



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

An independent and voluntary organization of Grace Brethren people working in concert to both fulfill the Great Commission and to meet the needs of our brethren around the world.

Inside this issue:

- Progress on Mike Retterer Training Center **2**
- Challenges in Chad **2**
- Beginning of a Metal Fabrication Shop **3**
- Sewing Center Update **3**
- Newsletter Information **4**

“Love Notes”

Volume 3, Issue 1

December 2003

Teammates in Chad

Update on our workers in the Chad



Frank and Karin Puhl, from Leonberg Germany, have been in Chad for eleven years. They have four children Michael (15), Ann-Christien (13), Luc Pierre (10), and Jana (2).

The children are being home schooled by Karin Puhl and Beate Schlecht, a short-term missionary who came to help teach the children. Beate has

been working with the Puhls since August of 2001.

Karin is involved in discipling and teaching young girls and women about the Bible as well as helping in the office.

Frank is currently involved in field and team leadership as well as coordinating and teaching in the summer school for evangelism.

This year brought many teammates to the Puhls, who have been working in Chad alone for several years. The Ezels (see below article) arrived in April to serve with the Puhls

as full-time missionaries. In addition, short-term missionary Bob Steiger joined the team to help with mechanical needs of the ministry. GBIM missionaries Diana Davis and Heidi Sisson have been working in Moundou since their evacuation from the C.A.R. Karina Corrales, from Argentina, is currently raising support to come to Chad and hopes to be there by March. Please pray for Karina Corrales as she raises her support.

Frank and Karin have been very valuable and are being used of God in powerful ways in Chad.



The Ezels (Matthias, Melina, Charis, and Micah) arrived in Moundou, Chad in April 2003. They are from Leonberg, Germany and have a desire to serve in Chad along with Frank and Karin Puhl.

The Ezels have adjusted well to life in Chad. However, recently Matthias has been battling malaria, a typical challenge to those in Chad. Fortunately, he has been able to find some treatment for his illness and has returned to work.

Matthias is overseeing the building of a duplex for the mission. This project is giving Matthias good experience in working with and learning the Chadian culture. He has learned to work with the means and materials that are available and learned a great deal of French technical vocabulary. As a result, he feels more ready to begin teaching.

Please pray for continued adjustment for the Ezels. Pray that Matthias will continue to



find relief from malaria. Please pray for the development of the duplex and training center and pray for wisdom for Matthias as he makes decisions concerning these projects.





Introducing . . .

LIAI has a new Public Relations Coordinator. Valerie Crumbley will be involved in LIAI by producing “Love Notes”. Valerie comes to us from Grace Brethren International Missions, where she has worked as an administrative assistant for the past six years. In August, she and her husband, Dennis, had their first child, Lauren Anne. She is continuing at GBIM on a part-time basis and is excited about the opportunity to be involved in Love In Action International. Please feel free to contact Valerie with questions you may have about newsletter articles or general questions regarding the ministry in Chad. You may reach her at home (574) 269-4513 or by email at vcrumbley@gbim.org. 🌿



Progress of The Mike Retterer Training Center



The Mike Retterer Training Center (MRTC) is nearly finished!! Karin Puhl is currently using it to teach the Bible to teenagers and young ladies. She plans to teach a block course at the Center after Christmas.

Please pray that these courses will be well attended and well received.

This center is and will be a valuable tool to help train Chadians in Biblical and ministry training, leadership training (GBIM's Strategic Alliance Leadership Training program), as well as specialized vocational training.

There are a few items left to be completed at the MRTC, in-

cluding the installation of electricity and landscaping. Landscaping provides better accessibility to the building, especially during rainy season.

This project needs approximately \$5,000 in order to be completed.

Please pray for the completion of this project as well as the impact the meetings in this facility will have on the Chadian people. 🌿

Challenges in Chad

Remember when Jed Clampett was shooting for food and discovered oil on his property? He became a millionaire, moved to Beverly Hills, and more or less lived happily ever after.

Real life does not work this way. Chad became an oil-producing country in October when an 1100 kilometer pipeline was completed to transport crude oil through Cameroon to the sea. When oil was discovered in Chad, it was assumed by many that the extremely poor Chadians would benefit through the creation of jobs and the boosting of the economy.

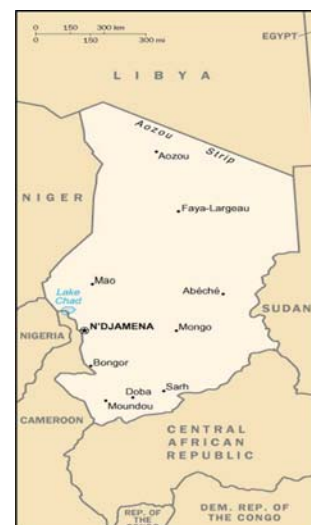
However, the oil companies hired Chadians primarily into low-paying positions, such as security guards. The merchants who owned shops and busi-

nesses near the pipeline raised prices in anticipation of the increased income of the oil company workers. As a result, the poor Chadians are in a worse economic situation than before the pipeline was built – prices for food and other necessities are higher while they have low-paying jobs or no jobs at all.

How poor are the people in Chad? The per capita annual income is less than \$755. The food supply in Chad generally provides less than 80% of an individual's daily caloric need. Thus, the Chadians are challenged from two directions - no money to buy food, and no food to buy even if they had money.

The current situation in Chad is challenging, but challenges also create opportunities for ministry. Love In Action is committed

to creating training and employment opportunities for our Grace Brethren people in Chad through ministries such as the sewing center and the future metal-working shop. These types of ministries will enable our Chadian churches to become more self-sufficient. 🌿



The Beginning of the Metal Fabrication Shop

We are excited about the beginning of the Metal Fabrication Shop. The primary function of this shop will be to train Chadians in a vocation in which they will be provided with skill and information to start their own businesses. In addition, it will be part of a discipleship program that enables young Chadians to mature spiritually and to develop a vision for their life in a fast changing world.

The Chadian coworker who owns the property where the shop will be located has graciously offered to build and fund the hangar and other facilities that are planned. However,

it will be the responsibility of Matthias and Frank to provide the buildings with the necessary equipment in order to make them functional and useful.

Although Matthias is planning to begin setting up the Metal Shop shortly, the project has not received enough funding yet. It is estimated to cost \$3,000 to furnish the shop with a minimum amount of equipment.

In addition, Matthias hopes to obtain a generator that would make them independent from the very unreliable electricity source in Chad. The cost of the generator for the size and qual-

ity needed is approximately \$2,500.

This project will involve the work of many people. Please pray for the funding of this shop as well as the beginning construction details. Please pray that this shop will be used of God to provide men with a knowledge of an important skill as well as a love of Jesus. 🙏



Matthias standing in front of the container that will be used for storage of tools and equipment for the Shop.

Sewing Center Update



The Sewing Center team of workers.

The creation of employment for African people has been at the heart of LIAI from the beginning. People in rural settings need more to support their families than their meager gardens often supply. And as Africans move to urban centers for various reasons, they are often

without employment opportunities. It is hard for the middle-class U.S. American to understand the hardship this presents. Money for food, medicines, clothes, and children's school supplies and fees all become serious needs. With additional skills for self-support and employment these needs can be met by the people themselves. This is the goal behind the sewing center and there are many happy results that can be counted.

This indigenous business and 2-year apprenticeship program is

designed to equip and train Grace Brethren people in Chad to sew. The ultimate goal is to help provide employment in urban and rural settings.

In May, four people will be graduating from this program. We praise God for this exciting news! 🙏

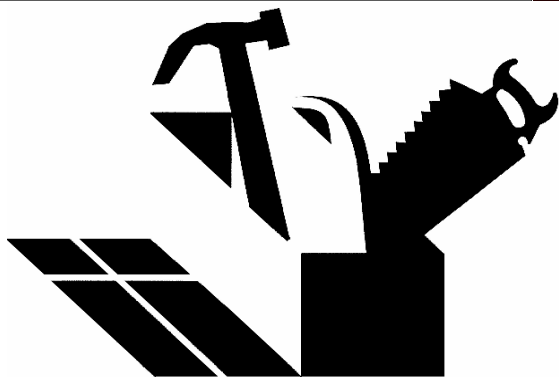


The Sewing Center Class working on the veranda at the Sewing Center.



“The creation of employment for African people has been at the heart of LIAI from the beginning. Two ministries in Chad that will provide this are the Sewing Center and the Metal Fabrication Shop”





Love In Action International

A Hands on Ministry to the Lord of Doing, Going, and Giving.

LOVE IN ACTION INTERNATIONAL, INC.
 P.O. BOX 805
 WINONA LAKE, IN 46590

Donations & Newsletter Signup

Make checks payable to: *Love In Action International*

- General Fund.....\$ _____
- Jesus Film & Video Fund.....\$ _____
- Sewing Center Fund-Chad.....\$ _____
- Mike Retterer Training Center—Chad....\$ _____
- Metal Fabrication Shop—Chad.....\$ _____
- Frank & Karin Puhl Fund—Chad.....\$ _____

Sign up for newsletter below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Grace Brethren People involved in a hands-on ministry to the Lord of:

Director	<i>Dr. Tom Stallter</i>
CFO	<i>Pastor Charles Lawson</i>
Advisory Committee	<i>Larry DeArmey Roy Glass Frank Puhl Karen Retterer Greg Weimer</i>
Public Relations	<i>Valerie Crumbley For more info contact Valerie at (574)269-4513 or vcrumbley@gbim.org</i>