STARFYSH NEWS

NEWS FROM STARFYSH.ORG

DECEMBER 2026

STARFYSH IS WORKING TO BRING HOLISTIC, SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION TO THE ISLAND OF LA GONAVE, HAITI









Every photo in this issue shows real people and places on La Gonave, Haiti.

COMPASSION
DIGNITY
HOPE

One Life at a Time



Steve Edmondson
FOUNDER

STORIES OF HOPE

Dear Friends,

Back in the early days of my work in Haiti a friend and mentor gave me some good advice… "Learn to tell stories." Over the years, I've learned that telling a story engages folks much better than reports and statistics (essential as they are). In this end-of-year "report," I'm sure what you all will remember most won't be the data, so much as the stories.

Over the last 16 years of work we have gathered **THOUSANDS OF PICTURES AND VIDEOS OF LIFE ON THE ISLAND, EACH ONE A STORY.** All vignettes of real people living their real lives. It would be impossible, of course, to tell every story. I've come to realize the importance of photos in storytelling, which is why our newsletters and updates always have lots of them.

As you read through these few pages, we realize that words alone fall frustratingly short of our being able to adequately express the impact on lives we are having. Pictures help.

> **"THE KING WILL REPLY, 'TRULY I TELL YOU, WHATEVER YOU DID FOR ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF MINE, YOU DID FOR ME.'"**
> **— JESUS**

As we approach the end of 2026, I hope you will consider a generous gift to Starfysh. As you'll see in these pages, your gift will make a **SIGNIFICANT AND LASTING IMPACT** in the lives of "the least of these."

IN MEMORIAM

We were deeply saddened to learn that **YVES JOSEPH PASSED AWAY ON JULY 31ST.** He was 69. "Met Yves" served as Starfysh Field Supervisor and Payroll Manager. He was highly respected by all who knew him. He was measured, low-key, discerning and very wise. He was one of those people who, when he spoke, others in the room stopped to listen. He was worth listening to! Yves will be sorely missed... as an effective leader for all things Starfysh, and as a good friend who loved God and loved people.





EDUCATIONAL NEXT STEPS

Starfysh continues to emphasize the importance of childhood education through five schools across the island, providing not only structure and learning for **OVER 1,000 STUDENTS,** but daily meals and jobs for dozens of teachers and staff, too.

As young men and women complete high school, some stand out in maturity, aptitude, and an overall ethic of hard work. Looking ahead, Starfysh wants to set these promising young people up for success as they look forward to a life of meaningful work and service to their communities on La Gonave. Such promise is embodied in the likes of....

.... Dr. Yves Jordan - Medical School. Thanks to Starfysh support, "Jordy" was able to attend medical school and has just completed his post-doctoral training and is ready to begin practice. He got married November 20th to his wife, Medjina (also a recent medical school graduate) They plan to return to La Gonave to begin their medical practices. **CONGRATULATIONS DRS. JORDY AND MEDJINA!**

Recent high school graduates Jasson and Sonson have recently enrolled in trade school studying to be electricians. Edmond is very close to completing his studies in computer science and English. Ertha is in nurses training with an eye on working in public health and women's health.



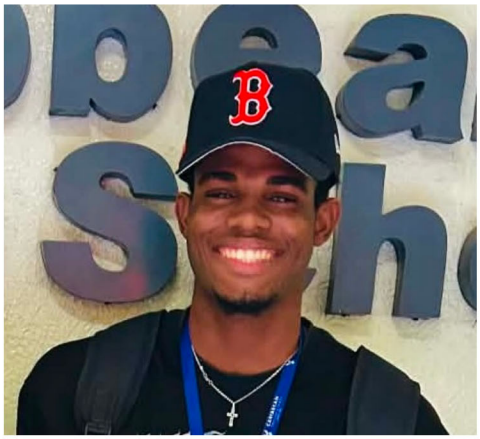
DRS. JORDY AND MEDJINA



JASSON



SONSON



EDMOND



ERTHA

STORIES OF HOPE

GERSON

In my July visit to the island a young man approached me as I was walking down the dusty road that passed by Life Garden. "Do you remember me?" he grinned, knowing I might not. I didn't. "I'm Gerson," he said. **"YOU SAVED MY LIFE."** He went on to recount for me how, nine years ago, our visiting medical team had arrived by boat to his village, Ti Tanse (a tiny, seaside village on the shore of La Gonave accessible only by boat) to care for people who not only had never seen a doctor, but had never experienced a world outside their village. I remembered.

I remembered how, early in the week, a skinny little 7-year-old boy was carried into the clinic, delirious from pain and fever due to an overwhelming infection of a large burn wound of his lower leg and foot, caused by a kerosene fire accident more than a week prior to our arrival. His name was Gerson. The severity of the wound, coupled with the duration it had gone without treatment, set the young guy up for a bad outcome. Without a miracle he would not survive. I recall the heart-sinking pity we all felt for the boy, and for his mother, as we grappled with the unfairness of it all.

We did our best at the moment, cleaning and bandaging the wound, and quickly decided that, if he were to survive, we'd have to get him to the hospital. We loaded him in the boat and brought him to the hospital where for many weeks to follow he was aggressively treated with IV fluids, antibiotics, and daily wound debridement. We prayed for the boy every day but eventually had to return home to our regular lives. Time passed and life happened and we eventually forgot about the boy.



Until a few weeks ago. On that dusty road, Gerson, now 16 years old, lifted his pant leg to show me the scars. Yup, that was him. **HIS SMILE WAS BIG. HE WAS IN SCHOOL. HE HAD A FUTURE.**

I like to think that there are lots of Gersons out there, people whose lives we have touched in one way or another, but for whom we won't get the pleasure, this side of Heaven, of seeing just how those interactions have changed the trajectory of their lives. That's OK. We'll continue to pour in, because it's not about us. It's about God shining His light through us.

> **"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE OTHERS, THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD DEEDS AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN."**
>
> **— JESUS**

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Over the past two years we have witnessed **A RISE IN SPIRITUAL HUNGER ACROSS THE ISLAND.** Not only are people receptive to having deep conversations of the heart, they're more eager than ever in taking next steps in exploring issues of faith. Turns out, meeting the physical needs of the "least of these" offers up plenty of opportunities to meet people where they are spiritually as well. Starfysh leans in to this fact through Pastor Charles Eveny, who we have resourced with a motorcycle and French and Creole Bibles. Pastor Charles' energy, winsome smile, and evangelistic passion makes him the perfect man for the job of Spiritual Life Director as he travels to villages across the island.







AGRICULTURE

The 2026 growing season was very challenging for gardens and farms across the island. March through October, known locally as the rainy season, was unfortunately not very rainy at all this year. Shallow-root crops, including most vegetables, did not fare well, which is having **A SIGNIFICANT NEGATIVE IMPACT ON FOOD SECURITY** across the island. Entering dry season, farmers now shift their attention forward, hoping for better rains in 2027.

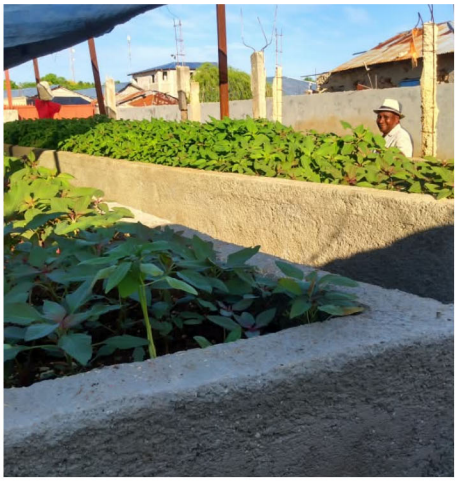
We were thankful to learn, however, that **MOST OF THE TREE SEEDLINGS DISTRIBUTED OUT OF LIFE GARDEN HAVE SURVIVED,** thanks to their deeper root systems. Fruit trees (such as mangos, breadfruit, coconut, citrus, etc.) need only be planted once. Once planted and they get past the precarious first year, these trees can be expected to produce decades of fruit harvests and cooling green shade to La Gonave's parched landscape.

Up at our mountain campus property in Grand Plaine we were having difficulty pulling water up from our new 200' well with the small gas generator we had. Rather than simply getting a bigger generator we replaced the pump with a beefy solar-powered pump and panels. With unlimited water and gigantic (22,000 gallon) cistern to store it, we can move to the next phases of fully developing beautiful 4-acre property, **SIGNIFICANTLY EXPANDING OUR OUTPUT** of tree seedlings and vegetable crops.

200'	22,000	4-acre
NEW WELL	GALLON CISTERN	MOUNTAIN CAMPUS

23,840	21,782	11,389	803 lbs
FRUIT TREE SEEDLINGS	VEGETABLE SEEDLINGS	FLOWER SEEDLINGS	VEGETABLE SEEDS

Construction of elevated and shaded garden beds has recently been completed at our school in the salt flats. These gardens serve as a real-life learning lab for students taking Agronomist Natalie's agriculture classes, and are already producing food for the school. They have already enjoyed their first harvest, a fast-growing crop of nutritious spinach.



Pastor Foglas inspects spinach seedlings



Agriculture Director, Agronomist Natalie Matthieu



Life Garden... a place of learning! Here young students learn the value of grafting in producing strong, high-quality mango trees.



Date palms are currently in full display at Life Garden

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS

We have just reached an attendance milestone with **MORE THAN 1,000 CHILDREN ENROLLED** in one of our five schools across the island. Sadly, much of the growth is the result of fear on the mainland, due to gang violence, forcing "internal migration" of families out to the island. Our school on the salt flats, with now over 300 kids attending, is absorbing as many of these refugee children as they can. This, of course, strains resources, especially with regard to providing daily meals.

FALL 2026 ENROLLMENT **1,009**

Nan Mango	220	31 staff
Pikamebe	160	16 staff
Sousaline	301	25 staff
Troulligene	201	34 staff
Makochon	127	9 staff

Staff includes both full and part-time teachers and staff

COMMUNITY HEALTH



$100 PROVIDES FOR ONE LATRINE (MATERIALS, TRANSPORTATION, AND LABOR)

148 FAMILIES WAITING ON LATRINE MATERIALS

Starfysh collaborates with the local hospital in providing **PRE/POST-NATAL EDUCATION CLASSES** for expectant and new mothers every Saturday morning. In addition, we collaborate with The Decaid Project (decaidproject.org) to resource and send out community health agents to villages across the island where they teach preventive health topics in the categories of hygiene, sanitation, and nutrition. They're also able to share the Gospel and distribute Bibles during their visits.

We continue to find that one of the most immediately-impactful categories of community health education is the topic of latrine use. There is a **DEMONSTRABLE DECREASE IN THE INCIDENCE OF DIARRHEAL ILLNESS** in a village when most of its households have and use a latrine.

Lower illness rates, in turn, translates into higher productivity (eg, workers in the field, kids in the classroom, etc.) and decrease absenteeism. Great returns-on-investment! There are currently 148 families (all in one village) who have dug their latrine pits and are waiting on us to provide them with the materials for a latrine.

Clean water continues to be an area of concern. We are frequently asked when we will be able to pick back up on household water filter installation efforts. We are anxious to do so, but continued gang presence in the waters surrounding the island prevents us from being able to get supplies (filters and heavy aggregate) delivered to the island.

2026 AT A GLANCE & LOOKING AHEAD

Finally, after years of gang-related violence and the disruption it has brought, **WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THINGS MAY BEGIN TO IMPROVE,** thanks to a collaborative effort between the UN-backed "Gang Suppression Force," recently-deployed El Salvadoran troops, and the Haitian National Police. American Airlines recently resumed flights into Cap Haitian, a comparatively safe town in the north. An encouraging sign! Getting from Cap out to the island of La Gonave, though challenging, is possible by air. Shipping in large/heavy supplies requires access by sea which currently remains difficult due to gang-piracy.

$417,694
INCOME '25-'26 · 7.5% ADMIN & FUNDRAISING

	WHAT WE DID 2026	WE ARE OPTIMISTIC AS WE LOOK FORWARD TO 2027. DURING THE YEAR, AND WITH GOD'S HELP… 2027
EDUCATION	**5** schools supported (teacher salaries and training, uniforms and school meals)	1 over one thousand kids will be able to attend school and get a daily meal. 3 School teachers and farmers will be resourced and equipped through our annual conference.
COMMUNITY HEALTH	**215** new household latrines funded **Weekly** prenatal classes supported	2 148 families in the village of Bethel get their latrines.
AGRICULTURE	**23,840** fruit tree seedlings from Life Garden	4 Life Garden will continue to propagate, produce and distribute tree and vegetable seedlings. 5 Our Life Garden mountain campus will enter a multi-year plan of aggressive development.
SPIRITUAL LIFE	**235** people made decisions to follow Christ	6 We will continue to see a receptiveness and response to our Gospel witness.
JOBS & OPERATIONS	**24** workers directly employed **100+** teachers & staff employed **Starlink** mobile communications operational	7 "Kay Starfysh" (the Starfysh guesthouse) will be readied for the return of guests (with hopeful conversion to 100% solar power). 8 Provide for practical, hands-on vocational training to promising young men and women. 9 Find solutions for our logistical challenges of bringing in needed equipment and supplies.

GIVE AT STARFYSH.ORG

STARFYSH LEADERSHIP TEAM



Dr. Steve Edmondson
FOUNDER



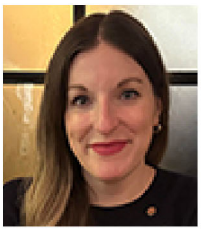
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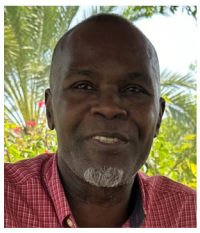
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FIELD SUPERVISOR, TEAMS HOST



Pastor Charles Eveny
SPIRITUAL LIFE DIRECTOR



Agr. Natalie Matthieu
DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE

PARTNERSHIPS, COLLABORATIONS, ACCREDITATIONS

We are always alert to new opportunities to collaborate and partner with others who share our vision of reversing the vicious cycle of poverty on La Gonave. (Two of our most recent partnerships include Gifts of Love International (goli.org) and World Vision. A current list of Starfysh collaborators and partners can be found on our website: starfysh.org

> "We celebrate the fact that we are but **ONE OF MANY** in a world of compassionate people and organizations working to relieve suffering and improve life for the desperately poor. We value the importance of partnerships in our efforts to bring about **SIGNIFICANT, SUSTAINABLE CHANGE**, and we welcome the expertise and skills that others can bring to the table."
>
> — STARFYSH.ORG

ECFA ACCREDITED
Enhancing Trust

In October we received word of our **ACCREDITATION BY ECFA** (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability) (ECFA.org) having satisfied its rigorous standards of responsible stewardship, including financial accountability, transparency, sound board governance and ethical fundraising. The way we see it, God deserves no less than our best!

Accord network

We're also pleased that Accord Network (accordnetwork.org) recently accepted Starfysh into its community of like-minded Christ-centered organizations. The resources and network available to us will be invaluable to us in our efforts to be the best Christian development organization that we possibly can be.



STARFYSH.ORG

Those visiting the Starfysh website will notice we have made nice improvements in both appearance and functionality. Looking to round out your knowledge of all things Starfysh? You know where to go!

SCAN TO VISIT STARFYSH.ORG

STARFYSH
compassion. dignity. hope...one life at a time.

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Learn More About Our Mission

To learn more about our work, our organization, or to support our projects with a donation, visit our website **STARFYSH.ORG** or scan the QR code.

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