

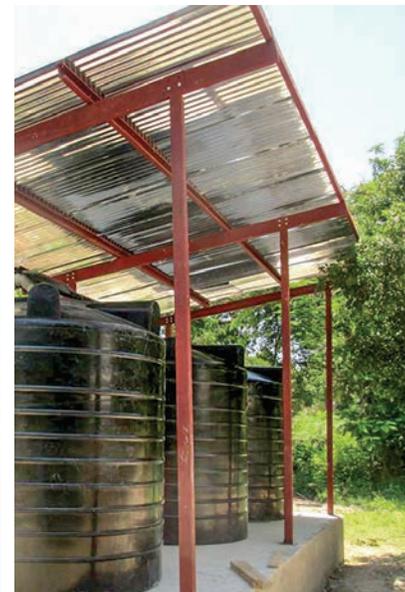
STARFYSHNEWS

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM STARFYSH.ORG

SEPT. 2015

STARFYSH IS WORKING TO BRING HOLISTIC, SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION TO THE

ISLAND OF LA GONAVE, HAITI



LIFE GARDEN TAKES SHAPE

Despite the harsh drought conditions that have plagued many of the Caribbean islands, including La Gonave, we have been able to see some progress as we look toward a Spring, 2016 opening of Life Garden. The challenge for Agriculture Director, Paul Donn Jean, has been the lack of water. The situation has been so bad that, for a short time, several of the garden worker employees had to be laid off for lack of work.

One of the main challenges to agriculture, not just for Life Garden, but for every family on the island, is water. La Gonave had rain a total of three times between the months of December and May, severely impacting gardens and farms and, ultimately, the problem of hunger and malnutrition.

The severe problem of water will be one of the important educational topics that farmers who attend Life Garden agricultural conferences here will learn about. The irony is that more than enough rain falls to earth here (52 inches per year average) to more than suffice for La Gonave's year-long water needs. Problem is, when it falls, it falls hard, so much of the rain runs off the mountains down to the sea. If we can find solutions for each family to catch and store fresh (and free) rainwater, we will have made important strides for agriculture here.

We are pleased that Paul Donn Jean will be with us on October 22nd. We look forward to introducing him to you.



DEAR FRIENDS,

In the days following Haiti's awful trembling, Sue and I invited some friends to our home. Over coffee and pie I shared an idea with them. What would it look like if, as an experiment, we focused our charitable energies on one place and stayed the course until our mission was accomplished? What could God accomplish through our collective efforts if we simply stayed the course and focused? What came out of our brainstorming that evening would be an experiment called Starfysh.



Little did we know then how God would bless our efforts. Our word-of-mouth growth as a fledgling organization has been organic and steady. Less an organization than it is a movement... Starfysh has caused quite a stir. A stirring in people's hearts that there is more to life than all the bad news we are barraged with every day. And that, in fact, we can help to create a good-news story, the kind of news story they hold off telling until the end of the evening news.

It is fitting that we celebrate our 5-year anniversary in the same hangar space where we first went public that snowy November night in 2010. We are thrilled to have no less than Gerald Ford International Airport and the glamorous hangars of Amway Aviation as the venue for our fundraiser this year. The airport authorities have not only given permission for the event, but they will be providing the shuttle transportation for the night! Our meal will be spectacular, as well as the entertainment and silent auction. Offers of very generous matching gifts are coming in that will leverage the evening's donations. We'll share the news and stories of the past year and cast vision for the next five years. Agriculture Project Director, Paul Donn Jean, will be coming up from Haiti so you can meet him. And we will announce and introduce our newly-appointed missionaries, the Kulfans.

The theme for this year's event: Time Flies!

Proceeds from the evening (tickets, donations, silent auction sales, etc.) will be used to build a school in the village of Makochon and complete our Agriculture Research and Demonstration Farm.

In addition to your presence that evening, there are several ways you can help make the evening a big success...

- Spread the word. Help us fill the room. (We can always move planes and helicopters out of the way). Fill your own table with friends you like to hang out with.
- Help us find cool silent auction items. We don't know the business people that you know.
- Consider leveraging a sizeable gift as a matching grant for the evening.

Please make plans to join me. I promise you it will be a fun night!
A whole lot more fun than hearing the bad news stories on the evening news.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Edmondson".

Steve Edmondson



PAUL DONN JEAN
Agriculture Project
Director



THE KULFANS
Learn more about
them on the last page



TEAM

The Starfysh Board of Directors during meetings in Haiti this past Summer. (Pictured left to right)

Brian Dykstra, Steve Edmondson, Tim Ulstad, Doug Lockhart, Dan Irvine, Cherese Gordon, Eli Maxime.

EDUCATION

Teachers pose for a picture following a week of writing workshops.



HEALTH

VILLAGE GETS FIRST LATRINES

A partnership between Starfysh, Crossroads Church in Lakeland, Florida, and the seaside fishing village of Dub Saline resulted in that village getting its first latrines this Summer. Standard pit latrines are not feasible because of the close-to-the-surface water, making elevated latrines like the one pictured the only alternative.

The village came to Starfysh with their need for village latrines. After our close discussions with the leaders of the village, Crossroads Church, who had sent a team to work in the village in the past, agreed to be the financial partner. Work on the latrines was recently completed by the people of the village who put up the sweat equity of the project.

Hope, dignity, and improved health just took a big step forward in one precious fishing village. Transformation is coming to La Gonave, baby step by baby step!

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Recently, during one of our journeys up into the mountains of La Gonave we came upon this young man who had carved this nativity out of wood. We told him how much we loved it and he sold it to us. We told him we would buy all he could make and try to sell them back home. These nativities may show up at our Times Flies event on October 22nd.





MISSIONARIES APPOINTED

Starfysh is pleased to announce the appointment of Bruce and Amy Kulfan to full time missionary service. Next June, Bruce and Amy and their girls, Brianna(11) and Riley(9) will move to La Gonave where they will direct Starfysh's on-the-ground operations. Bruce, a paramedic, will have particular effectiveness in our work in health and sanitation. Amy's organizational and management expertise will add a level of efficiency that we need during these years of rapid growth.

The Kulfans will join us for our October 22nd celebration where we will be able to formally introduce them to you!



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