

**\*\* 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, friends of Haiti and friends of the Lebensmission,

Dear members, friends of Haiti and friends of the Life Mission,

Today I surprise you because the news this month are not edited by Karlheinz Wittmer, but by me, Sarah Kern. Together with my board colleague Werner Fankhauser I was honored to do the annual inspection trip to Haiti this year. We were privileged to stay in the new guest house. It is wonderful. Many thanks to all supporters of this project and big special thanks to hht engineering, to Dieufort Wittmer and his construction team for this very nice guest house. May it bring resp. accommodate many volunteers, helpers and visitors and bless all who come in and leave there!



*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;  
I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. (psalm 32,8)*

One of the orphanage children heard this bible verse for me during a hearing prayer in the Alpha course some weeks before the inspection trip. This distinct promise has touched me very much until now. I felt so very, very near to God and had the chance to deepen my relation. I went with Him through every of the 22 meetings and through every single of the 22 days of my trip and felt guided by God. This feeling has given me a peace I never felt before even if some days and some meetings cost so much power. But God was and is with me.

In an analogue manner to my personal feeling I see the way for the Life Mission. The association is evidently under God's blessing. It makes me really humble to know that I am permitted to be a little stone in the house of the Life Mission that contributes that people find protection and help in Haiti for over 30 years.

The trip resp. our stay was filled as usual with work and orders/duties. Nevertheless we could have a rest now and then, for example having a cool beer and nice talks or even at the beach.

Our time there was characterized by professional relations between us, combined with the necessary trust between employer and employee, during meetings at daytime, but also by lots of warmth and

joy of reunion in the evening and on weekends in private circles with friends, acquaintances and new encounters.

With each of the meetings the to-do list that Werner and I brought from Germany, became shorter and we were able to deal with many matters of concern rapidly respectively give them as requests to our colleagues in Haiti. Here, I would just like to say: THANK YOU for all your good work in Haiti. You are GREAT! – At the same time, our to-do-list which we had to take to Germany became longer and longer.



Our first meeting in Haiti was the weekly assembly of co-workers on Monday morning at 8:00 o'clock. A great start! There was such a good sentiment and atmosphere. We introduced ourselves, the whole board of directors, the offices in Germany and Switzerland and gave time and opportunity to ask questions concerning the structures.

The checking of the cashbooks, finances went smoothly and without problems. The booking processes were comprehensible and logical for us. A professional bookkeeping computer programme would however much alleviate the work for our secretaries. Please pray for a good choice and the relevant financing of such a programme.

The name of our planned school could be determined. So we look forward to seeing the project "Ecole de Vie - school of life" develop and to push it. In the meantime there also is a flyer on this project which you can order readily from our (Landau) office.

We now had to replace the motorcycle (moped) of the fostership for the visits outside the orphanage after 10 years of faithful service. Thanks to a generous donation we are in the position to buy a bigger and stronger motorcycle more suitable for the road conditions here. We are deeply thankful for this!

As announced already in the last circular mail by Karlheinz Fanette Nelson, director of the fostership office, will unfortunately leave us in the later part of the year as she will return to her home country France after more than 10 years stay in Haiti. We think to have found a competent successor with the actual secretary of the forstership section Paule Kettia who is already being trained in the leading position immediately effective. Therefore we need to fill her post/job with a new employee on 1 October 2018. Please pray for a new competent and loyal co-worker given by God.!



Our pickup purchased in September 2016 after the accident makes quite a lot of trouble. It overheats constantly. When Werner and I had to be picked up from the airport on 29 April the pickup broke

down after few kilometers only. Walner, the director of the Life Mission rushed then with our (very nice, practical und safe) new bus (van) to help and looked after the breakdown while Philistin our driver, could continue to Port-au-Prince together with Martina, our pedagogical director and friend, and volunteer Christina in order to welcome us after our long trip. After that hitch the car stopped, broke down consequently and for different purchases that could not be handled with the van we had to switch to Dieufort's pickup.....It is not clear yet if it will be sufficient to change the cylinder head and the cylinder head gaskets (which was done already) or if we need a new motor for this car. In both cases it will probably become very expensive. Dieufort, the leader of the Habitat HT project and boss of hht-engineering, presently is staying in the Dominican Republic to look for spare parts. We need prayer for wisdom and for the necessary finances!

Another matter of concern is the wall surrounding our orphanage..... It is really very moribund. Clearly to be seen, even for the eye of a layman like me. Many pillars are broken, concrete crumbles away because the wall is wet partly. The barbed wire on the wall does not exist anymore for the most part and the houses surrounding our orphanage have grown that much that neighbours promenade on the wall without problems.

The wall therefore needs to be remediated completely, raised and furnished with a new barbed wire. For this, we do still wait for an estimate, but would like to pray already now for the necessary funds in order to be able to offer our children still the necessary shelter. Perhaps somebody knows a building contractor that has on its mind to commit itself for Haiti in the form of financial donations and/or free work hours!?



The European General Data Protection Regulation.... A topic that makes all my hair stand on end personally.... Of course, there was a meeting as well relative to this challenge. And I would like to state: Your data are safe with us! 😊 Generally, we don't give addresses away and they also will not be needed for the processing of data in Haiti.

Thank you to the LORD who just gives us wonderful leaders as support. So the meeting with our technical director Wilby passed very well. In the sector of the technique we have a few concerns.... An application for a rainwater tank was submitted to a foundation, but denied, so that we still are looking for sponsors (12000 US dollars). At the same time the main pipes or tubes of the water systems should be renewed since the most part of them have become porous by the weather conditions. We definitely need here a welcome sum and much prayer too.



A dream of Wilby would also be to be able to construct a new nice playground for our children on the ground of the orphanage. **May his dream come true.** 😊

We pray that in the course of the street and canal construction work directly in front of our orphanage ground which started on 11<sup>th</sup> May with a huge pile of garbage and earth in front of our gate, our wall and the small house of the gatekeeper need not to be torn down.

Beside all these matters and news from Haiti I would like to shortly give a more personal comment again. Even after my third trip to Haiti I discover always something new to me, whether culture or city, in the countryside, living conditions, behavior or with myself. Haiti is so diverse and multi-faceted. It touches me!

It is really incredible, so much esteem shown for Werner and me, not because we are chairpersons who came to examine the books and to convey news, but because we are persons who devote themselves to the service and work investing their heart. This gratitude we experienced – words fail me..... I am thankful for my job I can do in the organization even if it often may be very challenging: I do grow in it and am privileged to gain valuable experiences. I invest myself with pleasure for the people in Haiti and am so thankful that our team in Haiti does a very good job, that we can trust everyone in this team, but that they are not angry if we enquire or check something, instead they are happy about it, because their work will then properly come to light. With this, they make our work here in Germany quite a bit easier. So, actually we are those who are deeply thankful and blessed!

For me personally it is still difficult up to now to really arrive in Germany although I was in Haiti for 3 weeks only. More difficult than the two times before. Physically I arrived well in Germany but my heart still sticks in Haiti even 3 weeks after return from my trip and it doesn't seem right now as if it came here during the next time.

Finally I can only say it was a fantastic trip! We have lots to do here in Germany and I look forward to it, although I have at least the same respect for starting all the points on the to-do list and to help to let grow the association, the projects and all that we are about.



I am proud to be part of the life mission and thankful that God guided me this way!

Cordial greetings to all of you

*Soken*

Sarah Kern

Deputy Chairperson of Lebensmission e.V. "Jesus für Haiti"

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