

December 2006

Dear Friends,

At the end of each year, I like to send a personal letter instead of the regular newsletter to you who have an interest in sharing the Gospel with everyone, including Africans. I know that you care about those who come to Christ and their on-going growth in Christ and ability to serve him. Love in Action is a ministry that seeks to mobilize your concern for those brothers and sisters in Christ in the country of Chad in Central Africa.

I have been encouraging U.S. Grace Brethren to remain involved with the believers in Chad in helping them find ways of providing for their own needs since I left there in 1997. It was out of frustration over relief distribution projects and their inability to solve the problems they sought to alleviate that Love in Action International was born.

To be right up front with you, we are looking for people who want to be a part of the action; people who want to have a part in the projects and remain



involved with the believers in Chad in helping them find ways of providing for their own needs and ministries.

As we read in 1 Thessalonians 3:11-12, a person's spiritual dignity and commitment to God that are attached to working hard and being self-supporting. Being dependent on outsiders and living on handouts does not win respect for the Gospel or self-respect for the individual. Food, medicine, housing, costs for children's schooling, and even clothes are common needs. Yet Chadian Christians go without unless they can get training and find work.

Love in Action International wants to see projects created that would provide opportunities for our Grace Brethren believers to support themselves and their churches through training in vocational skills. Existing training ministries include the metal fabrication shop, the sewing center, the construction team, the Mike Retterer Training Center for vocational and ministry training, and support for the "Jesus" film ministry.



Lord willing, in 2007 we hope to start projects in woodworking, computer training, and auto mechanics to train African brothers in these vocations. We are praying for skilled people who can go to Chad to help this happen as well as the means that will be necessary.

There are many worthy projects to help with around the world, but we hope you will see the practical potential of Love in Action. LIAI is for those who want to spend their efforts for the wellbeing and day-to-day survival of those we have won to Christ in Africa. Not to help them, but to help them help themselves and to help them support their own church ministries.



It is obvious that ministries like Love in Action operate on gifts and support from churches and friends. We are asking you to consider what part you might play in this ministry to poor Christians. How can you help us with our 2007 goals? I have included a response card with this letter that you can use to return with your gift or support. I hope this saves you time in writing a note to delineate how you want to be involved.

We are not much acquainted with suffering in America and perhaps think of it least at this time of year. As we approach the Christmas season, please consider how God may want you to participate in the lives of brothers and sisters half a world away, sometimes in desperate situations. Love in Action will not be giving any money to African individuals except by way of encouragement to the apprentices who work full time with little pay if you designate your gift for that. All gifts for projects will be used toward the mechanics and capital of providing training for self-sustaining occupations for Africans. As of this year, there is now a 10% cost for logistics and administration that comes out of every gift.



Thank you for taking the time to listen. If you made it this far in the letter it is an investment on your part already. Our web site is under renovation, but visit it to see more details as they become available: www.loveinactioninternational.org. Recent and back issues of the "Love Notes" newsletter as well as a list of people on the Advisory Board of LIAI, Inc. are available there.

May God bless you as you celebrate the birth of our Savior this month. It is because of Him that we get involved in getting the message out and caring for His people.

Yours in His great work,

Dr. Tom Stallter, President
Love in Action, International, Inc.

Professor of Intercultural Studies and World Mission
Grace College and Grace Theological Seminary

P.S. The blue insert lists our project goals for your prayer times concerning helping Christians get training for vocations. I am praying that many will return the response card with a gift or plan for giving to help this happen among their brothers and sisters in Africa. Of special need this year are the three new projects in woodworking, computer training, and auto mechanics.