

Beyond the Fence Newsletter - February 2020

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FAMILY NEWS



A lot of people are asking us, "Where are you? Are you in Haiti?" Yes, we are and I think our

family has completely settled back into life here. Gaëlle and Beth spend each morning on schoolwork. In addition, Nancy Lanni has been teaching writing to Gaëlle each week. And Gaëlle continues to spend time in the kitchen with Madame Foglas learning how to cook Haitian food. Gaëlle is also volunteering with Storytime at the library and is working on her Creole reading so she can start another Storytime with younger kids.

Mo is growing and continues to delight us all. He just loves to be with people and has discovered the clanging gate means people are here. He runs to the door and jumps as high as he can to see if somebody is walking up the path. He can now jump onto the furniture and push open the screen door, and yet he's still a puppy and hates to have his hair cut.

With the arrival of teams, we have to continue to be aware of the needs of our family. One of the things we've done to have a little fun is to initiate a contest amongst the 3 of us. After supper, we have been playing different games and keeping score of who wins. So far, Gaëlle has won the most with 7 times. Beth is next with 5 wins and Robin is last with 2 wins. We want to have a prize at the end of June for the winner, but we're not sure what it will be. Suggestions are welcome.

And when we really need a dose of joy, we just head out to find one of the new baby goats that are all around. Who doesn't love a baby goat?

WISH Family Fun Day



Carnival is a Haitian National Holiday and so it's the perfect day to have a family BBQ for the WISH staff. We opened up the yard to all of the staff and their families for an afternoon of fun. There were games and face painting for the kids. We served food and had a time of just hanging out and being together. It's so much fun to see the kids running around having fun. It's also fun to see which kids belong to which worker and to interact with family members we don't often have the chance to see. We are very thankful for each man and women who works with WISH and are thankful for this chance to celebrate their families.

February Teams



In February we welcomed 4 groups to the WISH Guesthouse. Pastoral Training was in session once again with Kevin and newcomer to Haiti, Mike. Both men were joyfully received by the pastors anxious to learn more about God's word. They came with a group from Quest Church who have been working with Pastor Foglas and his school on the saline. It's a great partnership between 2 churches.

It was great to host a group of 3 from Give Power. They spent long hours at the new desalination plant problem solving and testing out the system. Theresa is an engineer and it was nice to have a female represent the STEM field. We are so thankful for their commitment to excellence.

Finally, we welcomed Tom and Terry who were here to film new promotional videos for WISH. They were able to get out in the community and visit the ministries of WISH and interview some of the staff. They were thorough in their work and genuinely cared about the people they were filming. Stay tuned for Tom's final product.

IT'S ALL IN THE EVERYDAY



Haitians use proverbs to explain life. Often times the meaning of the proverb isn't very obvious to us and needs to be explained. Even though Robin isn't as eloquent, I would like to share one of his sayings. *It's all about the everyday!*

What he means is that often the big projects get the attention. They generate donations and excitement. People like to give to clearly defined projects. But WISH is really all about the everyday. WISH makes a huge difference in the community just by being faithful to assist in the everyday life.

WISH has several pieces of machinery that are not found elsewhere on the island. The tractors and backhoe are used for a wide range of activity like helping with a soccer field, preparing the location for a new local market, and fixing the roads. All of the tractors and vehicles break down and it takes tremendous time and effort to source the necessary parts. *It's all about the everyday.*

The waterline needs constant attention and at least once a week, the vehicles head out to the ravine to fix broken pipeline, remove boulders or sand, repair the collection basin, or to remove clumps of roots so that they water can freely flow to the public water fountains. This all takes time

and finances to pay for the necessary resources. *It's all about the everyday.*

The facilities need regular upkeep and maintenance. WISH staff repair walls, paint buildings, change locks, install signs, replace toilets, purchase fuel, mow lawns, clean out garbage, and on and on and on. All so the buildings can serve the community through its programs and facilities. *It's all about the everyday.*

WISH staff also regularly assist partners with a wide variety of tasks. Just in the past month we have helped other groups with vehicle repair, the use of portable dental chairs, the loaning of tools, welding windows, and advising through long-time knowledge and expertise. This list could also go on and on as we regularly support partners because *it's all about the everyday.*

So as much fun as the big projects are, because of the consistent and faithful presence of WISH in the community through so many years, WISH has been able to make a difference and *it's all through the everyday.*



Well technically, we're talking volunteer. But we are still looking for somebody who loves God and would love to teach Gaëlle for one month or more. We have been blessed with creative and compassionate teachers in the past and are really missing the enthusiasm and life they bring. If you are looking for a way to serve, please shoot us an email. We can promise you the adventure of a lifetime.

PRAISE

- Thankful for the chance to bless the WISH families with a fun day.
- Thankful for continued progress with the desalination plant.
- Thankful for opportunities for Gaëlle to minister to children.
- Thankful that necessary resources are coming to the island even if it takes some creativity.

PRAYER

- Pray for Gaëlle as our community is very different than the one we previously knew and she is lonely.
- Pray for the people of Haiti as so many are living so close to the edge. The needs are great.
- Pray that items that are needed for all of our projects can get to La Gonave safely.
- Pray that we will continue to develop processes to keep the ministries of WISH going.

Sign up : FAITH PROMISE or PRAYER PARTNER

Filling out the faith promise form or signing up to be a prayer partner helps us to know who is on our team and how to connect. Thank you.

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