

## UMVIM EXPERIENCE

### Mission Opportunity on La Gonave

Mission opportunities on La Gonave combine the beauty of any Caribbean holiday and the spiritual experience of answering God's call to serve the hungry, naked, bound and thirsty. VIM trips to La Gonave are expensive and physically difficult.

Travel to the island is a 4 hour sail boat ride and accommodations are clean and safe, yet primitive and costly.

Food is a unique variety of goat and seafood, local fruits and vegetables. Light is limited but Haitian showers are refreshing.

To schedule a team, contact the Edgerton's for budget information and travel needs. To know if you should, ask yourself if your life is filled with meaning. Involve your church and be a resource that changes lives.

To Schedule a Team:  
Send e-mail to the Edgerton's @ [sjelagonave@yahoo.com](mailto:sjelagonave@yahoo.com) with preferred dates, and contact information for the team leader.



#### To Support this Mission

Make checks payable to:

**Central UMC / GBGM**

**Advance #982465-6**

add to memo line: Edgerton's

Mail to: Lawrence Central UMC

1501 Massachusetts

Lawrence KS 66044-4273

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#### Mission Address

Volunteers In Mission / Edgerton  
c/o Lynx Air PO Box 407139  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33340  
email: [sourcephilippe@yahoo.com](mailto:sourcephilippe@yahoo.com)

## GBGM LONG TERM VOLUNTEERS LA GONAVE, HAITI [sjelagonave@yahoo.com](mailto:sjelagonave@yahoo.com)



**Joe & Pastor Shirley Edgerton**

Appointed to La Gonave in October of 2007 the Edgerton's work to resource people on the South side of the island. Appointment 2007 through 2009

#### Mission Focus

GBGM Long Term Volunteers will serve on La Gonave with guidance, assessment and support from the KEC Haiti Task Force, in accordance with GBGM, UMVIM and UMCOR standards and guidelines. Primary focus will be on Community Development, and management of natural resources, education, local industry, health care, sanitation, transportation and cultural faith based activities.

web: [www.centralumclawrence.org](http://www.centralumclawrence.org)



**La Gonave** is a small island located approximately 30 to 40 miles from the mainland of Haiti. Lush and green with over-growth during the short rainy season is quickly dried by the winds of the longer dry season from November to June.

The long – narrow island has only one daily accessible port on the North side and roads are mountainous river beds. There are 4 village markets weekly and one daily market in the largest community of Anse a Galets. Boats leave the South side twice a week for supplies and transportation.

A strong hardy people, the islanders plant peanuts, maize, and melons; fish or raise goats; and make charcoal for Port a Prince markets. Life is hard with limited water and food; minimal access to health care and schools without lights, desks and leaking roofs if they have a roof at all.



GBGM individual volunteers serve in Haiti to assist in locating and recruiting resources needed for the people of Haiti to move up on the economic ladder.

On La Gonave, Haitian laborers are ready and willing to work on roads, build latrines, improve schools, feed and breed livestock with new methods, and deal with issues of water and technology. They must overcome the isolation that makes information and technology hard to obtain; supplies and materials super expensive; and transportation and healthcare extremely difficult for the average person

La Gonave has 6 classic reasons for failure to thrive, economically. Isolation is primary, lack of communication, technology, stable education, available transportation and geology that is beyond control of man, keeps all but the most powerful from reaching the first rung of the economic ladder.

A mission focus for community development and management skills may well be the answer to giving hungry people “food” for economic growth.

## South La Gonave Plans for 2008

**1. Water:** There is a critical lack of access to clean water on the south side of La Gonave. The Edgerton’s will be working with communities and other NGO’s to repair a well at Dent Guerin and drill at least one well near the west end. Cisterns and catchments will be repaired or enlarged.

**2. Education:** In the future KEC will focus on teacher development and provide resources as incentives for community support and motivation for students and families to meet tuition requirements.

**3. Sanitation, Transportation, Industry.** Information and technology are critical to helping communities manage these three needs which are critical to economic growth. Some subsidy will be needed to stimulate solidarity and ownership by the people

**4. Small Business / Industrial Loans.** Small low interest business loans are being made from designated funds with payback to a community group called MODEZSUD. The group will work with volunteers to develop criteria for loans and the 2% interest will be used for administrative costs. Bank loans are prohibitive at 12%.

**5. Church & Schools:** Schools and church buildings in all communities are in need of major repairs and modifications and many need entire buildings. Construction teams to resource local labor and to covenant with congregations are badly needed.