



Love In Action
International
A Hands on Ministry to the Lord of Doing, Going, and Giving.

A Christian organization working to fulfill the Great Commission and meet the vocational training needs of our brothers and sisters in Africa.

Inside this issue:

Sewing Center	1
LIAI Expanding	1
Missionary Update	2
Retterer Training Center	2
Jesus Film in Russia	3
Newsletter & Giving	4

Love In Action's Website Updated

The LIAI website, www.loveinactioninternational.org underwent a much needed update in January. It includes LIAI's history and mission statement as well as an archive of newsletters and a Powerpoint slideshow explaining LIAI's vocational and ministry training in Chad. Check it out today!



"Love Notes"

Volume 7, Issue 1

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Sewing Center Apprentices

Written by Laokora Elie, Director of the Sewing Center in Chad



Sewing Center - Moundou, Chad

The Sewing center began with the opening of its building in 1996. The past eleven years have been very productive in the training of church members in the vocational

skills of designing and sewing tailored garments for themselves and others.

After the two year program of training, apprentices graduate and are able to meet

their own financial needs, set up their own businesses in their own towns, and give to local church ministries. We praise the Lord that Twenty people have been trained and three more will graduate in 2008.

Prayer requests are that the Sewing Center would be able to open a boutique in the market place for the sale of mass produced clothing and, secondly, for a new location for the Center so a larger number of apprentices could be accommodated. Pray with us to this end.



Love in Action Expanding

LIAI is excited to begin planning two new apprentice centers (Woodworking and Auto Mechanics). Each center will train Chadian individuals in a much needed skill for their community. The trained men will be equipped to provide an income for their families and support for their local church ministries.

These new projects call for trainers with expertise in each area. If you have an interest in training Africans in these skills and are willing to learn French, please let LIAI know. We would love to talk with you about how you can help.



Apprentice at the metal fabrication shop

Please pray with us for these new endeavors - that the details and funds will come together quickly so that we can begin ministering in this way.





Chad: Quick Facts

Population:
9.7 million

Life expectancy at birth:
43.9 yrs

Infant mortality rate:
117 in 1,000 live births

Mortality rate for
children under 5:
200 in 1,000

Malnutrition prevalence
of children under 5:
36.7%

Literacy Rate:
25.7%

Gross National Income
per capita:
\$400.00 USD

World Develop Indicators
database, April '06
www.web.worldbank.org



Update on Field Missionaries

Puhl Family Relocate to Cameroon

Frank and Karin

Puhl, with their family, moved to Cameroon recently to assist Grace Brethren International Missions. Frank accepted the position of Assistant Africa Field Leader. Though Frank will still be overseeing the ministry in Chad, the Puhls will not be as involved in the ministry there as in the past years. We have greatly valued their encouragement of Love in Action over these years.



Ezel Family in Germany on Home Ministry

Matthias and Melina Ezel and their family are currently in Germany on home



ministries. They plan to return to Chad in September.



Emmie

While in Germany, their daughter Emmie (2 years old), was diagnosed with a rare heart condition causing half of her heart to beat at half the usual rate as well as giving it the tendency to stop periodically for up to three seconds. Emmie underwent surgery on March 8th to have a pacemaker installed. The surgery went well and proved to be necessary as the surgeons found that Emmie's heart was already beginning to build up fluid as a result of over-stress.

The surgeon was also experienced in working with patients who live in Africa and was able to install a brand of pacemaker that can be monitored in Yaounde, Cameroon, a neighboring country to Chad.

Please pray for the Ezels as they recover from this surgery and consider the implications of this situation with their travel schedule and ministry.



Mike Retterer Training Center Update

The Mike Retterer Training Center has been the location for a True Love Waits club that is led by Grace Brethren Missionaries. Two of the members of this club are graduates from the Metal Fabrication Shop. The members are learning how to encourage young people to follow biblical principles and to abstain from sexual activities before marriage or to remain faithful to their marriage partners after marriage. Because sexual immorality is one of Satan's favorite tools to ruin the lives of young people, especially in Africa, this group has seen significant difficulties as they go through this training. When four individuals traveled to the Central African Republic for a three week training, they were hassled by police and various



military people so much so that they decided to fly back to Moundou instead of trying to return by road.

Please pray for the success of this project, which consists of sending these trained young people to five key churches in Chad, with the prayer that these churches will also begin clubs and take the message to surrounding churches and areas.



The “Jesus Film” distributed in Russia



Vice President Karen Retterer (front row with red turtleneck) in Russia with other team members and members of one of the family

Vice President of LIAI, Karen Retterer, recently was part of a mission team that went to St. Petersburg, Russia for ten days. They ministered at a camp for orphans and in family homes. Russia has approximately 2,000 state-run orphanages with over

700,000 orphans and many more that live on the street in abandoned buildings or in sewers.

The camp is located two hours north of St. Petersburg and exists to minister to children from orphanages that come several times throughout the year. The team was able to share crafts and Bible stories with these children.

The family homes are where older orphans learn skills such as cooking, cleaning, budgeting and personal hygiene. In addition,

they participate in Bible reading and attend church. Most of these girls know the Lord and are growing spiritually, something they might not have known otherwise. They are enrolled in a two-year program of either studying at the college level or working in the local workforce. After passing an exit exam at the end of the two-year program, they are able to move out on their own.

The mission team was able to leave several Jesus Film DVDs in Russian, provided by LIAI, at the camp and family homes. These will be used as part of their biblical study and will be used to teach these dear children about Jesus. Please pray for the ministry of these family homes and camps and for the orphans’ spiritual growth.



The LIAI Team

LIAI has many individuals committed to its ministry. The following is a list of those involved behind the scenes to make the ministry of LIAI effective and functioning:

- Tom & Sharon Stallter
- Karen Retterer
- Dennis & Valerie Crumbley
- Roy & Arlene Glass
- Greg & Nancy Weimer
- Pastor Charles Lawson
- Tom & Sonja Heffner
- Larry DeArme
- Frank & Karin Puhl
- Matthias & Melina Ezel



You Know You’re a Missionary (in Africa) if . . .

Written by Melina Ezel

- Your child’s first words were not in your mother tongue.
- You consider any magazine dated within the last five years as “new.”
- You grocery shop for four years at a time.
- You have friends in over 20 countries but haven’t seen or spoken to any member of your immediate family in over two years.
- Your children’s beds can be folded up and carried away at a moment’s notice.
- You have bank accounts in at least three different countries and currencies.
- You buy furniture according to how much space it will take in a container, whether it folds up, if it is washable and if it keeps the dust out.
- Email is not only your main but also your only form of communication with the western world
- You’ve ever given, or been thrilled to receive, a bottle of Coke or a chocolate bar for Christmas (and we’re not talking stocking stuffers.)
- Visitors from your passport country give you their clothes when they leave and you are thrilled to have something “new” to wear.
- Your children can recognize a generator at a hundred yards but have no idea who Barbie or Mickey Mouse are.
- Your children can say hello in four languages but can’t communicate with their grandparents.
- Your Christmas tree is older than your kids and you have to dust it once a week while it is up.
- Going home requires a visa.
- You buy things like dish soap and ketchup by the gallon.
- Hot showers and electricity are on your list of rare and special treats.
- All of your clothing and linens are 100% cotton.



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Urgent Projects & Needs

Prayerfully consider these projects as our urgent needs.

Woodworking Shop—\$2,000 for start-up funds for a business that will train apprentices.

Auto Mechanics Shop—\$4,500 for start-up funds for a business that will train apprentices.

Mike Retterer Training Center—\$3,000 for Computer Training set-up.

If you have any questions regarding newsletter articles or general questions regarding LIAI's ministry in Chad, please contact Valerie Crumbley at (574) 269-4513 or by email at vcrumbley@loveinactioninternational.org.

Visit LIAI's website at www.loveinactioninternational.org

Donations & Newsletter Signup

Make checks payable to: *Love In Action International*
** Please include your email address for quarterly updates. **

General Fund \$ _____
Jesus Film & Video Fund \$ _____
The Apprentice Fund \$ _____
Sewing Center Fund \$ _____
Mike Retterer Training Center .. \$ _____
Metal Fabrication Shop \$ _____
Woodworking Shop..... \$ _____
Auto Mechanics Shop..... \$ _____

Email Address _____