



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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Love In Action's Website

Check out www.loveinactioninternational.org for information regarding LIAI's ministry in Chad.

“Love Notes”

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Sewing Center Graduates Excel in their Vocation



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. 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. This indigenous business and 2-year apprenticeship program is designed to equip and train Chadian Christians to sew. The ultimate goal is to help provide employment in urban and rural settings.

Report from the three students who graduated last year is very encouraging. One student, Ndoyo Simon, was able to rent a

sewing machine after his training. His work created enough income to buy his own machine and a pair of oxen, which has made farming a lot more productive and significant to support himself and his family.

Samuel Naoyom was able to rent a sewing machine as well and has already been able to acquire his own.

Naounom Clement used the income of his work to pay the dowry for his wife and they were married. This is a big accomplishment considering the adverse marriage customs in Chad. Typically the parents of the young lady put huge financial expectations on the young man as soon as he shows an interest in their daughter, which causes young couples just to live together and try to legalize their relationship later after they have children. Naounom Clement's business is doing so well that he has been able to buy a second

machine and has two apprentices working for him.

The letters received from these graduates all expressed deep appreciation to the Sewing Center and Love in Action International for their commitment and resources to help these men learn this valuable skill. Praise God for these testimonies as the Sewing Center continues to give African Christians a means to provide income and support to their families and churches.

The Sewing Center currently has four students, including a lady from the east (an area where the mission is heavily involved in church planting among the unreached). Please pray for all of the current students as they seek to gain a valuable skill. Please pray that they will stay committed to Christ and stay encouraged despite personal difficulties.

Pray for the Sewing Center needs: including a bicycle to run errands, a zigzag sewing machine, an embroidery machine, and a new building as they have outgrown their current building.





Puhls Return to Chad



Please pray for the Puhls' adjustment as they returned to Chad in August, after spending several months on Home Ministries in the United States and Germany.

We praise God for families and individuals like the Puhls who sacrifice much to minister so faithfully.



What is LIAI?

An urgent need for Christians in African urban centers is employment. Churches are weak, outreach is only local, Pastors are hard to pay and there are no funds to send students to Bible school. Families are desperate for food, clothes, and schooling costs for children. American Christians can help best by helping Africans help themselves. Love In Action International does this by creating viable businesses that are African in nature and self-supporting to provide employment and training in vocational skills.

The following are 12 guiding principles that guide the efforts of LIAI:

1. The church in the 2/3 world is crippled by poverty and Christians in the West have a responsibility to help.
2. Authentic relationships with God through Christ are foundational to successful self-help programs among poor peoples.
3. Poverty is only overcome on its own soil.
4. Poverty elimination methods must be adapted to the context.
5. Vocational training through viable business is a multiplication solution to poverty.
6. Training on all levels, from vocational skills to management, is best accomplished through apprenticeships
7. Management must be able to train apprentices for local ministry.
8. Management must feel ownership for the business.
9. Subsidies are only used for startup capital; occasional gifts are used for encouragement.
10. People in the partnerships must:
 - A. be authentic in their faith and Christian worldview,
 - B. possess the skills and aptitudes necessary,
 - C. be committed to the vision of LIAI and hard work.
11. The goal is empowerment of local churches. They are central to the vision but not owners of the businesses.
12. Local community leaders must advise the cultural aspects of the projects.

Mike Retterer Training Center



The Mike Retterer Training Center (MRTC) is 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.

This training center is in the final stages of being completed. for the remaining funds needed to complete this project.

As reported in the May issue of “Love Notes”, the passing of Mike Retterer’s mother occasioned the creation of an additional memorial fund to help with the costs needed to finish the MRTC. Due to the generous giving of those remembering Mrs. Retterer, funds were raised to help with the expenses, such as furnishings, equipment, landscaping, electrical fixtures and bathroom/water facilities. Please pray building. In Africa, it is very important to dedicate a building. The plan is for the dedication of the MRTC to take place next summer. This will include a large celebration and will require a couple of people from Love In Action International to attend. Funds are needed for travel and celebration costs. Please pray and consider giving to the expenses related to the dedication of this important building.



Metal Fabrication Shop

The Metal Fabrication Shop is achieving the goal of the mission to facilitate and assist efforts in church planting and evangelism. Many may question how a vocational training shop could accomplish this task. Along with the training of vocation skills, the Chadians are learning many more lessons. A need for discipleship is very evident in a culture where young people are so disillusioned about their future because of lack of finances for a good education, lack of jobs, lack of church role models, and traditional strong family bonds that become a means to take advantage of each other. Discipleship also has the aspect of teaching and modeling others and that is where the training becomes part of the larger mission strategy: people can only disciple others if they have been discipled themselves. In the last year, the students at the Metal Fabrication Shop have had

many meaningful discussions about life, prayed for each other and organized an outreach to enlarge the vision of teaching others—all in addition to learning the skill of welding.



There are several new applicants that would like to join this group in the Fall. Would you pray that these young men will become effective tools for His glory?



Life in Chad

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

The Ezels recently took care of a newborn baby boy whose Mother died shortly after childbirth. This experience proved to be a very cultural experience as they experienced the customs related to grief and death. As you read the following excerpts from the Ezel's letters, please pray for Julien and his family as they deal with this tragedy as well as our missionaries who seek to minister.

“This situation has been a time of great learning for us as we observe the reactions of this culture to death and the bereaved. We have quite frankly been blown away by the ungraciousness of what is here considered the cultural norm. Let me explain. In this culture, all household possessions belong to the wife. Therefore, when the wife dies, her family is entitled to help themselves to anything and everything in the home. Julien's in-laws have done this. They arrived from the village and literally cleaned him out—taking everything in his house except a few clothes belonging to him and the children. The

family is also within their rights to demand a sort of "compensation" for the death of their daughter since she died in his care so-to-speak. The in-laws in this case are demanding \$300, the equivalent of five months wages for Julien. As terrible as it sounds, this is actually the normal course of action taken by in-laws in this circumstance. What is not normal are the threats he has also received from other in-laws who have declared that, should he ever take another wife, they will put a curse on her so that she will never have children. It is difficult to fathom the reasoning behind such hatefulness especially toward someone like Julien, known for his kindness and faithfulness, and reminds us again what we are up against as we seek to bring God's truth to these people. We know that only He can make a difference and have in fact seen such cases in the past where out of a love of God and His children, family denied their rights to benefit from a death and chose instead to encourage the bereaved. Unfortunately that has not been the case this time and you can only imagine what a huge discouragement this is for Julien.”



LIAI to go Electronic

In addition to the publication of “Love Notes”, LIAI would like to keep you updated with the projects and needs in Chad electronically. It is LIAI's desire to send quarterly news via email to all who are interested.

Therefore, 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 or include it in a mailing to Love In Action International, Inc., P.O. Box 805, Winona Lake, IN 46590.

Be sure to visit our website at www.loveinactioninternational.org for additional information regarding LIAI's ministry in Chad.



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**Grace Brethren People involved in a
hands-on ministry to the Lord of:
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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.....\$ _____
- MRTC Dedication Trip\$ _____
- Metal Fabrication Shop\$ _____
- Frank & Karin Puhl Fund.....\$ _____

Email Address _____

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.