



**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.*

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**LIAI's Website**

**Love In Action International has a new website!**  
Check out [www.loveinactioninternational.org](http://www.loveinactioninternational.org) for information regarding LIAI's ministry in Chad.  
Thanks to John Sullivan for making this dream a reality!

# “Love Notes”

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## Life in Chad . . .

*A look at the daily challenges that face those who live in Chad. . . . . Written by Melina Ezel*

With almost no tourism and not much happening on the worldwide scale it stands to reason that most people don't know much about Chad. Located in central north Africa, it is home to 181 different ethnic groups, a fact which has contributed much to its rather volatile history and numerous civil wars. Its lack of infrastructure and a scanty supply of natural resources have left it one of the poorest countries in Africa with little hope for progress.

Living as a westerner in a third world country like Chad means learning to live without a lot of the conveniences we are used to at home. Some days we may have running water and electricity, most days we don't.

However, our life here is still



luxurious in comparison to that of the average Chadian. In a large town like Moundou, many men are entrepreneurs, running small businesses or working for those who do.

However, this vocation does fall mainly to the Arab population leaving many southerners with no occupation and insufficient means to provide for the host of relatives back in the village who so often are also reliant upon those living in town. This leaves many men with little more than a lot of free time on their hands to spend chatting and drinking. Nevertheless it is the man who is considered the most valuable member of society since it is he who will propitiate the family name.

The brunt of the manual labor and responsibility to provide falls to the Chadian woman and it is she who is the



real backbone of the society. Up at the crack of dawn, it is her hard work pounding grain, working in the fields, selling produce at the market, hauling water and fire wood, and cooking that not only keeps her family fed and clothed but keeps the very wheels of a society such as this one turning. Her position of high responsibility does not however assure her great personal value in this culture. On the contrary, the value of a Chadian woman is based entirely upon her ability to marry and have children. The situation in the small villages is a little better according to our standards since there survival demands that the men also help

*(Continued on page 2)*



## Facts about Chad

- 181 different ethnic groups
- 127 different languages
- 2 trade languages: French and Arabic
- 15% literacy rate (one of the world's lowest)
- 55% Muslim, 27% Christian, 16% Tribal
- Only 29.5 missionaries presently working in Chad
- Population of approx. 7,651,000
- Approx. twice the size of Texas



## Making a difference

*Meet Roland . . . a young man who will be trained by the Metal Fabrication Shop*



Roland is one of the many young people living in Chad. He is currently in his last year of school in the lycée (equivalent to American high school) and would love to further his studies at the university. Unfortunately, Roland does not have the connections nor the money to be able to get into the university. Although, young Chadians have the hope of a better life than the one their

parents are living, they do not have many opportunities to learn professions in Moundou.

Last summer, Roland took a short internship with Matthias Ezel, helping with many different things. He now hopes to find a future for his life by getting training in the metal shop. Matthias plans to start training young men this summer.

Praise the Lord for the overwhelming response LIAI received in funds to help with the Metal Fabrication Shop. Be-

cause of your generosity, the generator that was needed to make the shop independent from the very unreliable electricity source was purchased and installed. In addition, the shop is progressing in its set-up and is currently being equipped with the necessary materials and equipment.

Please pray for Matthias and the important ministry of the Metal Fabrication Shop. Pray as it finishes completion and begins to train young men this summer .



## Life in Chad continued . . .

*(Continued from page 1)*

in the fields in order to coax even the most meagre of crops from the earth. This hand-to-mouth subsistence is a way of life for the vast majority of the Chadian population.

The family structure of the Chadian is quite different to our own. In this society there is no such thing as distant relatives; every one is immediate family. All are called brothers and sisters although this may refer to what we would call cousins, aunts, uncles and other even more distantly removed relatives. With the bonds of family come a great deal of responsibility. When a family member is in need he can always turn to another member of the family and

find help. In fact, it is forbidden that the other family member turn him down no matter how dire his own situation may be. To refuse a relative anything would bring great shame upon himself and his family. This accounts also for their propensity to spend any and all of their money as soon as it is earned with no thought for those needs that may arise in the future. The Chadian has in fact no other choice but to spend whatever he earns as quickly as possible. If he should attempt to save any money, inevitably the family will find out and ask him for it and he will be obligated to give it to them. To say no is not an option. The same goes for any-

one who may have the fortune to build up a business for himself. When a relative comes needing something on credit the owner can not refuse him. Taking into account the fact that he has so many relatives with so many needs and no means of paying, it is only a matter of time before he is bankrupt and back to square one. Such a system is difficult for the western mind to fathom and yet it is par for the course in so many third world cultures. Unfortunately, the inevitable result is that which we see around us; a crippled society where it is almost impossible for any one to get ahead or improve himself.



## The Ministry of the Jesus Film



Frank and Karin Puhl have been using the Jesus Film, both in French and Arabic for many years. Recently the Puhls were able to obtain a copy of the film in Tchad Arabic.

The film is traditionally shown at Christmas time in their local church and usually hundreds turn out to see it, including many non-believers. The film has proved to be a great tool in which workers can introduce the truths of Christ to hearts which are sof-

tened by the powerful message of the film. Many questions are discussed after each film.

LIAI participates in funding copies of the Jesus film to be shown in Chad as well as around the United States. During the writing of this article, we received word that there currently are no projectors that are working to show the Jesus Film—one broke down and the spare projector was flooded in it's storage container. LIAI is seeking to raise funds to replace these projectors with a video media projector, estimated cost of \$2,000.



## The Apprentice Fund

The sewing center enrolls students in its program for two years. These students come to the center eight hours a day, every day and do not receive any pay for their learning. LIAI has given gifts through the Apprentice Fund so that the students may receive monies on a quarterly basis to provide a small help in order to purchase food, medicines, and/or clothes for their families. Although it is not LIAI's desire to create dependency nor expectation for these funds, the gifts have been very helpful to those

who are learning a skill and following a diligent program. The money that is transferred for these students is given to Elie the teacher of the sewing center and he divides the funds as he sees appropriate.



## GBIM to host MED Summit

Micro-Enterprise Development (MED) is a huge part of LIAI's ministry in Chad. Through programs such as the Sewing Center and the Metal Fabrication Shop, LIAI seeks to train Chadian men and women in a skill that they can further use to create a living for themselves and their families. Many missions are seeking ways to help nationals through micro-enterprise development. In order to gain more information and experience in church-based economic development, GBIM is hosting it's first ever

MED Summit this summer for missionaries and businessmen interested in this ministry. Attendees of this conference will gain a Biblical and theoretical basis of MED as well as practical and real-world applications of working with the poor. Frank Puhl will be attending this important conference. Please pray for these meetings, June 1-5 in Winona Lake, Ind. and for a greater understanding of the church's part in the world today involving micro-enterprise development.



## The LIAI Team

LIAI has many individuals committed to its ministry. The following is a list of those involved behind the scenes to make the ministry of LIAI effective and functioning:

- Tom & Sharon Stallter
- Karen Retterer
- Pastor Charles Lawson
- Roy & Arlene Glass
- Dennis & Valerie Crumbley
- Greg & Nancy Weimer
- Frank & Karin Puhl
- Matthais & Melina Ezel
- Larry DeArmev
- John Sullivan





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**Love In Action  
International**  
A Division of Ministry to the Lord of Things, Living, and Learning.

## Field Report . . .



LIAI's team member Roy Glass recently went to Chad on a medical trip. One of the highlights of his trip was the time spent at Singako, one of the newest churches far from the mission

compound in Moundou. Dadge Samuel had gone there to reach the people with the Gospel. Two men helped Dadge with a flat tire and he helped them find the Lord! It was the beginning of the church at Singako. Roy and the team members were able to witness the first baptism at the church. It was also the first time for Frank and Dadge to officiate at such a service.

Dadge hopes to use the Mike Retterer Training Center to train more evangelists to the Goula tribe (currently unreached). This tribe lives 75 kilometers beyond Singako. From there Goula missionaries can reach the Arabs living on the border of Sudan. This weighs heavy on Dadge's heart. Pray that his vision will soon be fulfilled!

## Donations & Newsletter Signup

*Make checks payable to: Love In Action International*

General Fund .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Jesus Film & Video Fund.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Apprentice Fund.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sewing Center Fund .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mike Retterer Training Center .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Metal Fabrication Shop.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Frank & Karin Puhl Fund .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

### *Sign up a friend for newsletter:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions regarding newsletter articles or general questions regarding the ministry in Chad, please contact Valerie Crumbley at (574) 269-4513 or by email at [vcrumbley@loveinactioninternational.org](mailto:vcrumbley@loveinactioninternational.org).