

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

Deutsches Büro · Ahornstr. 19
76829 Landau in der Pfalz
Telefon: 0 63 41 / 8 23 31
Telefax: 0 63 41 / 8 07 52
lebensmission@t-online.de
www.lebensmission-haiti.org

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Dear members and friends of Life Mission,
Were you able to terminate the old year well and to start the new year 2018 well? We from the Life Mission in Haiti and in Europe as well succeeded for the most part.

Below you will find some relevant information of our activities in Haiti

Martina Wittmer writes:

School assistant wanted! After departure of our volunteer Clara coming March we will not have study assistants any more up to the end of the school year. This means that Martina needs to stand in fully and thus this time will be lacking for all and any other things. Do you have any ideas, contacts who would like to spend –quite spontaneously- few months in the beautiful Haiti from beginning April to end of July as a study assistant?



Our girl Christina in the orphanage unfortunately broke ulna and spoke bone of the right forearm when falling off the hammock. Thank goodness she did not need to undergo surgery. A professional plaster cast was done in the capital. It is alarming what kind of bad medical care and actually no orthopedic care there is in Gonaives. We set our hope in our medical student of the foster ship programme who will terminate his general studies of medicine this year and would like to specialize in orthopedics.

General atmosphere: racist comments and attacks increase (as could be expected) due to the American politics. We do feel the force of this everywhere outside the orphanage. But even in the orphanage there are always passionate discussions and it is hurtful to experience that we as foreigners are less protected in these situations. It is now nothing new, but also a request for prayer: May people learn to think more differentiated and put the focus on the positive they also see and hear here.

From **Dieufort Wittmer** there is some information about the status of the refinishing of the interior of our guest house which shall offer accommodation for up to 12 persons: The tiling works are finished except for one room. Bath room facilities (basin, toilet, base

cabinet, mirror.... shower heads) are installed, beds are ready so far, doors are being fitted, the painting in the rooms are finalized.

Finally, we now had to finance the project almost completely ourselves (and thank God were able to – including a major donation from a German company of 5000 euros). The big German car maker with whom we put in an application for financing the refinishing of the interior and who accepted this application let us down shamefully and did not even deem us worthy of a final response, never mind an apology. So be it. We look forward to putting the guest house into operation soon. It will hopefully be for the benefit of one of you as well.



Our Haitian director **Walner Michaud** informs us that we were finally able to buy a minibus with 18 seats in order to get the hang of the transport problems around our orphanage children.



The **fostership team** reported in their record on the last Christmas celebration for all foster children: About 325 children took part in the celebration. The team Rosarion (business people from Gonaives) distributed gifts. The idea to organize the party this year outdoors was good because all children could be present at the event without being cramped. They sat all in the courtyard although there were not enough chairs so that all could be seated, but we managed with putting mats on the floor for the little/the youngest ones:

Within the association we would like to add the following:

At the end of the past year Hansjürgen Wurtz-Linz left the association (**thank you for your work and cooperation, Hansjürgen**) and Sarah Kern, born Winkler assumed the vice-presidency. New in the association is Günther Bogatscher from Landau who is attentive and shows much commitment and effort.



Changes will await the Swiss sister association of the Life Mission also. Marianne Aeppli as long-term member of the committee and secretary of the association can no longer fulfil her posts for reasons of health. **You, Marianne, also deserve our recognition/thanks for a long and extensive commitment for the benefit of Haiti and his people and for the benefit of the Lebensmission.** We are still looking for a new committee member in Switzerland. If we do not find such a person it is being thought over to disband the Swiss association perhaps. The developments are also a matter of concern that we may accompany in prayer.



After a longer attempt our amendment of the Statutes was accepted by the lower regional court as well as the tax office/Inland Revenue at the end of last year and our new statutes are in force. Among other regulations it is stipulated that we want to gain more members and that there will be the chance for a support membership besides the full membership. Should you know persons who would like to join us and take part more actively please draw

their attention to this fact and gain them for our association. Membership forms are available and can be sent by our office.



Sabine Stein as one of our office coworkers and I as the president were in Haiti for two weeks end of October up to beginning November 2017 to inspect our activities on site. We had many meetings and discussions with co-workers within and outside the orphanage and were able to set in motion and settle one or the other respectively push revisions. Generally, we are proud of the work, the good job our European and Haitian co-workers do in Gonaives.

Sarah Kern put together a nice presentation on Haiti and the work of the Life Mission that can be used for lectures and can be made available to those interested. Who is interested in this?

After proposal by Günther Bogatscher and Michael Heinzmann we established an SDA (Social Development Account). Via this account credits of more than 500 euros can be granted to small enterprises in Haiti (like the small companies established by Dieufort Wittmer through which he tries to create permanent jobs (the whole year) to Haitians). Soon there will be further information on this.

Dear friends, there is much more to be reported, but I will close today.

Let me greet you with a verse of 2nd Corinthians 9:6:

*Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and
whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.*

Thank you for your help in sowing generously.

Yours,

Karlheinz Wittmer
President of Lebensmission e.V. "Jesus für Haiti"

