

December 2007

Dear Friends,

Each year as I sit down to write the December letter for Love in Action International, I wonder how people will read it. Most of us have never met and it makes me a little hesitant, not knowing if you are really wanting another missions letter to read. But I am praying that some who read this will have an interest in helping Christians in Africa. LIAI is all about training church members in Africa in vocational skills so they can support themselves, church ministries, and missions outreach. It is the answer to self-sustaining churches in Africa as we explain on our web site, [www.loveinactioninternational.org](http://www.loveinactioninternational.org).

This has been a slower year than usual for LIAI. The Puhl family moved to Cameroon and then went on home ministries in Germany. The Ezel family also went on home ministries in Germany. Both families have been delayed in their return to Africa due to health problems with their children. Frank Puhl will continue to oversee the Chad ministries from Germany and from Cameroon when they return. Matthias and Melina Ezel will return to Chad in mid-2008 if all goes well with their children.

On the brighter side, because of the prayer and financial support from many of you, the sewing shop continues to operate and train apprentices. The Mike Retterer Training Center (MRTC) is used regularly for True Love Waits seminars, Sunday school teacher training, and as a reading library. It is ready for computer training as soon as equipment is purchased. The metal shop building is completely paid off as well as the furnishings and electrical set up for the MRTC.

But there are needs. One of our main needs is people. We need trainers in auto mechanics, woodworking, and using computers. Once Matthias is back on the field, he will coordinate the set up of these new areas of vocational training. Short-term workers are welcome but are limited in what they can accomplish unless they know French. We are praying for long-term workers who can follow through on training both in the vocations *and* in discipleship for the apprentices. If you have an interest in this vital ministry, pray that God would send people.

In addition to the personnel needs, we still need capital set-up funds for the computer training, auto mechanics, and the woodworking shop. A place is already reserved for the auto mechanics and a floor is already poured and some basic tools are being purchased. Now we need to construct a hangar. Computer training will happen in the MRTC building and equipment is the need. The woodworking shop will be starting from scratch. Pray that God would lay it on the hearts of many to give to these needs that the African churches in Chad may truly be indigenous.

You already receive many requests for donations. Yet, we have found this a worthy cause and hope you will too. We believe your mission dollars invested in LIAI will bring lasting results of stronger churches able to reach out to their world for Christ.

May the Lord bless your Christmas season as you remember his many provisions in Christ and for daily life, and as you share time with family. He is surely the object of our worship and praise.

Yours in His work,



Dr. Tom Stallter, President  
Love in Action International, Inc.  
Chairman, Dept. of Intercultural Studies and World Mission  
Grace Theological Seminary