

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

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Dear Friends of Lebensmission,

This is the first time that I'm writing you in 2017, to inform you about our new work in Haiti and in our ministry in Germany/Switzerland.

In Germany/Switzerland

Several weeks ago, my wife, Stefanie, and I visited the previous, long-time, board president of Lebensmission, Heinz Oestreicher. Heinz and his wife, Helga, are holding onto a Word they received from the Lord for victory over Heinz's cancer. They have hopefully and confidently set their sights on what's ahead; a new family member (a small dog) and a new, small, used camper are proof of that. Additionally, Heinz and Helga have been looking after a young Haitian woman in their house in Teningen since June of last year and are trying to get her a spot in a vocational school.

Hats off to you both! We will continue to pray with and for you.



This year's members meeting will be on Saturday, March 18, at 3:00 pm, in Landau/Pfalz. All of our members, as well as interested friends, are welcome to come. Please R.S.V.P. at our Germany office, at which time you can learn the exact location. Members will receive a written invitation as usual.

In the meantime, regarding the job posting for a part-time position in our Germany office, we received interesting applications and have already conducted interviews. Our prayer request now is that we would have wisdom in hiring the right applicant so that we can fill the position promptly.

Per request from our coworkers in Haiti, we (our Haitian staff, Germany office staff, and we board members) have created a questionnaire concerning the topic of sponsorship responsibilities, which we are still currently assessing. This questionnaire should help us in sharpening our vision for what this work (of sponsoring) should look like, so that it can be done in the best way possible.

In Haiti

At the beginning of the month, Haiti's new president, Jovenel Moise, was inaugurated into office. We hope and pray that he proves to be a solid, honest politician, who can accurately assess the country's condition and sensitivities and develop good plans and ideas which he can then implement and carry out to fruition.

At "Missivi" (the Creole name for Lebensmission in Haiti) in Gonaives, the first meeting of our leaders regarding the planning of the school project took place. It looks like Fanette Nelson-Boupiué, the French leader of our sponsorship work, will also be the head of our on-site school board (responsible for getting the project started and established). The first meeting of the school board here in Germany is still underway. There have been no new developments concerning the land we are interested in purchasing for the school.



Our staff in Haiti is currently planning a seminar on the topic "How can we effectively share the Good News of Jesus with children?". Members from KEB (Kinderevangelisationsbewegung - children-evangelisation-movement) in Haiti were asked to run the seminar. The seminar will not be cheap; therefore, our staff in Haiti would be grateful for any financial support.

Helping despite opposition

I would now like to share with you about the catastrophic mess that unfolded as we attempted to help people in northwestern Haiti, who were affected by hurricane Matthew. There will be a full-detailed article about it in our next update booklet, but I wanted to give you a little glimpse here of how much adversity must always *first* be overcome before any help can be given. Our co-worker, Simone Klumpp, wrote the following under the title, "A new roof over head":



"On Tuesday, January 24, we wanted to leave on our way again, but unfortunately, we were unable to go through with our plans; and the pastor in Anse Rouge had to turn all of the families away until the next day.

On Wednesday, everything went wrong that could go wrong. At 10:00 am it became clear to us that the truck, on which all of the materials had been loaded onto, had a defective motor. Every staff member at the Kinderdorf was needed to help unload all of the roof sheeting and wooden slats from the truck and to load them into the new dump truck from HABITAT-HT. This setback costed us a lot of energy and two hours' time.

We made it to the gate of the Kinderdorf only to realize that there was a problem with the dump truck's battery. Everything was then re-checked and refilled, and at 2:00 pm we were finally on our way. But once again, we were unable to make it to Anse Rouge. On the first mountain of the trip, the dump truck lost most of its power, and we had to turn around without having accomplished anything. The next possible meeting time was setup with the pastor for Friday. So, we had a day's time to do all of the repairs and a test drive confirmed that it was now possible to drive the rocky route.

The dump truck left the Kinderdorf at about 7:00 am, and the car left at 9:00 am; both vehicles arrived in Anse Rouge at 11:00 am. Although we wanted to inconspicuously get as close to the Baptist church as possible by 12:00 pm, we had to park on a side street because the dump truck got a flat tire! We were worried that another 60 minutes, with the weight of the wood and roof sheeting, would cause the second tire to go flat - which would, again, make the dispersing of the materials at the church impossible. But everything went well, and we were able to greet those awaiting us, at 12:00 pm. Everyone worked together, and in just under two hours, the dump truck had been unloaded and the different pieces were distributed into piles in the church's courtyard. Each person had a chart and could check to make sure their own pile was complete with 40 pieces of sheet iron, 10 slats, 6 wood beams, and a bag of different types of nails weighing about 3.5 kg.



All in all, the distribution process ran smoothly - which we were very thankful for. After some good conversations and well wishes, we made our way back to Gonaives. We arrived safe and sound but very tired.



Even if we can't save the world with donations, for these forty families, *you* have changed their world."

Thank you for working with us and for not giving up, to help make this world, despite everything, a better place. In Romans 8:37, God's Word says to us:

"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."

Greetings and blessings

Karlheinz Wittmer



Karlheinz Wittmer
President of Lebensmission "Jesus für Haiti!"