

**** HAITI-NEWS *** HAITI-NEWS *** HAITI-NEWS ****

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Dear friends of Lebensmission,

Hansjürgen Wurtz-Linz and I, as new presidents of the Life Mission Germany, made our inaugural trip and visit to Haiti from 7 to 22 August this year and inspected the condition and level of our work there. We had many talks with the managers, separately and in the group, two discussions/dialogues with all staff members in the weekly staff meeting on Monday morning, two conversations with our orphanage children and their mothers on Thursday evening and of course several individual talks with different staff members. We also met with our voluntaries Maya and Rahel. Further, we performed a control of the cashbooks, the accounting and used a 2 days' trip to the South of Haiti to visit 3 school projects in order to be able to get a better image of what would come up to us if we want to start an own school.



With Dieufort Wittmer we visited the HABITAT houses and talked about the development or progress in the HABITAT projects.

These are the results:

Accounting:

We could establish with joy that our books on the place are administered by competent staff and are correct. We could give our thanks and appreciation for the good administration to our Haitian director Walner Michaud and the two secretaries Mathanaze Charlemagne (in charge of orphanage, micro credits) and Paule Kettia Mondesir (in charge of fosterships) in the form of a financial bonus.

Managing team:

With Walner Michaud, Martina Wittmer, Fanette Nelson and Marie-Mene Cleus we have a good managing team composed of upright and motivated personalities who get along with each other also humanly, harmonise well with each other and supplement mutually. During the past years many changes and restructures have taken place in the orphanage as well as the fostership work which are reflected positively and fruits (results) of this can be seen.

Atmosphere:

In all there is a friendly and good atmosphere in the orphanage which is only spoiled now and then by some staff members. Occasionally one or the other long-term staff creates a problem or trouble who have difficulties to get out of the old routine and adjust to the new situations. In the meantime these staff members are a small minority. Among the many new staff mem-bers who could be employed in the past years there are many good and motivated workers.





The relationships among the children and youth seem also good according to our impression and we perceived the atmosphere among them very positively. The mothers with their children's groups organized a nice farewell party for Hansjürgen and me with many creative inputs, and in all, there was a wonderful atmosphere. Also, Hansjürgen and I played football resp. basketball with some children now and then, this passed as well nicely and easily – in spite of much ambition to win and not to lose.

Guesthouse/Care for guests:

During our stay in Haiti the walls of the new guest space were built on the present house of the Wittmer family and the ring anchor prepared resp. casted already by phases. You can already imagine how everything will be later: Very nice!



New car:

In our last week in Haiti Walner Michaud passed 4 days in Port-au-Prince in order to get the second hand car of the German Embassy we bought already out of the customs. The German Embassy could use it without customs clearance because of special rights for diplomatic delegations. Despite the huge efforts of our director he did not succeed in obtaining the clearance. For us, it was again a typical example of how the Haitian bureaucracy functions or does not function: It is simply immensely complicated, you are sent here and there and finally all efforts do fail due to the pedantic conduct of the Haitian bureaucrats who do not make out the necessary documents and permits because of unimportant trivial matters. In the meantime two further weeks have passed and according to latest news from Haiti it seems as if the children's village was finally able to use the new second hand car now.... Thanks to God.

Schools:

As far as building up an own Life Mission school in Gonaives is concerned we found open doors among all staff members. Starting such a project was welcomed by all. Such a school need not be constructed/ finalised completely and put into operation, but could start with some classes and be expanded gradually and continued. The problem for us is less to be able to shoulder the costs of the current operation, but to raise the money for buying a ground (site) for the school and construct its building. We have to consider a sum between 500.000 and 1 million euros and take into account many years until the project will be completed. In order to initiate the project we need to set up a committee which concentrates especially on this. Who among the members or from the friends would be interested to join this? Please apply here with us in the office.

Cooperation with local Haitian churches

We also paid some visits and talked with the people. A future support/cooperation with a smaller rural church near Passe Reine seems imaginable. More concrete details need to be discussed and agreements have to be made still.



HHT Engineering:

Dieufort is about to restructure things in this branch founded by him which he built up in addition to his Habitat HT work (to be able to accept commercial orders as well with his building team), in order to also pursue new ways. These are normal processes which take place: In a country like Haiti you have to find out over years what works and is feasible and what does not work. Correspondingly, you have to tackle some things differently. Dieufort is in these processes at the moment. He will certainly report himself when things are ripe for decision.

Before closing here are news about Heinz Östreicher, our former president for long years. He got through his cancer operation quite well and has covered already his rehabilitation (cure). So far, everything passed well and he is quite well according to the circumstances. Now he has to undergo daily ray treatment for 7 weeks in order to destroy any still existing cancer cells and prevent their new spreading. Many thanks for all prayers for Heinz and please continue to pray with us that all physical functions will normalize again and the cancer will completely disappear in his body.

Warm greetings to all of you with Proverbs 11:24:

“One gives freely yet grows all the richer, another withholds what he should give and only suffers want.”

God bless.

Karl-Heinz Wittmer

Karl-Heinz Wittmer
President of Lebensmission e.V. “Jesus für Haiti”



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