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DECEMBER 2013

## Reflecting Back and Looking Forward

Dear {tag\_recipientfirstname},

Never would I have imagined, when we set out on this journey four years ago, how God would bless this little thing we call Starfysh (spelled that way only because the "i" was taken). In my early imagination, I never figured it to be anything more than a vehicle that would help me leverage my personal work on a remote island situated off Haiti's mainland.

Fast forward four years. I was overwhelmed a few weeks ago, when several hundred friends and supporters came out to our first ever fundraising dinner and vision-casting event.

THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR SUPPORT OF  
LOVE LA GONAVE!

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They came to check out the buzz... this growing collection of steam called Starfysh, doing way-over-our-head things in a little forgotten pocket of the world.

We shared with our guests the account of how, out of the chute, we had started by delivering tarps to earthquake refugees, feeding hungry kids, and supporting the little island hospital. When cholera raised its ugly head, we provided the funds for a cholera field hospital and delivered pallets of IV fluids. We started installing water-purification filters in families' homes. We provided funds for household latrines.

Since those early days, we have distributed trees and garden seeds to peasant farmers, opened an elementary school, and put a dozen or so people into business. Starfysh has had significant impact—far beyond what any four-year-old organization would be expected to have—and it has become clear that something special is in the making. A remarkable story is being written, an account of how when God shows up we can do things way over our heads.

Still in its early chapters, Starfysh's story is much grander than that of a person or an organization or even of an island. The greater, more important story being written goes something like this: What might happen when people bring their skills and energies and resources to the table of human compassion, and stay the course for long enough to see their compassion birthed into transformation?

We are taking our cues from the past four years, understanding that God has leveraged our energies with His power. We must be good stewards of this blessing!

Looking forward, our project initiatives reflect our faith that God will continue to grow our work.

- We will open and build more schools.
- We will see entire villages have 100% latrine use, a statistic virtually unheard of in Haiti.
- We will see entire villages with clean water.
- We will finish our mobile medical/dental unit and continue to send doctors and dentists to the most remote parts of the island.
- We will create a multi-site agriculture research and teaching farm.
- We will help budding entrepreneurs grow their businesses.
- We will write and publish Creole children's books.
- We will establish a permanent base-of-operations up in the geographic center of the island.

Our vision to bring transformation to an island has enlarged, thanks to hundreds of people who are investing in that vision.

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My question for you is simple... Would you consider a generous gift toward our work among the poorest people on our planet? I can think of few ways where a dollar goes farther. You can donate [online](#) or by mail. Some give by automatic monthly debits, others by [fundraising for a project](#) that resonates with them. Whatever your giving preference, know that it is through the gifts of Starfysh's supporters that God will continue to prosper our work.

When transformation comes to La Gonave, the real story—the one that will get the world's attention—is that this transformation came about, not the result of one philanthropist or one government program. It was the result of ordinary people coming together to let God do a miracle among them.

And when He does, the world will sit up and take notice, because if this can happen in a place like La Gonave, it could happen anywhere.

May God bless you richly this Christmas season,



Steve Edmondson

Details of all of Starfysh's project initiatives can be viewed and printed from [Starfysh.com](http://Starfysh.com).

## ON THE ISLAND...



In November, this team from [Berkley Hills](#) returned from the island. Much was accomplished with hammers and hearts.



A new roof was built for this cinder wall church.

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