



**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:

Training Center	1
Metal Fabrication Shop	2
Prayer Requests	2-3
LIAI Goes Electronic	3
Life in Chad	3
Newsletter & Giving Info	4

### Love In Action Featured

LIAI will be featured in the Evangelical Missiological Society Series Number 14. This annual publication will be distributed later this year. The focus of the publication is Business as Mission and LIAI will be featured as an example of vocational and ministry training.

Look for info in the next newsletter on how to obtain a copy of this publication.

# “Love Notes”

Volume 6, Issue 1

April 2006

## Mike Retterer Training Center to be Dedicated



*Written by Tom Stallter, President of LIAI*

primarily to help this LIAI project by providing with the vocational training in biblical and ministry training of church members, the MRTC will also provide the place for higher level ministry training.

Plans are being made for the dedication of the MRTC in September. The dedication is very important in the eyes of the community and its leaders. A large celebration will take place and Love in Action team members will be present to share this event with missionaries and nationals.

Vocational and ministry training for the African church are both necessary if the churches and their ministries of our missionary efforts are to be truly indigenous, self-sustaining endeavors in Central Africa. Without adequate resources on its own soil the church in Africa will limp along in dependency on outside help. Though LIAI exists

Much of the training of Africans in vocational and ministry skills is a hands-on and in-context endeavor while trainees are fully immersed in the activity. But training in a formal setting is also an important part of the effort. The MRTC is a place where outsiders will come to train African Christians in high demand vocational skills, business principles, and Bible and ministry skills. These may be other Africans who are specialists or expatriate specialists from the U.S. and Europe.

Grace Theological Seminary is pursuing a partnership with Grace Brethren International Missions in

were built by the Chadian construction team rather than outside, short-term building teams. This follows the LIAI principle to do everything possible to provide employment to local church members.

There are also plans to use the MRTC for word-processing of outsourced Christian literature projects from France. This will provide both employment and training in computer skills that will make individuals marketable to other areas of employment in the urban centers. 🌟



## Pray for our Missionaries

A missionary in Chad recently shared a prayer that she had written, describing the challenges of life & ministry. Perhaps it could help us to pray more specifically for our co-laborers in Chad.

“Open the eyes of my heart Lord, to see You in Your Word. Help me each day to spend time in Your presence, before You and listening to You. (Ps. 119:18)

May I see the ways You want to use me in my daily life, and not just see my to-do list. (Ps 90:18)

Open my mouth, not to complain of dust or rain, but to declare Your faithfulness and blessings in praise and worship. May I encourage others, not criticizing them, but pointing out their qualities; the gifts and skills You have given to them. (Eph. 4:29)

Give me wisdom to master the languages and understanding of the cultures. To accept and love them as Your special creation. (I Cor 9:22)

Take away my prejudices, fears, and doubts . . . And help me to stretch out my hands to touch feverish children, wet babies and shake little dusty hands, so that your love for them will be portrayed.”



## Metal Fab Shop



The original five students at the Metal Fabrication shop are in their second and final year of training. These students have progressed well and have learned much vocationally and spiritually. They have fabricated some typical items used in Chad such as ox-carts (shown in picture), hand-carts, peanut shellers, doors, windows, and shutters. They are studying mainly in the New Testament with a focus on missions, Bible study methods and becoming a mature Christian.

Please pray for these students as they finish up their courses. Pray also for a planned outreach for this group. Pray for the opportunity to place these students as interns in other existing workshops in Moundou. This is somewhat difficult since there is much demand from all over the country. Please also pray for official recognition of the diploma they are hoping to issue. This would increase the students' chances of finding employment at larger corporations or NGOs.

In October, the Metal Fabrication Shop accepted five more students. Again, these students come from various parts of the country, each with a different history and personality but all have shown enthusiasm to learn and work. One student came from the area

where the students did their outreach last year. They are doing well learning the basics of metal working and some welding.

The students are also involved in Bible lessons to provide a firm foundation in their faith—an overall understanding of who God is and who we are as His creation, and how we can live a Christian life that is pleasing to Him. The students appreciate the lessons very much as the churches in Chad have very little systematic teaching with the result that ideas about

God and salvation are heavily influenced by traditional thinking. Several students admitted they haven't studied the Bible much because it was too hard to understand. The Bible lessons are aimed at teaching practical truth always measured against the values of the surrounding culture. This results in meaningful conversations about how these truths apply to life in Chad.

Currently Matthias Ezel is helping with the training of the second year students while a Chadian pastor is teaching the first year students in Bible. Because Matthias is not as involved in the teaching of the first year students, he has found it harder to get to know them making it more difficult to disciple them. Please pray for someone who can help more with the technical training so that Matthias will be free to take part if the Biblical training of both classes.



## LIAI goes Electronic

LIAI is excited to announce that in an effort to keep you updated on the exciting projects and ministries in Chad, it will be providing a quarterly newsletter via email to all who are interested.

These newsletters will contain short updates and focus on a few projects and ministries of LIAI.



We are currently working on building our email contact list and would like to include your address. Please send your email address to [vcrumbley@loveinactioninternational.org](mailto:vcrumbley@loveinactioninternational.org) or include it in a mailing to Love in Action International, Inc., P.O. Box 805, Winona Lake, IN 46590.

The first electronic newsletter will be sent in May 2006. 🦋

## Life in Chad

*A look at the culture in order to understand and better pray for the people and missionaries of Chad.*



We are on day four of having no water. Actually I shouldn't say day four because yesterday we did have the occasional drizzle which, if you took time to collect, could result in a full water filter by, say the end of an afternoon. And today the drizzle is at least constant. But I don't say this to complain. Far from it. In fact, the other day, day two of bone dry taps, I came very close to complaining and then I looked up over my wall to the courtyard connecting our property and saw the buckets. A huge line of buckets across the courtyard and out the gate. I could see them over the wall because they were being bal-

anced on the heads of so many Chadian men, women and kids (mostly women) lined up outside at the well behind our wall, waiting to pay one franc for each liter of water they could pump out and carry home. That was pretty humbling and I'll tell you, it certainly squelched any desire to complain.

Sometimes the little inconveniences of life get to me, like when they turn the power off for three days without warning and your fridge is warm and you and the kids are warm. What always helps to get my perspective back is to look outside at all the little shacks along the road where people are sitting in the dirt trying to eak out a living by selling you cigarettes—one at a time—or matches or bread covered by the dust of every truck driving past. The physical obstacles that these people are up against every day are phenomenal.

And yet that isn't what makes me feel so thankful when I look at them and compare. It isn't because no one ever told them that they weren't supposed to sit in the dirt like my Mom did when I was little. What gets me is their faces: some have beautiful smiles, some mock you, and some just stare but one thing you never see is hope. And that is when I have to feel pretty thankful for the hope I have and yet daunted and discouraged at my inability to give it to them.

So if you want to pray for us, you can pray for that. Don't worry about the power outages, the water cuts, the heat . . . Pray that we can reach the people carrying the buckets, the people sitting in the dirt, the people selling the cigarettes one at a time. And you can pray that we can keep our focus on the God who loves and made each one of them. 🦋

*Written by Melina Ezel*



## Current Events & Prayer Requests

Chad is an unstable country in the world today. Below are several events affecting Chad which present opportunities for us to pray for fellow believers in Chad, that they would have a calm atmosphere in which to carry on with ministry and discipleship.

⇒ The political situation remains very unstable with frequent skirmishes and attempts by the rebels to overthrow the existing government. Elections should take place in May.

⇒ Chad became an oil-producing country a couple of years ago which resulted in the poor Chadians being worse off than before as prices for food and other necessities increased while only low-paying jobs, if any, were offered to them.

⇒ Ann Curry of NBC recently highlighted Chad as being one of the most dangerous places in the world because of the fighting and ethnic cleansing happening in Sudan. This is now spreading over Sudan's border into Chad, causing tensions to rise.

⇒ Pray for the Ezels & Puhls—for protection and wisdom in their ministries. 🦋

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### Urgent Projects & Needs

*Prayerfully consider these projects as our urgent needs.*

**Mike Retterer Training Center**—\$5,000 for LIAI member travel and dedication ceremony expenses.

**Metal Fabrication Shop**—\$4,000 to complete building & equipment needs.

**Jesus Film Project**—\$2,500 for purchase of rugged video projector for showing the films in the bush

**General Operations Fund**—\$1,500 For administrative and logistics costs.

**Apprentice Fund**—\$1,200 to provide encouragement to apprentices during their 2-3 year commitment

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).

### 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 ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Frank & Karin Puhl Fund ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

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