

Life Connection Mission August 10, 2007

Dear Friends, Sponsors, and Supporters of Life Connection Mission:

As many of you now know, Life Connection Mission is going through many changes. Our friend, Tim, no longer serves as president of LCM, but will continue to be involved in our ministry, but with a less active role. We have formed a new, diverse board of advisors from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and Missouri. Our goal is to assure that LCM will be managed, advised, and directed by a varied group of people with many interests so that the mission is never in danger of failing in the absence of any one of its board members.

Our goal is to provide a quality education, from preschool through high school, to produce responsible productive graduates, and to improve their lives through various ministries, headquartered in the village of Montrouis, Haiti. In addition the mission plans to create a business and technical school to help prepare students for advanced careers. In order to meet this mission, we plan to do the following:

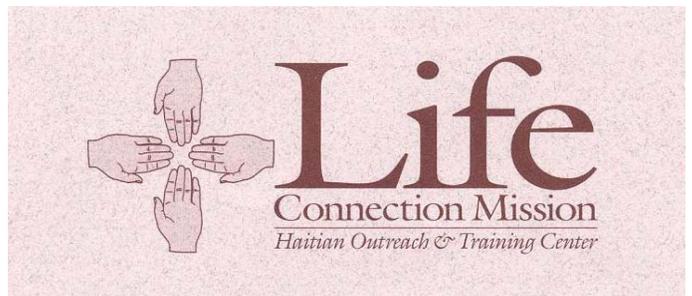
1. Administer College Education Excellence and sponsorship program for the school.
2. Provide a feeding program at the school.
3. Minister to the general needs of the community.
4. Partner with medical missions.
5. Build homes.
6. Host incoming groups that wish to visit and help with the ongoing needs of Haiti.

On our last trip to Haiti, our objective was to take steps that would assure that all sponsored children would have the best school in Montrouis. We started by reducing class size and adding teachers. We are improving the feeding program with more varied and nutritious meals. It is our goal to add a second story onto

the building this winter. We are scheduling more "on-location" time for our directors and others to insure the school and other projects run as efficiently as possible. We pledge to keep you, the sponsor, informed about your sponsored child. We will continue to host groups that are willing to come and serve in Montrouis.



We are excited about the future of LCM. We have organized our board so that it will continue and thrive for years to come. To make this happen, we need your continued support. We need you to make a commitment, as we have, to make sure the children and people of Montrouis have a greater opportunity in life. Please, rest assured that these people do love and appreciate you. Their life is not easy. We will not even try to explain the hardship that most live under. Please, help us as we serve those in Montrouis.



MEET OUR BOARD

Steve Keuhn, Chairman, Trenton, MO
Dale Moyers, Vice Chair, Germantown, MD
Leon Martin, Treasurer, Ephrata, PA
Diane Ewing, Secretary, Trenton, MO
Leslie Evidente, Stephens City, VA
Jean Lucien, Germantown, MD
Keith Will, Strasberg, VA

Steve first went to Haiti in January 1998. Following this trip, he came home and recruited his brother and sister-in-law, Dr. J. A. and Chris Keuhn to return with him. On that trip, they bought the house from Father Carl. They have been doing medical clinics and surgery ever since, and many groups have stayed in the house. Steve has always been interested in the school and has worked with Tim on other projects in the community. He is currently dividing his time between Haiti and Missouri and will be running the day-to-day operations of the school.

Look in future newsletters to get acquainted with the rest of our board members and friends.

SCHOOL NEWS: Things are getting ready for the new school year in Montrouis. Steve Keuhn, Jean Lucien, Dale Moyers, Peggy Moyers, and guest Deborah Ransmeier have just returned from Haiti. Time was spent meeting with the school director, teachers, parents, and students. The class rosters are now set for the new school year. One class has been added and students have been assigned to appropriate classes. The books for the students and the material to make the uniforms have been purchased. The material has been distributed to several people in the community who will sew the new uniforms.

Also, last week Steve drove a grueling 3½-day drive from North Missouri to Miami in a 34-foot long truck loaded with school desks, chairs, paint, clothing, and other supplies for our school

and friends in Montrouis. Other than missing his return flight by a day and being threatened by the DOT to be arrested for being way overloaded, the trip went well. Life is always a learning experience.



OTHER JULY MISSION ACTIVITIES: In addition to getting the kids ready for the new school year, Steve, Dale, Jean, Peggy, and Deborah also handed out letters, gifts, and other packages sent by sponsors to their children. Molène, the young girl pictured, received a beautiful card and some clothing from her sponsor, Ms. Stitt.



This inspired us to ask all sponsors to furnish a photograph of themselves so that it can be given to their sponsored child. By so doing, it will help to establish a tangible connection for the child so that they'll know that someone does actually care.



Also, we would like to thank everybody who donated school supplies, clothes, shoes, toys, hats, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and medical supplies which we gave out during our July trip to Haiti.

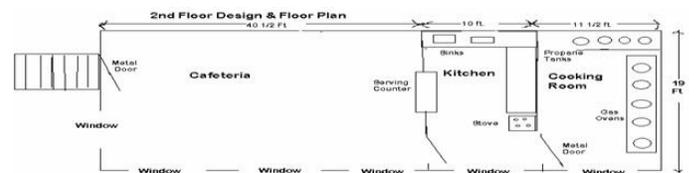
BUILDING PROJECT:



Front view of the existing kitchen/ cafeteria. The proposed kitchen/cafeteria would be built as a second level above the existing kitchen.

An important goal for now and future years is to bring down class size to improve the learning environment for all our students. One way this is being addressed is to add a second floor to the building. We will be moving the cafeteria from the first to the second floor. This will free

up space on the first floor to add a classroom. Additional uses for this space will be to serve as a room for a technical, cooking and sewing school, and a conference room. As a conference room it could be used for special meetings by clergy or for youth programs and teacher meetings. During our last trip Pastor Pierre Gesner Fedelus and Pastor Emile Daniel expressed the need for a space like this to help address the needs of both the church and the school. This project is scheduled to begin December 26, 2007. Currently, we have raised over \$9,867 of the \$22,687 needed to complete this project. If you would like to contribute toward this project, please designate on your check **“Building Project”**. 100% of these funds donated will go directly towards this project.



Breakdown of Cost Estimate:

Masonry Cost:	\$ 6,900.00
Carpentry Cost:	5,100.00
Iron Metal Cost:	3,433.00
Plumbing & Electrical:	1,099.00
*Propane Ovens & Tanks:	3,230.00
Tables and Shelving:	1,200.00
Tile floor installation:	<u>1,725.00</u>
Total Project Cost:	<u>\$22,687.00</u>

*The Propane Ovens & Tanks have already been purchased by the raised funds stated.

FUTURE PLANS FOR THE SCHOOL: Soon, a generator will be installed. Additionally, electric fans and lights will be added to each of the classrooms. This will allow school hours to be extended - without fans, the classrooms are too

hot in the afternoon to hold classes. If you would like to contribute toward this project, please designate on your check “**Fans & Lights**”. 100% of these funds donated will go directly towards this project.

****** SPONSORS NEEDED ******

The best way for our school to grow is to find sponsors for all the children in the area of our school who want to attend. We currently know of over 200 children in desperate need of a sponsor. In order to be as successful as possible at completing our mission, all of us need to challenge ourselves to try and get new sponsors. All current sponsors have clearly demonstrated a personal commitment. We all need to go the “extra mile” to recruit new sponsors. Anyone who has sponsored a child knows, first-hand, the warm feelings that come from helping a disadvantaged child. Share that gift with a friend. If you know someone else who is interested in sponsorship, please send us the enclosed sponsorship form and we will get you a picture and information about that child right away.



WHERE YOUR SPONSORSHIP MONEY GOES: Your sponsored child receives full

tuition, two uniforms, textbooks, school supplies, a nutritious meal, every school day (sometimes their only meal of the day), and medical treatment. All money collected from sponsorship is used for the direct benefit of the children. No board member is paid for their time or personal expenses.



Many people have generously paid sponsorship several months in advance, so that we can get the school year started, but funds are tight right now. We understand due to various reasons sometimes sponsors fall behind in their giving, but every sponsor is important to the children, and they need your continued support. Please don't worry if you've been unable to keep up in the past. We are starting with a clean slate. These children are depending on us. Your support is greatly appreciated.





NEW MINISTRY PARTNER: During the July trip, Dale, Jean, and Peggy Moyers, were joined by Deborah Ransmeier, a minister from Silver Spring, Maryland. While there, she shared this traditional Haitian prayer at the church:

Senyè, Si n'ap viv jodi a malgre siklòn, grangou, ak maladi, nou dwe di, "Mèsi, Senyè. Nou genlè la pou youn bi."

Translated: "Lord, if we are alive today in spite of hurricanes, hunger, and sickness, we should say, 'Thank you, Lord. We must be here for a purpose.'"

Deborah also wrote the following thought and asked that we share it with all of our readers. "God told us to spread the gospel in all the world. When people know who God is, they share his word with others, which in turn will help lead them to Christ. People live what they learn; they will become well-balanced and complete. They will not only help themselves, but they will be supportive to others which will help the community to be developed spiritually, socially, economically and academically."

Since returning to Maryland, she has found sponsors for 5 children. Thank you, Deborah!

COME TO HAITI: We would love to host you if you want to come to Haiti. You can visit your sponsored child, help at the school, assist in medical clinics, minister in the community, or any other project you are interested in. Airfare to Haiti is very reasonable and the cost per day

for transportation, meals, and lodging while in Haiti is only \$40 a day. We welcome groups up to 20 people. Both traditional Haitian and American meals are prepared for our guests.

Currently, Steve is scheduled to return to Haiti in the middle of August and will stay for about six weeks. Leslie and Keith are scheduled to return sometime in October for two weeks, and Dale, Jean, and Deborah are all scheduled to return for one week in October, to meet with Leslie and Keith.

HOUSE BUILDING PROJECT: In 2004, a little girl named Lansey was flown to Missouri to have surgery to treat polyps that had grown in her esophagus which required her to have a tracheotomy. This was obviously not a great situation for her, given the sanitary conditions she was living in at home. Since then, her health continues to improve and she is doing well in school. But, she and her mom still live in very poor conditions in a rented house (a generous characterization). Through the generosity of the friends and family of Hugh and Doris Steele, memorial gifts, following their passing, are going towards building a new house for Lansey and her mom. The cost of constructing a house in Haiti is \$4000. We have received just over \$2000, so we are just past the half way mark. All donations designated "**Lansey**" will go directly to building this house.



MEDICAL DOCTORS / HEALTH

PROFESSIONALS: We are happy to assist any medical teams, doctors or other health professionals that would like to come to Haiti. Currently, we have met twice with an organization called HEARTT. They have expressed interest in sending a medical team down to Haiti sometime next summer. If all goes well, they will then plan on sending groups down to Haiti on an ongoing basis. HEARTT is an organization funded by physicians and nurses for the purpose of providing healthcare treatment, education, training, seminars, and counseling in impoverished communities.



On behalf of the entire board of Life Connection Mission and the children of Montrouis, we extend our heartfelt thanks for the hard work, dedication, and friendship of Tim, Barb, Heather, Joel, and April Aument, and all the former advisory board members who have made such great contributions to the people of Montrouis.



NEWSLETTER/MAILING EXPENSE: We need to keep overhead expenses down. We can do this, in part, by using plain paper for all correspondence. We would also like to e-mail newsletters, to those with internet access, to cut unnecessary postal expenses. If you would like to receive your newsletter by e-mail, please send your e-mail address to:

diane@lifeconnectionmission.org.

GET INVOLVED: If you are involved in an organization or church group that might be interested in joining this effort, please contact Diane at 660-359-5682 or email her at diane@lifeconnectionmission.org.

Mailing address: Karen Jackson
Mission Office
100 South 8th Street
Akron, PA 17501

Startling World Bank statistics about Haiti:

- GDP per capita of US\$450
- 78 percent of the population live below the US\$ 2/day line, with 54 percent in extreme poverty (less than a US\$ 1/day);
- Life expectancy is 52 years;
- Infant mortality rate is 76 out of 1,000;
- Nearly half the population is illiterate (approx. 47%);
- Highest incidence of HIV/AIDS outside of Sub-Saharan Africa (5.6 percent); and
- 97 % deforestation.

