



MISYONNÈ NOUVÈL

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Letter from the President

Doing our mission with all of our might, as the Lord calls

Greetings in Christ! Another year has begun and, as I look back on the past decade, I am truly in awe of the blessings God has bestowed on the work we are doing in Haiti.

From where we were when I first became affiliated with LCM to where we are now is truly staggering! But even more present on my mind are the challenges we have ahead of us to keep making the mission better and better.

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Not too long ago, a friend of mine shared some stories about a '67 Chevy pickup truck he is in the process of restoring. When he first bought the truck he only planned to do some minor restoration. But after he removed the bed, it was only a few more bolts to go ahead and remove the cab. It was then only a few more bolts to pull the engine, etc. It was always "one more bolt" until his desire to do a quality job eventually resulted in the truck's complete dismantling and restoration.

Similarly, even after 10 years and all that God has helped us accomplish, I feel there is so much we can do better. If only we could build a proper playground and kitchen at the school. If only we could get permanent electricity at the clinic and the school. If only we could expand the music ministry or dig more wells. But then again, why shouldn't we feel this way? The minute we stop aspiring to make the mission better or to expand the quality and scope of our outreach, that is the minute we start dying. Ecclesiastes 9:10 says:

"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the realm of the dead, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom."

Recently, several long-time missionaries with LCM have told me that they feel God is calling them to do more. This has brought so much joy to my soul! I know that I'm not the only one who feels we can improve. In truth, each of us can always do more. In some cases that might mean contributing more financially, but more often than not it just means saying some extra prayers or helping to get the word out to more people about what we're doing in Haiti and giving new people an opportunity to help. One of the reasons we create so many different "funds" and continue to develop such a variety of ministries is so that we can tap into the interest and talents of a larger and more diverse pool of people who feel led to touch lives in Haiti.

So I would challenge us all to consider what more God is calling us to do in 2016. Let's continue to seek God's guidance and to do His work in Haiti. Let's never quit aspiring to change more and more lives in the name of Christ.

Breaking the Chain of Poverty by Lubin Charles-Fils

Helping high school graduates achieve their dreams

During the past 3 years, LCM has been helping some young, brilliant Haitians to have access to quality higher education through our online learning program, located in Montrouis, Haiti.

It is a heartbreaking situation to see thousands of young Haitian students completing high schools on a yearly basis, and then the majority of them are stuck right there and left with no options. These graduates, for the most part, are from impoverished families. Due to financial constraints, they are denied the right to access or pursue higher education in the existing higher education institutions. As a result, most of them stay home and sadly look at their dreams departing away from them while others resort to alcohol and drugs in order to drown their sorrow and forget their wretched situations.

Nevertheless, the emerging information and communication technologies and rapid growth and development of distance education could be used to enhance the education system in Haiti. Distance learning can allow some young Haitians who want to pursue higher education to have access to quality higher education. This is the model and the alternative that we at Life Connection Mission have been looking at. This is exactly what

we, through our online education program, have been doing to bring hope to some young, disheartened Haitians who desperately want to pursue higher education.

Higher education has become a basic right for everyone, not for a privileged group of people. As I always say, one cannot think about rebuilding Haiti without focusing on education, for the level of development of any country is proportional to the level of education of its citizens.

Thanks to your support and your generous donations to LCM, a group of ten brilliant students just graduated from our online learning program with associate's degrees in business administration. Thanks to your contributions, we just recruited five new students for the next session. Three of them are in computer science and the other two in business administration. They aim at pursuing an associate's degree and eventually a bachelor's degree through one of our partners, University of the People, which is an accredited and well-regarded e-learning platform.

The demand for degree-awarding higher education programs in Haiti is consistently strong and substantial. The number of young Haitians completing high school and wanting to pursue higher education keeps on growing on a yearly basis. As a



LCM's computer classroom.

result, the demand for our program is significant even though it is an online program and requires advanced English skills.

However, we are a bit limited in terms of infrastructure and finances, which means we can only pick a very few of them through our scrupulous and competitive recruitment system. We want to accept many more and give many more of them a chance to pursue their dreams and reach their goals in life. We know that our model works and is proven.

We count on you, dear sponsors, to help us accept many more students in our long waiting list. It is our hope to renovate our facilities and accept 60 more students by next summer. Education is key to sustainable development; help us to help those who desperately need our help in order to break the chain of poverty through education.

St. Patrick's Yard Sale Breaks Records (Again)

by Christie Anne Short



Hundreds of people showed up to shop at our giant yard sale.

We were overwhelmed by the support we received at this year's St. Patrick's Yard Sale, and we exceeded last year's success by raising nearly \$37,000!

I could not be more excited and more grateful to everyone for the countless hours you gave to making this all come together. So many were here throughout the week sorting and organizing the "stuff" into the right piles. Others were part of the craziness on Saturday dealing with the mob of people. The line to enter the building at 8:00 a.m. stretched all the way down the street! Thank you also to those who showed up as part of the clean-up team. We were able to start earlier than expected, but your fresh legs and energy made the day come to a close more successfully.

I know it takes so many volunteers to make the yard sale happen every year. I know your bodies ached by the end of your day, and your children were troopers as their evening routines were thrown off. But what we have done for the people in Haiti over the last 7 years because of this event is beyond comprehension, and I will never be able to find the words to express the gratitude to all of you for helping LCM make it happen.

I have seen it, the before and after. It has been a true transformation in the community of Montrouis. I know the difference the church, medical clinic, school program, and higher learning program have made to the health and spirit of the community. Every single one of you has been an important part of this change!

A Family of Giving!

A number of our Maryland families made Christmas very special this year for all of our children who do not have a sponsor! These families pulled their resources together to assemble backpacks filled with school supplies, small toys, candy, special notes, and personal care products. More than 30 backpacks were assembled on the dining room floor and delivered just in time for Christmas!

Thank you to the Baker, Gallagher, Gillespie, Goodrich, Herdocia, Hodgson, Loftus, Medlock, Russell, Shannon, and Watt Families for sharing the true meaning of Christmas with all of the children who would not have otherwise received a gift!





Haiti ***Pearl of the Antilles***

Election Drama

Undoubtedly by now most of you have caught at least some news feed about the current presidential election in Haiti. A description of exactly what is going on seemed like a timely topic for this installment, so let me do my best to explain what has happened and where we are now.

The Haitian constitution of 1987 calls for a presidential election every 5 years. The president is limited to one term but may be re-elected for another non-consecutive term in the future (e.g., Rene Preval). As election year 2015 rolled around, candidates from Haiti's dozens of political parties began submitting their names for consideration.

Haiti held elections on October 25. As there were 58 candidates, it was expected that no single candidate would receive a majority and the election would move to a December runoff. After the votes were counted, two top candidates emerged. Jovenel Moise received 32.8 percent of the vote, and Jude Celestin received 25.3 percent.

Jovenel Moise studied political science in Haiti in preparation for becoming a teacher but instead chose a career as an entrepreneur. He has owned several businesses in the auto parts and agriculture industries and currently operates banana farms in the north of Haiti. Aside from work with local and regional chambers of commerce, he had essentially no political experience when tapped by current President Michel Martelly to be his hand-picked candidate in the presidential race.

Jude Celestin is a mechanical engineer trained in Haiti and Switzerland. He was nominated as a candidate by the party of former Haitian President Rene Preval. Before entering the race, Celestin was the head of the Haitian government's construction industry.

Given the quickly diminishing support for President Martelly over the past year due to the dissolution of the Haitian parliament and Martelly's inability to organize new elections, it was generally thought that his candidate would struggle.

That combined with two-time president Rene Preval's lingering popularity among voters caused most to assume that Celestin would come out on top. Combining these expectations with the fact that some exit polls indicated that Moise actually only received about 7 percent of the vote, Celestin immediately began to cry foul.

A runoff between Celestin and Moise was scheduled for December 27, but Celestin and several other presidential candidates issued a joint statement denouncing the election results as anti-democratic. Celestin stated that he would not participate in a runoff election until a full investigation of the October election was completed. Due to multiple protests and riots, the runoff was rescheduled for January 17, rescheduled again for January 24, and then rescheduled again for April 24.

The biggest problem lies in the fact that Martelly must constitutionally leave office on February 7. At the time of this writing, efforts are underway to try and establish an interim government while plans are made to conduct an entirely new election from scratch. Of course now the disputes concern which political faction(s) will be responsible for choosing the interim. The Organization of American States has reached out to help, and debates are ongoing.

Will Martelly step down? Will an acceptable interim government be put in place? Will new elections be held? Time will tell, but Haiti very much needs our prayers at this uncertain time.

Rice for Christmas



A special thank you to our "Santas" (our amazing staff and volunteers) for helping to bring Christmas to Montrouis this year!



HC 4 a Great Success!

Haitian Creation 4 was held on Saturday, November 21, at the Burning Bridge Tavern in Wrightsville, Pennsylvania. Guests enjoyed live music, a barbecue buffet, a silent auction, and a wonderful night to benefit our friends in Montrouis. Thanks to all of our guests, silent auction donors, the Manns, the staff at Burning Bridge, and our great entertainment by the MTs and the Flat Catz. You all made Haitian Creation 4 happen!

You will be happy to learn the event raised \$18,000! Words cannot express our gratitude. This year, the funds raised supported LCM's "Rice for Christmas" effort, which provided rice to our mission school children and their families over the holidays. Thank you all again for making this happen.

And a very special thank you to the Haitian Creation Committee for all of your hard work and dedication to the people of Haiti. We look forward to seeing everyone again at Haitian Creation 5!



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>.



Christmas in Montrouis



Thank you to everyone who supported this year's Rice for Christmas program. Your donations allowed every single mission school student to leave with a bag of rice for the holidays! And another big thank you to our sponsors for bringing so many smiles to our students' faces this Christmas!

"... and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." - Ephesians 5:2

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Students Who Need Sponsors



Belot Saint-Surin



Alex Artiste



Watson Remy



Anne-Merlie Saint-Cyr



Ricardo Fenelon



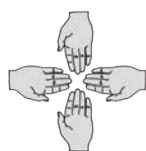
Daphney Fabre



Adjnha Exantus



Johemma Louis



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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)*: _____

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

Please Choose: ☐ Age Range _____ ☐ No Preference

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

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.

A Message of Thanks

from Pastor Moleus

In Ephesians 5:2, the word of God states: "and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." First of all, I would like thank you all who have been showing love which is from the most high to help us bring education, healthcare, and food to my Haitian people. Allow me to remind you that God has been taking note of your generous donations toward these disadvantaged people.

Mathew 6:19-20 says: "do not store up for you treasures on earth . . . But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal." This passage clearly teaches us that we are blessed to bless others and live as brothers and sisters regardless of our origins and background. One of the ways to store up treasures in heaven is to do good to our neighbors and bless our brothers and sisters.

Any time we are given the opportunity to help and bless someone who is in need and desperately needs our help, just like you with your generous hearts have been doing, we need to do it with all our heart, soul, and spirit.

Haiti always needs your support in order to preach the gospel, send kids to school, help families get healthcare, take care of the orphans, and clothe and feed those in need. Above all, we also need your prayers for a better, safer, and peaceful country so that Haitian people can be united and move forward hand-in-hand to sustainable development.

Once again thank you so much for all you have been doing so far, and I pray God to be always with you. God bless you all.

**"We make a living by
what we get. We make
a life by what we give."**

- Winston S. Churchill

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In Photos



Above: A team distributes hot meals at a homeless shelter during the holidays.

Below: Keith Will tests the equipment in LCM's new music recording studio.

