



**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.*

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### Conference Edition

This issue was published a couple of months early in order to be available at the Equip '07 Conference. This Grace Brethren Conference will be held in Winona Lake, IN at the end of July. Several individuals will be leading classes and courses on a variety of leadership and ministry topics.

# “Love Notes”

Volume 7, Issue 2

July 2007

## Sewing Center Graduates One Student



*Esther Kaltouma, recent graduate of the Sewing Center*

The Sewing center graduated one student in May. Her name is Esther Kaltouma and she is 22 years old. She heard the Gospel through Baptist workers, who used to gather the village children and tell them Bible stories. At about

age ten, she believed in Jesus as her personal Savior, started attending church and was baptized in 1999. In 2004, Samuel Daje and a group of evangelists went to her village where she first

heard of the Grace Brethren Fellowship. Later on, another Grace Brethren evangelist came to her village and told her about the Sewing Center and advised her to apply. She faced difficulties when she moved to the city

to enter the Sewing Center apprenticeship and almost decided to return home. Elie, the director of the Sewing Center, encouraged her to stay and persevere, despite the difficulties. She decided to follow his advice and continued on as an excellent student. Elie commented that “she is always respectful, understand the directions, and receives correction gladly. She has good relations with the new students as well.”

She plans to return to her village and start a sewing business as well as teach other young people how to sew. She also

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## Report from Metal Fabrication Graduates

As you may remember, the Metal Fabrication Shop graduated its first five apprentices a year ago. Reports from the graduates are very encouraging. Matthais Ezel recently reported that one graduate will be getting married in early July. He showed a genuine desire to go about this relationship as well as his studies in a way that would honor God. He is an elder in the local church and has helped with a lot of mission work projects. Another graduate is working as an apprentice in one of the best shops in town that does advanced

work like stainless steel or aluminum welding.

The current students are presently working various jobs until the Ezels are able to return to Chad and begin classes again. Taba has completed the first year of classes and is working as an apprentice in a small shop where he does car body work among other jobs. His boss is very pleased with his work and would like to continue to employ him, although Taba is excited to get back to his studies and to complete the program. 🙌

## Growing Churches

Written by Tom Stallter, President of LIAI



### LIAI Expanding

As mentioned in past communications, LIAI is excited to begin planning new apprentice centers in Woodworking, Auto Mechanics, and Computer Training. Because of the generous giving of so many, the Woodworking fund now has the initial start-up funds to begin training apprentices. Please pray for the leadership, training and logistical details to come together to make this a reality.

GBIM and LIAI have been involved in discussion of working together to set-up the Computer Training in the Mike Retterer Training Center.

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Love in Action is all about helping Christians grow churches in the Republic of Chad.

We want the African church to be indigenous. We helped to plant it, now we expect it to grow, develop and reach out to others in its cultural context. However, there are roadblocks to reaching this goal that are different in Africa than in other countries. A main reason is poverty from unemployment in urban centers. We must seek ways to empower churches for development and ministry in the poverty of urban Africa. We need to facilitate vocational training and employment for Christians. This employment of church members is essential to indigenous ministry survival for them just as it is for us in the U.S.

Indigenous ministry must be self supporting. LIAI is involved in contextualized Enterprise for Vocational Development (EVD) among committed Christians which is aimed at this goal. This means vocational training and employment for African Christians through viable businesses.


Every EVD must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- High demand/volume product
- High demand skills
- Outsider skills in demand
- Rare product with fixed niche
- Felt need satisfaction
- Quality niche
- Outside market availability

The necessary elements of vocational training for the African Church:

- A vision for enabling the national church and their participation in it.
- Market potential for the training business (seven criteria)
- Finding African experts or outsiders with expertise for training nationals
- African structure and resources for the venture
- Respected, influential Africans committed to the venture who can give cultural advice
- Apprentices with an authentic faith and an aptitude for the training and African businesses.

The EVD approach leads to vibrant self-sustaining churches in Africa.

Love in Action International is all about using business for church development in Africa among the poor. God takes poverty seriously and so should we (Proverbs 21:13; 28:27). He is especially concerned about poverty among his people, “God is not unjust, he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them”. (Hebrews 6:10) 

Sewing Center continued . . .

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would like to teach children in Sunday School in her local church. Please pray for this young lady as she continues forward with her skill and seeks to be an example and leader to others in her village.

LIAI recently sent some money to Chad for the purchase of sewing machines as three of them no longer worked and were not able to find the parts to repair them. The Sewing Center was also able to purchase “zig-zag”

sewing machine which will enable them to sew on buttons and other unique work. Currently they have had to go to the market and pay to have this done. 🦋



LIAI Expanding cont.

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The Auto Mechanics fund is still in need of \$3,000 to fund the start-up costs of this ministry.

The Mike Retterer Training Center fund is need of \$2,700 to set-up Computer training.

Please pray for trainers with expertise in these areas to become available and for the details and funds to come together quickly so that we can begin ministering in this way.

Mike Retterer Training Center Opens Library

Written by Diana Davis, GBIM missionary serving in Chad



abstain from sexual relations until marriage. The group used to meet at the local church, but is very happy for the privilege of meeting in the center which is equipped with chairs, tables, DVD and video players, as well as lights and fans.

In April the MRTC hosted a seminar, training twenty pastors in the use of the new Sunday School manual

which will soon be used by the Sunday Schools in our Brethren churches in Chad.

The Mike Retterer Training Center officially opened its library on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The library will be used by the young people in the Grace Brethren churches. Presently, it is opened two afternoons a week for young people to come and read, listen to music, and even play games if they are interested. Different missionaries are taking turns being available for the young people when they come.

The MRTC is also used weekly for classes for girls learning to use the “Bible storying method” of teaching the Bible. Every other Friday the center hosts the True Love Waits club of the local church. This is a group of young people who have expressed a desire to remain sexually pure, and to

The missionaries are grateful to have such a facility to meet with and disciple believers. 🦋



## Responding to Poverty

Written by Stuart Hake, Chief Financial Officer of Grace Brethren International Missions



Clip Art by <http://clip-art.kaboose.com>

“Over one billion people in the world today live on one dollar a day . . . while another one and a half billion people have to make ends meet on less than two dollars a day.”

What you see above is the daily budget for over one billion people in the world today. That’s \$365 per year to pay for everything—food, shelter, clothing, transportation as well as for all of the other things that we consider so important like entertainment, education etc. Many in the United States would say that it is not possible to live on one dollar a day, every day. Occasionally light is shown on the plight of the desperately poor in the world. A recent TIME magazine article [[Time Magazine](#); June 11, 2007] highlighting the weekly food expenditures of families around the world showed the shocking economic disparity that exists in the world today [A family in Chad was shown to spend \$1.23 for their weekly food while a German family has a \$500 food allowance].

Most Christians are shocked when they hear that in addition to the billion people living on a dollar a day, one and a half billion people have to make ends meet on less than two dollars a day. This means that almost half of the population of the world struggles just to survive. In addition to food insecurity, these, the very poor, are waging a war against debilitating illness such as tuberculosis, malaria and HIV/AIDS. It goes without saying that without adequate daily calories, physical and mental growth is stunted.

All of this was brought home to me last year in a very real way when I spent several weeks traveling in the Philippines. A good portion of my time was spent visiting residents in

the poorer barangay or communities in and around the capital of the Philippines, Manila. The income disparity in this huge city is astounding as there are modern high rise buildings and shopping malls adjacent to desperately poor squatter communities.

While I saw numerous cases of food insecurity in Manila, I also encountered many people who were hopeful despite their poverty. I was especially heartened to observe the response of a number of Filipino believers as they are engaged in effective poverty alleviation programs. These programs integrate the verbal proclamation of the Gospel with effective (without creating dependency) means to help the poor make a living. Using the proven technique of lending small amounts (\$20-200) of money to establish micro-enterprises, these programs have helped thousands of people lift themselves out of the most desperate aspects of poverty.

If we get over the shock (especially considering the amount of money that we spend on coffee, miscellaneous junk, etc – we are all over-consumers) and guilt, a number of questions come to mind including “Could I live on \$1 a day – everyday?” and “What are we supposed to do in the face of such massive need?” As Christians (and rich in this world goods compared to

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Filipinos creating bracelets for “Woven Joy” a micro-enterprise project in the Philippines that provides income for the poor.

## Responding to Poverty Cont.

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much of the world), what should be our attitude and actions?

In our age of both affluence and poverty, it is my (as well as a number of other observers') opinion that most Christians in the west follow their societies' materialistic worldview rather than a biblical approach. That is to say, they are focusing on their own needs and wants and turning away from the painful realities (i.e. poverty and injustice) in the world around them.

God has much to say about the subject of poverty and the poor in his book but it seems that most Christians are either not aware of God's mind on the subject or choose not to recognize his direction.

Throughout the Bible, in literally hundreds of places (usually associated with the poor are widows, orphans and foreigners), God tells us what he thinks about the poor. It is amazing to see how, especially at critical points in history, God intervenes to free the poor and oppressed. Beginning with the departure of his people from Egypt (Deuteronomy 5:6 and 26:5-8) to the captivity of Israel (Amos 5:11) to the times of the prophets (Jeremiah 5:26-29) we see God at work on behalf of the poor. It is not surprising then when God revealed himself most completely in the incarnation of his Son that he also reveals his heart concerning the poor. When he came back to his home town in Nazareth, our Lord read from the prophet Isaiah:


“The Spirit of the Lord is on me because He has anointed me to preach good news *to the poor*. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and the recovery



*A typical street scene in Manila, Philippines*

sight to the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

As he handed the scroll back to the attendant, he pointed out that the Scripture had been fulfilled with his coming (Luke 4:16-20). Our Lord shook up the religious status quo by picking out one group, the poor, as the recipient of much of his attention.

The Holy Spirit is clearly moving in the hearts of many believers today as they realize that they have been heavily influenced if not outright deceived into adopting the materialistic values of this world. They are realizing also that they are an influential minority in the world and that the Bible has much to say about how they can live in the face of massive suffering. They are not turning their eyes from the awful realities around them but instead are adopting a true biblical worldview. This is evident in the increased participation in creative programs such as church-based micro-loan programs, water purification projects, as well as participating in relief programs anti-slavery campaigns, HIV/AIDS programs, etc. These awakened believers are both spreading the good news of the Gospel as well as doing good in the world, just like their Lord. 



*Stuart Hake,  
CFO of GBIM*



“Our Lord shook up the religious status quo by picking out one group, the poor, as the recipient of much of his attention.”



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### Urgent Projects & Needs

*Prayerfully consider these projects as our urgent needs.*

**Auto Mechanics Shop**—\$3,000 for start-up funds for a business that will train apprentices.

**Mike Retterer Training Center**—\$2,700 for Computer Training set-up.

Another need???

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](mailto:vcrumbley@loveinactioninternational.org).

*Visit LIAI's website at [www.loveinactioninternational.org](http://www.loveinactioninternational.org)*

### Donations & Newsletter Signup

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

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