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## The Beautiful Faces of Haiti



## Reflections from the Board Directors

It's official...LCM has started another school year! Although a seemingly simple accomplishment here in the United States, it is something definitely to be celebrated in a developing country that continues to struggle with the most basic necessities. Thank you for your commitment!

We share a great deal of the history of Haiti in this newsletter, not only for our history buffs, but so our donors understand the injustices that did and do exist in the country. BUT with that a caution so as not to become frustrated with the country because of its political leaders, but we share as a gentle reminder that with all the corruption in a country that has completely disabled its true growth and potential, there are beautiful and innocent children who deserve every chance in this world to live in peace and comfort. They are the change agents and we must provide an education, daily meal, and medical care so that they feel and know love and in return will rise above to share it with others throughout their country and some day truly make a change. Looking at the pictures above has to warm your heart and remind us all why LCM does what we do, and why you have committed to being apart of Haiti's future change agents! Thank you for energizing us to continue to do all in our power to help the children we love.

Sincerest thanks on behalf of the board of directors,  
Christie Anne Short, President

**Thank YOU  
for your  
continued  
generosity**

**I have been incredibly blessed for being a helping hand to the people in need through Life Connection Mission, for six years. I hope for a community where everyone has access to all basic necessities. Therefore, I am committed to working hard to assist all needy people in this community.**

**- Jean Rene Nore,  
Administrator**

## Understanding the Political Situation in Haiti

While Haiti is a democracy, I believe it would be easy to argue that it is one of the least free nations in the world.

Let's start with statistics from the World Bank. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita was only \$870. Over 6 million (greater than half the population) of the Haiti lives on less than \$2.41 per day, and more than 2.5 million live on less than \$1.23 per day. No matter where you live in the world commodities are relatively the same cost. Try to put yourself in the shoes of the average Haitian. How are they able to survive? How is the average family able to tend to the needs of their children – Haiti's next generation. It is hard to imagine that this country is only a few hundred miles from Miami, Florida.

Freedom House had other factors to consider about Haiti. Haiti is plagued with corruption which hinders the capacity of the Haitian government and its people. Also, the damage from the natural disasters over the last 10 years have exasperated the situation. How can a country as poor as Haiti recover?

Other issues to consider is Haiti's history. Since Haiti's birth as an independent nation state since 1804 Haiti has endured circumstances which have made it almost impossible for it to rise to its full potential. After 1804 the newly free Black republic was forced to pay an enormous price for its liberation, isolating it from the world economy and, in the case of France, forcing Haiti to pay \$21 billion in today's dollars for the loss of "its" slaves. The country paid this debt over a period of 122 years beginning in 1822 and ending in 1947. The nation has also had to contend with a couple of invasions and more recently nearly 30 years of communist rule. Add to this the corruption issues, accepted as the normal business practices, in Haiti and it is almost impossible for the people to get ahead.

Over the last year Haitians have mobilized to protest the government. It began with demonstrations last summer in July and August, re-emerged in November and December, and exploded again in the first two weeks of February when hundreds of thousands marched in all the major cities of the country, from the capital of Port-au-Prince to the northern city of Cap-Haïtien. The demonstrators have demanded an investigation into what happened to billions of dollars of funds from Venezuela. Adding fuel to the fire is Haiti's double-digit percentage inflation rate since 2013 with no end in sight according to Statista.

Desperate and enraged, the people of Haiti want answers. Protesters are calling for the president and prime minister to resign. The government has promised further investigations, increased the minimum wage and lowered prices of basic goods. But it is difficult for the people to trust the government to enact reforms in the interests of its people.

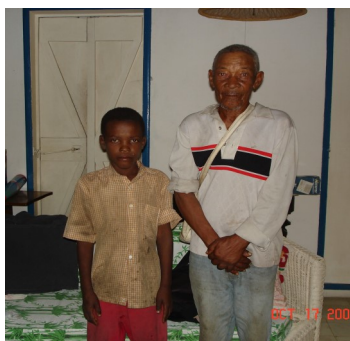
At times I believe the media portrays the protests as primarily violent. It is easy to understand why missionaries might reconsider their trips after watching the news. The good news is that the protests have subsided for now. The Haitian people face big challenges ahead. But somehow the people of Haiti are relatively peaceful given these circumstances. I, along with many of us from Life Connection Mission (LCM), have witnessed this many time. I have never been afraid to travel to Haiti. It is impossible to imagine what they are going through. Each time any of our groups takes a trip to Haiti we are able come back home to our safe-haven in the United States. What is obvious is that these people need our prayers and financial support. Most of the people are warm and respectful. Each time I have had the opportunity to serve in Haiti I can see the love of GOD shining through the eyes of the Haitian people. I love spending time with the children and helping groups accomplish whatever GOD has called upon them to do. Please pray for the people of Haiti and consider helping with one of LCM's projects.

**Christmas will be here before you know it! Please remember our hope is to see every child receive a gift and a bag of rice (\$40). Reach out to Christie Anne Short ([christieanne@lifeconnectionmission.org](mailto:christieanne@lifeconnectionmission.org)) if you need updated sizes for your sponsor child. We are happy to assemble a back pack for your child (\$45) or receive gifts dropped at 23 Grey Pebble Ct. Germantown, MD 20874 or choose on-line shopping and have your gifts sent directly to LCM. Follow up with an email! Thank you! And Merry Christmas!!**

*Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.  
John 15:13*

# Meet Carsange Pierre: One of LCM's Greatest & Most Beautiful Success Stories

Written by : Carsange Pierre, 12th Grade



Hello, my name is Casange Pierre. I don't remember the details of how I came to live in Montrouis and virtually cared for by Life Connection Mission. I know what I've been told. My grandfather knew he wasn't going to live much longer so he was trying to find someone to care for me. He came upon Dale Moyers and Alex Binot. Life Connection Mission doesn't take children, but when he mentioned that only restaurants wanted me (enslave in Haiti), Dale didn't hesitate. He told him they would keep me and care for me. Alex Binot worked for the mission. He took care of me on a day-to-day basis. He moved me in with his family; where I still live today. Life Connection Mission has, through Dale and his sister, Peggy, provided

food to Alex's family to help. I don't realize that impact since it's all I really know. I hope that makes sense to you. What I do know, in my heart, is that because of LCM I am loved and cared for. I thank God for the opportunity of the education I am receiving, for which I have a better chance in life. I'm thankful that I know I will have food every day; many people I know don't have this. I have no idea where I would be if Life Connection Mission was not here when my grandfather brought me here. I know God put he and Dale in the same place to give me the life I have.

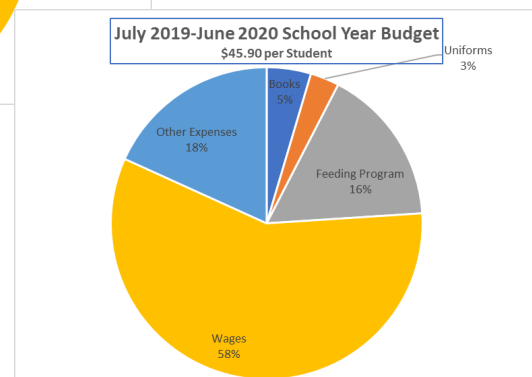
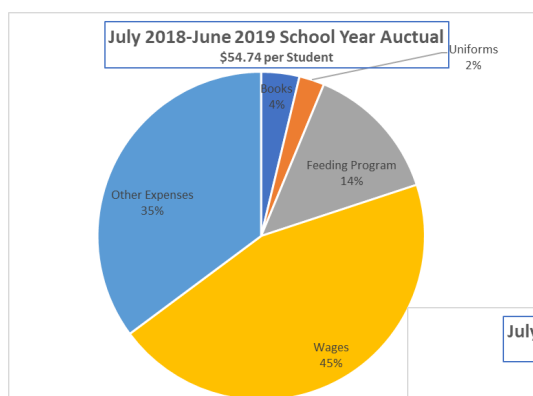


Carsange has become one of LCM's best volunteers. He is pictured on the left as a little boy coming to LCM and on the right, today, all grown up, happy & healthy and helping one of LCM's preschool students get his new school uniform! We love you, Carsange!



## School Financials at a Glance

	July '18 - June '19	July '19 - June '20
	Aactual	Budget
<b>Expenses</b>		
<b>Books</b>	10,770.00	11,000.00
<b>Uniforms</b>	7,128.00	7,200.00
<b>Feeding Program</b>	39,115.00	39,250.00
<b>Wages</b>	128,247.00	138,474.00
<b>Other Expenses</b>	100,477.00	43,686.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>285,737.00</u>	<u>239,610.00</u>
<b>Cost per student per month</b>	<b>\$54.74</b>	<b>\$45.90</b>





## An Inspiration ...

I had stroke just before I planned to go to Haiti three years ago. In spite of that, I went on the trip to Haiti with my son Nico this year. I also went with my two sisters and my nephew and my cousin. I was also in Haiti with Nico and my mother six years ago. On this trip I helped organize the supplies for the give-away and helped with the gifts for the sponsor kids. Last trip I helped with the construction of a house. I saw the boy that my family sponsors named Joseph. Much has changed in Haiti since my first trip and much has changed for me too. I had a stroke and I can't use my right hand. I have a hard time talking and I walk with a cane. In Haiti the school has grown. The medical clinic is new. Joseph has gotten bigger in the 4 years since my family started sponsoring him. Just like my first trip the missionaries played soccer with the Haitians. I didn't think I would ever go back to Haiti after my stroke, but I'm glad I did. I encourage others to go too.

By: Christopher Jackson



# Reflections from Mission Teams

## Summer 2019

I had the unexpected pleasure to serve with yet another fine group of dedicated missionaries from St. Patrick's Catholic Church who continue to provide for the children of Montrouis, Haiti through Life Connection Mission. I'm moved by how Christians from all walks of life can come together to achieve the common goal of serving others less fortunate. Many of us returning to answer God's call and several new missionaries rounded out our group. We were devoutly supported back home by our loved ones through much thought, prayer and action.



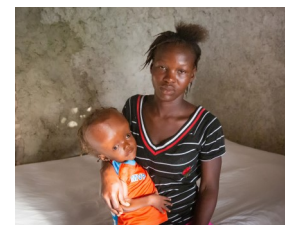
As one of many volunteers primarily assigned to assist with building a new home, we prevailed yet again despite enduring extreme heat and the challenge of carrying cinder blocks up and down the hillside. What sustained me throughout this week was the enthusiasm our group exemplified no matter what task they were assigned. It also warmed my heart when the local children were quick to pitch in to assist a fellow Haitian in need.

Although having insight from previous trips to help prepare for this journey, I've always come away with a unique perspective than in previous years. I enjoy spending time with our sponsored twins and delight in seeing others interact with theirs as well.

This trip, I was particularly inspired by the progress made to the LCM school kitchen and medical clinic. We continued the progress with a fresh coat of paint to the exterior school wall, plumbing work for the preschool bathrooms and clearing of an attached lot for a future playground.



I was also emotionally moved by the overwhelming gratitude of a mother and full time caregiver of her infant child who had been diagnosed with pediatric hydrocephalus. Adding to this difficult situation, the family had to reduce an already limited income to one parent's earnings leaving them without the ability to afford rent, food or medical treatment. After checking on their welfare and with the assistance of a Haitian interpreter, LCM was able to provide them with beans/rice, rental income and pain medication.



As we return from our journey, we learn to graciously accept small inconveniences in remembrance of our Haitian brothers and sisters whose lives we impacted by a kind word, touch or action. May we always remember to share our abundant blessings with those less fortunate. I'm PROUD to be a part of LCM and may God bless the children of Haiti.....AMEN!

By: Mary Medlock— 5th trip Haiti

## An Honor to Serve... By: Tara MacTigue

In June of 2013, I made the decision to travel to Haiti with Life Connection Mission; I was fifteen at the time. I had heard and seen about service trips throughout my life and I thought it might be a fun and new experience to embark on...it became much more than that. There is so much pressure young people put on one another in today's society—Who has the best clothes? Who has more money? Who has more friends? Who got more "likes" on their picture? And so on. I was one of those girls who fell victim to those pressures, as countless others do. But Haiti changed me; it changed how I think, how I act, how I treat others and myself, how I love, and it changed how I view the world.

(cont. page 6)



# Sponsor Me!

**Please help our newest and youngest students find a sponsor. The following children have just started in our preschool program!**

**The sponsorship cost of \$40 per month is used to pay 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 needed. Sponsors will receive at least one picture a year.**



**Carvens Darivens Pierre**  
Preschool  
Date of Birth: July 7, 2016



**Woosberline Edee**  
Preschool  
Date of Birth: June 6, 2016



**Carl Mackentouch Harmony**  
Preschool  
Date of Birth: February 14, 2016



**Ange-Amelia Cange**  
Preschool  
Date of Birth: August 31, 2016



**Adonai Dieulens Adonis**  
Preschool  
Date of Birth: November 12, 2016



**Bryana Liyah & Lourdemia Vilsaint**  
Preschool  
Date of Birth: October 22, 2015

*For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them. Matthew 18:20*



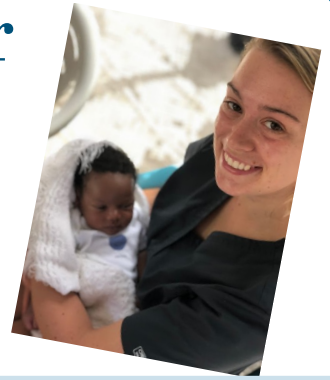
(cont. from page 4 by:  
Tara MacTigue)

As cliché as it may sound, my time in Haiti and the relationships I have formed with the children and families there have taught me what life should, and is about—Family, friends, and loving those for who they are, not what they have.

I am now twenty-one and went on my fifth trip this past June. Over the past six years, I have been able to see the community of Montrouis grow in ways unimaginable. I have met children who were once unsure what the future may hold, who are now in college. People who once thought they would never have an opportunity to get an education, who are now teachers. These things would not have been possible without the mission, the donations, and the fundraisers— and knowing that I had a small part in that is why I continue to be involved. In the best way I know how to put it, the children and families that I have met in Haiti have taught and shown me more about life, love, and happiness than any amount of money or person ever could, and I will be forever thankful for that.

## Clinic Corner

During mission trips to Haiti, many volunteers express an interest in attending our mobile clinics. They are a great way to see both the volunteer community and the Haitian community come together. Each trip, I am always amazed at how quickly a church with palm fronds for walls can transform into a functioning doctors office with triage stations, exam areas, and a pharmacy through the help of our teams. Even more amazing is watching everyone find their place in the clinic regardless of medical background or experience. From nurses assessing patients, to high school students learning how to take and read blood pressures, to moms holding sick babies for the Haitian moms – everyone plays a vital role in the mobile clinic.



Julia Derry, a recent graduate of nursing school, found out she passed her NCLEX exam while on the plane ride down to Haiti! She is now an official nurse – congratulations!

### A Man with No Name- Reflection by: Dale Moyers

I learned upon my arrival in Haiti from Jean Lucien, Vice President of LCM, of some terribly sad news. Jean shared that the man who helps him keep his property clean and secure was sick and had not been to work for over a month. I noticed two of the man's children were in the yard working and had been coming after school to help clean the property each day while their father was sick. They were extremely polite, and I was impressed with how hard they worked. Jean felt badly because he too was sick and was unable to help maintain property or check on his friend. He told me one of the boys had brought him a mango in hopes that it would make him feel better, while knowing his father lay at home in far more serious condition. It was the love this young boy showed that brought tears to Jean's eyes.

I am embarrassed to say that at times I may work to help someone without ever asking their name or getting to know their story. This was the case this time as well. Unable to sleep that night, I believed it was God nudging me to go check on this man. I prayed for the man and his family – asking God to provide comfort to him and to do what he could to help this family. The next day I went to see how the man was doing. He didn't look good, and I felt in my heart his time was very near. I prayed with the man and his family and had LCM staff deliver food and drinks to the family.

Unfortunately, the man did not survive. He died less than one week after my return home.

I can only wonder how his family will survive. What choices will the family be forced to make in order to survive? This is like a broken record. A story about a family that could be told over and over. I can't pretend to understand the inequities in the world. Had this man been born in the United States I do not believe he would have passed – but this was not his fate. In time, I learned the man's name was Isaac Maxo. I am sharing this story to help explain some of the frustrations involved with and the importance of mission work. All rests on God's shoulders, but He does provide us with opportunities and resources to help. I believe He wants us to lovingly share what we have with others – especially the economically disadvantaged.

As you may have heard in the news and read in our newsletters there have been many demonstrations over the last 8 months in Haiti prompting many mission groups to cancel their trips. When groups come to Haiti, they provide critical aid, but equally as important are the relationships that form and the people God puts into our lives that give us the passion to want to do more for others, find more help, and bring others to serve. This is also important for the growth and longevity of LCM. Every trip sparks our desire to do more, challenges us to keep working to help those most in need, and reminds us of our many blessings and the struggles others face daily because they were born in a developing country and not in the United States.

Please say a prayer tonight for Isaac and others like him and their families, and please consider supporting LCM's efforts in Haiti. Please come and serve with us, you will experience something that will change your heart and you will have your own story that leaves that leave a lasting mark on your heart.



***With God's grace and your support LCM has been privileged to serve the people of Montrouis for 20 years. Please consider how you can help us accomplish all we hope in 2019, and see dreams become a reality for our students.***



A little imagination is still needed....pictured above is the new play yard for our older students. You will see a concrete area that will be used for jump rope and basketball. With a lot of TLC, you can see the start to a soccer field and beautiful landscaping. Pictured to the left is the current area outside of our preschool classrooms. This is Play Yard Phase 2. We hope to clear the area, level it, and add grass with a few pieces of climbing equipment for our youngest students. In time, it will all become a reality and a beautiful, safe place for our students to play!

**Please detach the form below and return to LCM at:  
23 Grey Pebble Ct.  
Germantown, MD 20874**

**Check out our newly designed website  
[www.lifeconnectionmission.org](http://www.lifeconnectionmission.org)**

## **Donations are greatly appreciated.**

### **Please prayerfully consider one of our projects to support.**

**Play Yard for Preschool Children**– The play yard for the older children is just days away from completion. Now we turn our attention to a significantly smaller space that is safe and closer to our preschool classrooms. This will give our youngest children a place to safely play and learn! Please accept my donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_

**School Feeding Program**– At this time we have approximately 20 children without a sponsor. We will continue to feed them every day. Please help offset the cost of the children who do not have a sponsor. Please accept my donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Medical Clinic**– Construction is done! Now we must always have the ability to purchase supplies and medications are always needed. Approximately \$200 is needed to treat 25 patients. Please accept my donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsorship Opportunities** Can you sponsor another child? Or please also show the enclosed pictures to family/friends and share of your experiences and joys of sponsoring a child with LCM.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

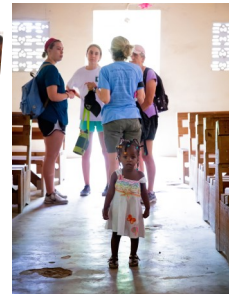
Enclosed is my check for: \_\_\_\_ \$40 (monthly) \_\_\_\_ \$240 (1/2 a year) \_\_\_\_ \$480 (1 year)





# Life in Photos

Summer 2019



Like what you see? Follow us on Facebook to view more photos and stay up to date with what's happening at LCM!



LIFE CONNECTION MISSION

23 Grey Pebble Ct.

Germantown, Maryland 20874

PLEASE  
PLACE  
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THE LCM TIMES

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