



MISYONNÈ NOUVÈL

The Newsletter of Life Connection Mission

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Notes from the Board

Open wide your hand to the needy and to the poor

We would like to thank you for your continued love and support for the children and adults in Montrouis. We ask for your continued prayers for our mission and volunteers.

As always, LCM likes to share about our various projects in Montrouis, as well as opportunities to give and share the word with others. Our Christmas gift catalog is a great opportunity to honor a friend or family member while helping others. What a wonderful way to celebrate the true reason for the season!

IN THIS Issue

- 2 **Uniting Ourselves**
by Sara Blauvelt
- 3 **LCM School Takes 2nd Place!**
- 4 **Reflections on a Mission Trip**
- 5 **Unexpected Blessings**
by Jenifer Cass
- 8 **Returning to Haiti**
by Marie MacTigue

Life Connection Mission
23 Grey Pebble Court
Germantown, Maryland 20874
www.lifeconnectionmission.org
301.370.6426

Below we have also provided a list of our largest long-term projects for growing and improving LCM.

1. Medical clinic

We will relocate and build a larger medical clinic on mission-owned property. The existing clinic is not large enough to meet the current needs and for the expansion of additional medical services that LCM would like to provide to the people of the community. The new clinic would be modeled after the current one, with a few improvements, including a larger pharmacy and two to three additional private exam rooms. Construction has started.

2. School kitchen

LCM needs to relocate the school's kitchen. The amount of heat from the open cooking and traffic generated by the kitchen staff creates a very difficult and distracting learning environment to students in neighboring classrooms. Construction has started.

3. Trade school

LCM has almost completed the construction of a professional vocational school. Students will learn masonry, electrical, plumbing, carpentry, automotive, and sewing skills. LCM recognizes that not all

of our students are able to pursue a college education, and therefore recognize the importance of providing a different opportunity for students wanting to further their education and find means to support their families. The projected open date is September 2018. The estimated cost to operate the trade school is \$3,600 a month.

4. Student computer center expansion

LCM would like to significantly increase the size of the student computer center. Eventually, the mission will have a lab that will serve a higher number of students and provide on-line computer education for students living beyond the community of Montrouis. The lab would be approximately 3,000 square feet with computers.

5. School electricity improvement

The mission-operated school is in desperate need of a larger generator to improve electric capacity to all classrooms. LCM hopes to provide fans, lights, and technology so that our students will find greater success in their learning.

6. Solar power upgrades

The mission would like to upgrade our solar power system at the mission facilities with additional solar panels.

Please help us spread the word about these projects and needs. And of course, please contact us if you or your church/group are interested in helping!

Uniting Ourselves by Sara Blauvelt

In truth, we are all made in the image and likeness of God

Like so many of you, I have supported various fundraisers organized by St. Patrick's for the people of Montrouis, Haiti. It felt good to know that I was helping make a difference. As time went on, I learned more about the work through the stories of friends and family who had gone on the trip. One of the great beauties of the group is that several young adults and their parents come together in mission. At the prompting of my son, I decided the time was right for me to experience this mission work first-hand.

As I prepared for the trip, I anticipated my week in Haiti and the work I would do. I expected that it would be hot and exhausting, and it was. I did not anticipate, however, the joy I would experience while there, nor did I anticipate how transformative the experience would be for me.

Over the course of the week, we served meals, handed out clothing, built houses, and provided medical care. For me, the experience of working alongside the Haitian people and making time to play with children changed this from a service experience to an opportunity for people to come together working for the good of each other. Each day brought powerful moments of encounter and service that I treasure.

There was one particular moment that stood out. It was great to be on this trip with my son, Jake. Though we worked on different projects



during the day, in the evenings the entire group came together to serve meals and simply play with the children of Montrouis. At one of these dinners, Jake introduced me as his "mama" to Garçon, a student at the school whom Jake sponsors. I was delighted when Garçon so readily hugged me and called me "Jake mama." Two nights later at dinner, Garçon proudly introduced his "mama" to Jake and me. As we stood side-by-side as mothers watching our sons playing together, I felt that our hearts were deeply connected. In the silence, we shared joy and pride in our sons. In watching them, I realized that together, Jake and Garçon brought out the best in each other.

Looking back on the experience, the beauty of the people of Haiti opened

my heart to the truth that we are all made in the image and likeness of God. Of course, there are people in my daily life that reveal this truth to me. However, being with the people of Haiti—who are stripped of so many of the things we equate with dignity—was a special opportunity to encounter the real dignity of a person. I learned that looking a person in the eye and offering a smile is a powerful means of uniting ourselves with our poor and vulnerable brothers and sisters.

Attending to the needs of our brothers and sisters in Haiti is so important, and I will redouble my efforts in light of my experience there. Until I return to Haiti, I will keep these memories and lessons in my heart as I pray for the Haitian people.

LCM School Takes 2nd Place!

New academic contest held in Montrouis



This year, the first ever Inter-School Genius Contest for children in ninth grade was launched in Montrouis. It was conducted by Her-Max Production, a youth association comprised of former LCM school graduates and some other young leaders. The competition was open to all ninth graders of all high schools in the area.

Seven schools in total participated. The top four schools were selected to partake in the second round, and finally the winner of each group

completed the third round. LCM's ninth graders made it to the final phase and took second place overall!

Mr. Erick, the Academic Director of the school, said such extracurricular activities are very important for the kids, especially the focus on math and science. This contest is a great opportunity to motivate children and instill a competitive spirit in them.

Congratulations to the students for their success!

Christmas in Montrouis

Last year God blessed us by making sure that every student received a gift and a bag of rice for Christmas. We pray for a successful program again this year! We ask that our sponsors and supporters prayerfully consider:

Donating to the Rice for Christmas Program. A 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 your sponsored child or another child in need. Please provide \$3 per pound to help pay for shipping. We are also prepackaging backpacks full of gifts. If you would like to purchase one of these backpacks, please send a check for \$45 or donate online at www.lifeconnectionmission.org. We must have all packages as soon as possible in order to get them all down to Haiti in time for the holidays. Thank you!



We are GlobalGiving Vetted!

In 2016, LCM became a GlobalGiving vetted organization! You can support our work with confidence by donating to one of our projects on www.globalgiving.org/donate/28398.



Reflections on a Mission Trip

In July, 21 volunteers from the South Jersey, Philadelphia, and Lancaster areas traveled to Montrouis. Many had been there before, but ten of them were making their first trip. They worked on construction projects, medical clinics, health classes, feeding the homeless, and more. More important than the actual tasks they performed was just being there with the people of Montrouis. Some of the team members have shared their thoughts below.

“Throughout my 5 years of going to Montrouis, I have been exposed to a different side of the world that many people my age don’t get to experience. In return, I have learned to see the world in a different way. My experiences in Haiti have taught me to live a much simpler life and the power that love can bring to a place. The thing that I love about Haiti the most is the positivity that the people have there and the way that they take the negatives and turn them into positives and can look at life in a way that most Americans fail to. I’ve made lifelong friendships and people I consider my family there that motivate me every day and every year to come back and be the change I hope to see in the world.”

– **Olivia Mohnacs, Student**

“As a first-timer to Haiti, this was a real eye-opening experience. The work that LCM is doing is not just important, it is life saving! I know that some of the medications and food that were distributed just in the week



we were onsite gave life to some people for a little while. And this was made possible through the vision and hard work of the staff of LCM. But there is much more to do in Haiti, and I rejoice that a Christian organization such as LCM is helping the people of Haiti. I so appreciated what one leader said when I asked him ‘has Haiti changed since the earthquake?’ He said ‘it seems that the people are connecting more with Christianity than before; their faith is becoming real! I pray that LCM and the other ministries are blessed by God.”

– **Tom Weber, Pastor at Akron Church of the Brethren**

“This was the 8th time I have visited LCM. Throughout the years, we have done mobile clinics, worked at the LCM clinic, gone on home sick visits, and done construction alongside Haitian contractors. This was the second year we conducted class for the young adults and their parents on reproductive anatomy,

physiology, and sex education along with sexual transmitted infections information. Our students were very eager to learn and educate themselves, especially the women and young girls. And this to me is so very important because this will empower them and help support their hopes and dreams. With education hope is possible.

– **Theresa Curcio, Registered Nurse**

“Life Connection Mission is an experience like no other. The trip was very humbling in that it offers new life perspectives coupled with a newly found appreciation for humanity. Haitians find no excuse to not make the best out of their situation every day. The people of Haiti possessed optimism, humility, and perseverance like I’ve never seen before. Seeing people struggling so intensely yet living their lives to the fullest was extremely inspiring and something I will remember forever.”

– **Jack Meehan, Recent Graduate**

Unexpected Blessings by Jenifer Cass

A team from Louisiana, Maryland, and Florida all met at LCM for the Easter Holiday. We did so many outreach activities it was awesome! Some of us worked in the medical clinic; visited 2 schools; visited the 5 Manger House Ministries Bible study programs; delivered Bibles, beans, rice, and toiletries in the community; prayed with people, attended 2 different churches; provided a mobile medical clinic in the mountains; hosted a fishing class; visited a homeless shelter; hosted a sponsor party; hosted a young adult training class; and built a home for a family who lost theirs in Hurricane Matthew.

All in all we all had an awesome experience and found so many blessings in working with the Haitian people. But the unexpected blessing

I found was in all the new friends I made from meeting people through LCM. Many of the people on our trip were first timers to Haiti, and many did not know each other. I have made so many new friendships and now have friends from all over from this experience. Through Facebook I have also connected with other missionaries from as far away as Canada, and we are planning to work together to provide more resources for the work in Haiti.

After 6 trips to Haiti, I always look forward to the joy I feel doing work there but never expected to have all these new wonderful friends all over the world as a result. Never underestimate how God works all things to His good! We are thankful for Life Connection Mission and the work they are doing in Haiti!



Ceiling Fan Project

As mentioned in previous news, our mission school is now completely wired for electricity. As a top priority, we have established a fund to raise money for ceiling fans to be installed in all of the classrooms.

The temperature in Haiti year-round lingers in the 90s, and with 20-30 students in a small classroom, the temperatures can get unbearably hot. With fans installed, the students can stay focused and fresh throughout the day!

Please consider making a donation of any amount to this project and spreading the word to friends. Even a small donation will have a huge, direct impact.

Donating is easy. Just visit the education page on our website and select "Ceiling Fan Project" on the left-hand menu. Our goal is to have a fan in every room by the end of the year.



Construction Projects!



Clockwise from top: The shell of the new trade school, new kitchen construction, and the new medical clinic foundation.



Students Who Need Sponsors



Leo Pedro
Jores Aime



Jean Josue
Caceus



Raph-Marline
Dorival



Marie Elie
Dorleyant



Valery
Eugene



Beansa Grace
Exantus



Keisha
Faustin



Marie Herly
Garcon



Erichairah
Gustave



Marc Jeune
Laguerre



Doubrovsky
Lambert



Yuleika
Orantus



Rode Merlin
Petit-Frere



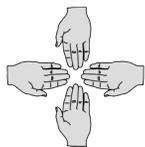
Zeph
Ryliice



Sara Eticia
Saint-Hilaire



David
Sainvil



Life
Connection Mission
Montrouis, Haiti

23 Grey Pebble Court
Germantown, MD 20874

Phone: 301.370.6426

Fax: 301.330.3251

www.lifeconnectionmission.org

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.

Returning to Haiti

by Marie MacTigue

During my first time in Montrouis, I struggled, mostly emotionally. I didn't allow myself to think or reflect about what I was doing. This method did not work well for me. Now each year I come, I make an intentional effort to truly think. It's an effort that is tolling, but so necessary. This summer, I recognized the gift of pure presence. Being a "veteran" on the trip, I didn't feel like I had to physically do every single thing. Instead, I took advantage of simply being with the Haitian people. That's the cool thing about LCM; we aren't just serving strangers, we are working with a Haitian community who have become our dear friends.

When it came time to decide whether to return to Haiti for a 5th time, saying yes was a no-brainer when I thought of my sponsor children. I think the coolest thing about my experiences in Haiti has been the opportunity to watch these boys grow up. When I first met Fred, he was a shy teenager who laughed with his friends about us American girls. When we met up last month, I chatted, in perfect English, with a man who is aspiring to study diplomacy! I pray for these two every single day. And I know in my heart that they do the same for me.



"Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law."

- Romans 13:8

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In Photos



Above: Congratulations to the Institution Educative D'Excellence de Montrouis's soccer team!

Below: Celebrating the brand new home a team constructed for this sweet family who lost their home in a hurricane!

