boat was unloaded and loaded into the trailer for the final leg of the trip to the WISH depot until the items can be sorted and distributed. Repeat until all is on island.

Then it begins all over again with another crossing to the mainland for the next truckload from the storage location near Port-au-Prince. Consider that this is done under tropical heat conditions without a fork-lift or other mechanical assistance once it arrives in Haiti. Are you waiting for your Amazon Prime shipment?