



MISYONNÈ NOUVÈL

The Newsletter of Life Connection Mission

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Letter from the President

The only requirement is an open heart and a desire to serve

Greetings in Christ! As you read this newsletter, the theme of this summer at Life Connection will become clear: teams, teams, and more teams! I hope you enjoy hearing about the experiences of the many teams we have hosted this summer.

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Some of you may be wondering what it "takes" to do mission work. How does God define a missionary?

I have been traveling to Haiti since 2001 and have spent time with hundreds of wonderful people who come to serve at Life Connection Mission. Their gifts, talents, and abilities have varied greatly. They come from all ages, areas, professions, denominations, and backgrounds. What one thing connects them all? Simply an open heart and a desire to serve. The best we can do as human beings is pray for God's guidance and do our best to follow His will.

So on that note, I want to encourage everyone to come to Haiti no matter who you are. There are no requirements to be a missionary. God will guide your way!

I am happy to report that the student computer learning center has and continues to be an incredible success. This new center gives students the opportunity to take college classes online and improve their English language skills. This upcoming year we have ten students using the center to take college courses online at the University of the People. Many of our



students who have graduated from the program have already found successful jobs in Haiti.

We are all extremely thankful for the progress at the mission clinic. It is amazing to see Haitians taking ownership and operating the clinic 5 days a week year round.

I am proud that LCM is 100 percent operated by Haitians in Haiti. We have an excellent staff, and I am very proud of them! Please continue to pray for our staff and volunteers as we seek to do God's will for our mission.

Thank you for your ongoing love, support, and generosity. The sum of all of our efforts is helping to change lives, one person at a time. Together, we are making a difference in Haiti.

Dale Moyers

Supporting a Family in Need by Peggy Moyers

Keeping five siblings together in the face of tragedy

Last December, I learned of the loss of Pierre Junior Rimburg's mother. Now 11 years old, Rimburg is the oldest of five siblings in the Eugene family. He is just a boy; however, in Haiti he is old enough to guide his younger siblings through school and provide life values he has received from his mother.

When I returned to Haiti in July, I learned that three of the five children were together, Rimburg, Riphath, and Valarie (a toddler). When I heard that the twins, Nathanael and Nathalica, were separated my heart sunk. To make matters worse, Nathanael's Godmother had placed him in an orphanage.

God tugged on my heart to not simply say, "That's a shame." I asked to see all of the siblings, Madam Sonia (a Godly woman who cares for children in Haiti), and the children's father. All of the children arrived with Madam Sonia except for Nathanael. I was so frustrated, however I should not have been. God provided an opportunity to see love in action.

About 20 minutes later the kids all jumped up and ran off. They all saw Nathanael approaching with his father. They embraced Nathanael as if they hadn't seen him in years. I then



The Eugene children (L-R): Rimburg, Nathalica, Nathanael, Valarie, and Riphath.

started asking Sebatiën, my husband, questions while they were all there.

We determined that Madam Sonia was willing to care for all of the children. We are now working to keep the children together and provide food and necessities. We also hope to purchase a small piece of land and build a house in the name of the children so that they will always have a home. I know that God has started putting His work in

motion to keep the children united. It will take your help to complete and maintain His work. Together we can change the life of this family with a commitment of any size that you feel you can maintain for a while or simply for the short term to help purchase the needed land.

LCM has established a Eugene Family Fund. Please note the length of time you are able to commit and the amount.

Rice for Christmas

Last year's "Rice for Christmas" project was a huge success! We are once again hoping to bless every child at the mission school with a bag of rice for Christmas this year. If you would like to donate to this amazing effort, please send a check to LCM or donate online.

Summer at LCM



What Every Child Deserves by Sofie Leusch

Fourteen-year-old Sofie takes on a challenge to help other children

This past fall, I faced a challenge that not only changed my life for the better but I hope also many lives of children in Haiti.

When I was in 6th grade, a friend of mine did a shoe collection project for Life Connection Mission. I knew then I wanted to make a difference as well. My school principal, Miss Christie Anne Short, has told us many things about the lives of the children in Haiti. When she told me some of the children sleep on the ground, it hurt my heart. They have no mattresses, no blankets, and no stuffed animals.

I decided that the situation needed to change! Every child deserves a place to feel warm and cuddly. I hoped that with the help of many generous parishioners, I could make a difference in Haitian children's lives.

My goal was to raise enough to buy 20 beds that the children desperately needed. With every bed, I gave a teddy bear and blanket to each child. I was very nervous that I would not raise enough. The children needed their beds!

I created a flyer, explained my campaign to parishioners, and spoke with my neighbors. The outpouring of support was amazing. After 3 weeks, I exceeded my goal and had collected over \$5,000. That was not only enough for beds, blankets, and bears, but also enough to feed



several families during Christmas break.

Seeing the pictures at Christmas time of the children with bags of rice behind them was humbling. It made me realize how every little bit counts and makes me want to do more.

In June, the St. Patrick's mission group was able to distribute the beds, bears, and blankets. The pictures of all of the children with their beds and bears were beautiful. I just wanted to be there and hug them all.

I am so blessed for what I have and for having the ability to help these children. One day soon, I hope to visit Haiti and the mission school and help in person.



Greenridge Youth by Bonnie Huott



A youth team from Greenridge Baptist Church in Maryland visits the mission in July.

The Greenridge Baptist youth visited the mission in late July this year. As a leader and part of LCM, I have to say they really blessed me with their servant hearts. They worked hard raising funds on the front end of their trip, which paid off in many ways.

LCM's Pastor Moleus felt blessed when the team painted the mission school. This was quite an accomplishment in the hundred-degree heat. Yet day after day they returned—sanding, cleaning, and painting until their project was complete. They also fed many hungry bellies in the mountains, in neighboring towns, and at a homeless shelter in Arcahaie. They assembled and handed out personal care kits, clothing, and shoes. They loved on the Haitian children with open hearts and without limits.

As I watched the students serve, I could see how difficult it was for them at times. They would see the Haitians pushing in line or yelling at each other, but soon learned that the children were just hungry and wanted a meal to eat that particular day or wanted a much-needed pair of shoes.

The greatest gift the youth team gave to the community was free. They learned the song "Jesus Loves the Little Children" in Creole and sang it for the church on Sunday. The church congregation just beamed with happiness. These kids were a blessing to LCM and the surrounding communities. They worked well together for the greater good, and they helped many. To the parents of these youth, I want you to know that you should be proud of them.

Christmas in Montrouis

We continue to pray for a successful Rice for Christmas program this year and the opportunity to share joy with each and every school child this Christmas. We ask that our sponsors and supporters prayerfully consider:

Donating to the Rice for Christmas Program. A simple bag of rice for each student touches the entire community, not just one family. The families share their gift with their friends and neighbors during the entire holiday season.

Sending a care package for a child, whether for your sponsor child or one of our children without sponsors. Your act of kindness and love will impact a child in such an unimaginable way. Please provide \$3 per pound to help pay for shipping.

Our dream is to bless every LCM student with a bag of rice and care package this year!





Haiti *Pearl of the Antilles*

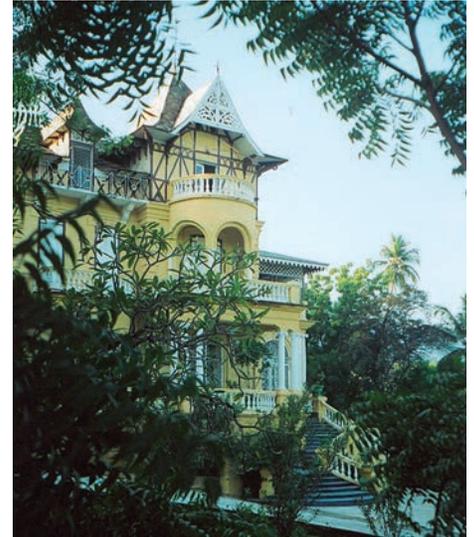
Gingerbread Houses

In this installment, we will focus on one of Haiti's architectural gems, its gingerbread houses. Many people may not know that, scattered throughout the cities and towns across Haiti, often lurking behind a crumbling wall or crouched beneath a rare thicket of trees, you can find thousands of examples of one of the most beautiful residential architectural styles in the western hemisphere.

In the 1890s, a few budding Haitian architects who had been studying in Paris returned to Haiti and began designing and constructing large French resort-style homes throughout the country. They integrated a flamboyant Caribbean flair into the designs by including intricate and

whimsical moldings and bright colors. To deal with the excessive heat, they also incorporated extremely large windows and doors with wooden louvers rather than glass as well as steep-sloping roof lines with large turrets into the designs. Construction effectively ceased in 1925 when Haiti banned wooden home construction in its cities due to the risk of fire.

During the height of Haitian tourism in the 1950s, these beautiful homes were affectionately termed "gingerbread houses" by Americans who found them reminiscent of Victorian style homes in the United States. These homes were incredibly well-built, as evidenced by the fact that there are so many of them still



left in spite of the harsh conditions in Haiti. In fact, during the 2010 earthquake when over 40 percent of the homes and buildings in Port-au-Prince were heavily damaged or completely destroyed, only 5 percent of the century-old gingerbread houses collapsed.

Even the Haitians themselves did not realize just how many gingerbread houses remained until after the earthquake when so many of the walls and newer buildings surrounding the old homes collapsed, leaving them visible from the main streets. In the city of Port-au-Prince it is estimated that there are slightly over 200 gingerbread homes left. However, given their wooden construction, the relentless Haitian climate, and a general lack of resources, the remaining homes are an endangered species. The vast majority of them are in need of major repairs, and their owners typically do not have the financial ability to rehabilitate them. Fortunately there are now a number of historical preservation agencies raising funds and making plans to preserve as many of them as possible.



How Bad Could It Be? by Ugochi Onyewu



Ugochi Onyewu and her sponsor twins, Nathalica and Nathanael Eugene.

I visited Life Connection Mission with a team this past summer. A friend who visited Haiti last year had told me how the extreme poverty affected her. Having spent many years in Nigeria, I have to admit that I approached the trip with an attitude that was almost arrogant. I thought: "I have seen poverty. How bad could it be?"

I was in no way prepared for my reaction and the intense emotions that I felt throughout the trip. The trip to the homeless shelter was particularly difficult. It was hard to see people live in such dire circumstances.

I realized that although poverty did exist around me, I had unconsciously decided to ignore it.

The highlight of the trip was meeting the 5-year-old twins I sponsor. They have been on my mind every day since, and I look forward to seeing them again soon.

We take so much for granted when our basic needs are met. It's easy to complain about traffic, airline delays, or slow internet refresh times when one has good health and food on the table.

For so many around the world, and so many in Haiti, the basic needs we take for granted are far from reality. It is easy to become overwhelmed and wonder if it's possible to make a difference. I am reminded that if we do as much as we can, it does help to make a change, not only in others, but in ourselves also.

Haitian Creation 4

The fourth annual Haitian Creation fundraising event will be held Saturday, November 21, at the Burning Bridge Tavern at 108 Hellam Street in Wrightsville, Pennsylvania.

For \$50 per person, enjoy live music, an all-you-can-eat barbecue buffet, and a silent auction. Beer and wine is included in the ticket price.

Join us to help support LCM and the people of Montrouis. Funds raised at last year's event provided a much-needed septic field for the school. This year, funds raised at Haitian Creation 4 will be used for Rice for Christmas.

The Rice for Christmas Program provides each child who attends the mission school in Haiti a bag of rice for Christmas. Help give students hope this holiday! Any funds raised in excess of Rice for Christmas will be used for medicine and other supplies for the clinic.

To purchase tickets online, visit lifeconnectionmission.org and click on Caring Cart, then Haitian Creation 4.

Please contact Pat Stratton at 717.419.6921 or Theresa Curcio at 717.823.0506 with any questions. We hope to see you there!

Manger House Ministries by Jenifer Cass

In Spring 2015, Manger House Ministries was created with the idea of working with local youth in Montrouis to provide a monthly Bible/activity program for local children. A team of 8 young men and several additional volunteers have been teaching a group of 25 children about Jesus every month.

The monthly program entitled “Feed The Body, Feed The Soul” includes a Bible lesson, art, games, and lunch. The program is held on the grounds of Life Connection Mission on the first Saturday of every month.

The team is led by Pierre Frantz Janvier, and Pastor Molues helps us identify the children who participate in class.



Additional team members are Daniel Aristide, Stanley Plaisimond, Jacky Etienne, DeSaint Dorceus, Mathieu Jean Phillippe, Christopher Destinoble, and Jacob Julian. Additional volunteers are Schneider Andre, Wadnel Louis, and Rene Pierre. These young men are a blessing to work with and have established an effective and enjoyable program for the children.

We would all like to thank LCM for allowing us to use the grounds for our class and Benoit Rebecca (LCM director in Montrouis) for his assistance in making this program

possible. We ask that you please keep Manger House Ministries in your prayers as we continue to work with children in Montrouis and as we pray about adding an additional class in another location.

You can follow Manger House Ministries on Facebook for monthly photos and videos of the class. This program has been a blessing for me to be a part of, and I am so excited about my next visit to Montrouis when I can spend more time with this awesome team and these precious children!

It is Better to Give by Patty MacTigue



Patty, Andy, Eileen, Marie, and Tara MacTigue make new friends in Montrouis.

Our perspective on life has changed since we were fortunate enough to travel with LCM to Haiti! In June, our family traveled to Montrouis for the third time. Upon our return from every trip, our days have been filled with tears and laughter, anguish and joy, as well as despair and happiness as we think of the days we spent among "our family" in Haiti. There is no doubt the experience was life changing and very welcome. In the Washington, DC, area, we live with an abundance of instant gratification and conveniences. It was humbling, to say the least, to work and interact

with people who have virtually nothing, nevermind basic food or shelter. Yet, these same people exude happiness, love, appreciation, and spirituality.

Like most people, we thought going on a mission trip would be about helping others in need and giving back. Of course the main purpose IS to make a difference for those less fortunate, but what we didn't expect was that we would be the primary beneficiaries. There is such truth in the simple adage, "It is better to give than receive." What an extraordinary gift!

A Good Foundation

Our mission supporters are helping those we serve in many ways, including providing vital housing. In June, a team from St. Patrick's Church in Maryland funded a new home for a family in need. They not only raised the money, but also helped build the home themselves.



Rosena and Thierry are students at our mission school. They both attend church on a regular basis and are good students. Their sponsors have blessed them greatly by helping their family purchase land and build the foundation for a future house.

Building a home in Haiti may be easier than you think! Contact dale@lifeconnectionmission.org for more information.



Attention Amazon.com Shoppers!

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to Life Connection Mission whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. Signing up is easy! Learn more at <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-0585094>.





Thank you to our sponsors for bringing so many smiles to our students' faces this summer!



Students Who Need Sponsors



Belot Saint-Surin



Naika Jean



Stael Hermilus



Anne-Merlie Saint-Cyr



Ricardo Fenelon



Daphney Fabre



Adjnha Exantus



Johemma Louis



Life

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Sponsorship Form

Date _____ Sponsor's Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Email Address _____

Child Selection

Child's Name (if known)*: _____

* For a list of unsponsored children, please visit www.lifeconnectionmission.org

Please Choose: _____ Boy(s) _____ Girl(s) No Preference

Please Choose: Age Range _____ No Preference

The sponsorship cost of \$40 per month is used to pay for the tuition, books, and uniforms for one child to go to school. The child is also given lunch each school day and medical care if required. Sponsors will receive at least one picture a year along with information about the child's progress.

Reflections

by Ryan Thron

Throughout my week spent in Haiti, many aspects of the living conditions and culture proved to be unexpected and moving to me. Although I assumed that the way of life in Haiti was going to differ from my own in the United States significantly, the poverty, need, and desperation of the Haitian people was nothing short of heartbreaking. However, the joy of the Haitian people was awe inspiring.

Personally, the honesty with which the people in Montrouis were willing to share sensitive and, perhaps, embarrassing information with us in order to receive prayer touched me. For instance, one mother requested prayer in admission that she was struggling to provide for her young triplets. This candor and openness is a facet of the Christian faith which should be embraced in our church and across the globe in order to aid accountability and spark persistent prayer for other members of the body of Christ.

I am so blessed to have been a member on the youth team which traveled to Haiti this year, as I know that many memories will remain with me in the future and shape my paradigm and worldview.



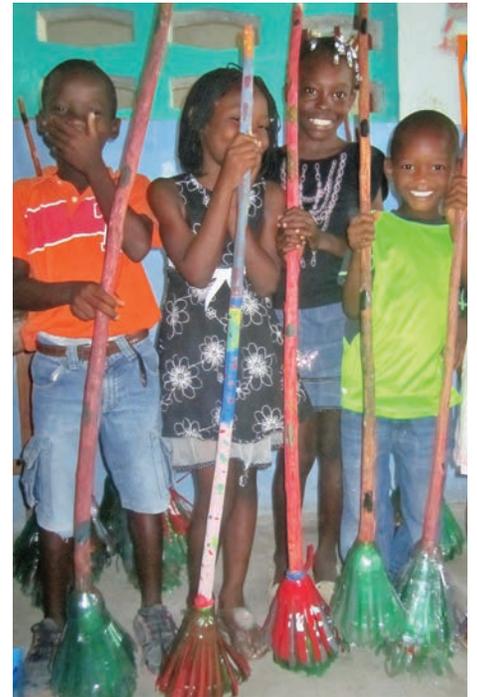
Greenridge Baptist team member Ryan Thron.

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”

- Philippians 2:3-4

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In Photos



Above: Students make brooms from plastic bottles and sticks at LCM's summer camp.

Below: A group prays in English and Creole at the mission compound this summer.

