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Remembering the Tragedy of January 12, 2010



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*Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
Matthew 5:4*

**Thank YOU
for your
continued
generosity**

Remember!!!

You can double the impact of your donation by leveraging your company's matching gift program! Unsure if your company has a program? Contact your Benefits Department.

Amazon Smile is another great way to support LCM. Choose us as your SMILE organization. We raised \$1,409 last year simply because you like to shop!

Reflections from the Board Directors

On October 19, 2019, LCM held our annual yard sale at St. Patrick's Church in Rockville, MD. The efforts of many allowed for a tremendously successful day! We are grateful to those who donated to the annual yard sale and to those who came to shop to help raise the funds. We are most grateful to the hundreds of volunteers, who throughout one week, were able to collect, clean, sort, and price thousands of items. In a few short hours, the mission was gifted \$39,544. The big announcement was made that night on our Facebook page with a plea to help us reach the goal of \$40,000. In 28 FAST minutes another \$860 was donated! Thank you to all who shared, in any way, in this incredible fundraiser!



With the start of a new year, is the start of a major accomplishment! We are pleased to introduce our Haitian Board of Advisors.

This was one of LCM's goals last year. This is a huge success as we continue to be thankful and thrilled to see that each day more and more of LCM is Haitian run. Pictured from



left to right, father and son "dream team", Jean and Sebastien Lucien who spend most of their time in the United States, but travel multiple times a

year to Montrouis. Benoit Rebecca, administrator, splits his time between the U.S. and Montrouis. Lastly, Baby (pronounced Bobby) Saint Felix, and Jean Rene Nore who live full-time in Montrouis, and we credit them with the every day operations and flawless budgeting, management, and supervision of the LCM staff and all properties. Going forward when we speak of "our team" these are the great men we speak of, and who lead LCM every day continuing to amaze us with their dedication and love for their Haitian family.

Thank you for energizing us to continue to help the children we love. In a recent letter, we reflected on the deep sadness of January 12, 2010, but today we celebrate the growth of Haiti "ti kras pa ti kras" (little by little) and the children who were most affected by the devastation and their hopes and dreams for a new Haiti. There is great promise from the generation that has come from the quake. Our friends in Haiti have extraordinary strength despite generations of a fragile and corrupt government and poverty, we can learn a lot from the courage of these people. For now, we must continue to empower and give a boost where we can to the very capable younger generation so they can develop their own country and create an infrastructure that supports development, long term planning, sustainability, and entrepreneurship. We pray that Haitians from around the world continue to support their own country and believe in a readiness that their brothers and sisters really have never had to support a generation that is more educated, hopeful, and shares in a vision for a greater potential for Haiti.

Sincerest thanks on behalf of the board of directors, our staff in Haiti, and all of LCM's volunteers, Christie Anne Short, President

January 12, 2010 Remembered...

At the time, I didn't think, "This is what God had prepared me for." I had no idea just how bad it was. I sat in Montrouis for a day while I watched the people I had grown to love suffer the devastation of their country, loss of loved ones, and the worst, I think, was the not knowing where others they loved were. I could see everyone's exhaustion and sadness. On the third day, we went into town to do what we could to help. The devastation was more than I could fathom. The people were walking around listlessly, hungry, and thirsty. The emotions that surface every time the subject arises, still brings me to tears. That being said, the positive side to the earthquake; maybe more like a silver lining was that I had the privilege to be there. To stand next to Sebastien, Jean, and so many others, to help whom we could. I was able to take thousands of photos to help fundraise for the people. I was able to show the support of Life Connection Mission. I saw my husband's strength, passion, and dedication to helping people.... To serving God. By: Peggy Moyers Lucien

"Teach us to give and not count the cost." St. Ignatius de Loyola.

Pharmacy in a Box

The other day I was waiting in line at my local CVS Pharmacy and was feeling annoyed. Annoyed that the line was so long. Then annoyed that both of my prescriptions were not ready, only one. While waiting for my second prescription to be filled I wandered the aisles near the pharmacy counter. I saw that anti-fungal cream was on sale and became excited. Not because I have a bad case of athlete's foot, but because it is something we can use at the clinic in Haiti. Suddenly, I didn't feel so annoyed anymore. Here I was, standing in a large store, mere minutes from my home, that was filled with endless medications to cure any ailment I may have and aid in living a healthier life. I thought back to my last trip to Haiti when we did a mobile clinic up in the mountains. Myself and another volunteer were struggling to carry "the pharmacy" up a rather steep hill when a kind Haitian man came out from his home, grabbed our box, placed it on his shoulders, and carried it the rest of the way to the church made of palm fronds and a tin roof that was to be our clinic for the day. When our mobile clinic runs out of medication that's it - there is no going back to the supply room for more. Our pharmacy, both at the main clinic and our mobile clinics, is where people come to mostly get things that we can buy over the counter here in the United States: aspirin, fungal cream, Tylenol, etc. Imagine having to see your doctor every time you wanted to take an Advil for a headache? When I heard my name called over the CVS speaker that my prescription was ready, I headed back to the counter, fungal creams in hand, now happy at the thought of sending some needed medications to Haiti! If you find yourself at your local pharmacy wandering the aisles and seeing a good sale please considering donating to our clinic. We are always accepting the following medications:



Aspirin
Antihistamines (Benadryl)
Ibuprophen (Advil)
Acetaminophen (Tylenol) both adult and children's
Pre-natal Vitamins
Adult Vitamins
Children's Vitamins (no gummies please)
Anti-fungal cream

We also accept:
Alcohol Wipes
Hand Sanitizer
Gloves
Gauze
Thermometers
Automatic blood pressure readers
Pen Lights/Mini Flash Lights
AA and AAA Batters (for the blood pressure cuffs)
Empty Pill Bottles



A Very Merry (belated) Christmas!



Reflection by: Benoit Rebecca

I was in my home in Port-au-Prince when the earthquake hit. The first most painful thoughts were my family. Where is my daughter, my siblings, and my mom? Are they ok. Telephone communications were very difficult; hence, I was unable to reach them. Sebastian found me the morning after it struck. He took me, along with several others, back to Montrouis with him. I only stayed a few days because it was too painful to not know what happened to my family. My home was one of the few undamaged. I found my daughter and siblings, but my mom was not found yet. She was near the epicenter. She walked as far as she could to get to Port-au-Prince to find us, her children. When she could no longer walk, a man lent her his phone. She was finally able to reach one of my siblings. We picked her up to bring her back to us.

It is very difficult to say something positive occurred from the earthquake. So many lives were lost. My heart is still broken. The one thing that came of it was my involvement with Life Connection Mission. Sebastian and I have been friends since childhood. He asked for my help with the mission here and there and then for a longer period as his right hand man. Working with Life Connection Mission has been an honor. Helping the innocent children has been a light in my life.

Like what you see?
Follow us on Facebook
to view more photos!

Sponsoring a Child: A True Gift to the Whole Family

One of the best decisions our family ever made was to sponsor a child in Haiti through the Life Connection Mission (LCM). Never in my life did I dream that sponsoring a child would be so transformative and heartwarming. Jonathan is his name and little did we know that he would change the trajectory of our lives when we decided to sponsor him 13 years ago. Jonathan's kind and heartfelt letters to us are inspiring. Jonathan will be graduating from the LCM school he has attended since we began sponsoring him and will attend the trade school built by LCM next fall. He was 6 years old when we started sponsoring him and as the years progressed, we watched this young boy become an amazing young man. We love him more than words can say and we feel he is truly a member of our family. I have been fortunate enough to travel to Haiti and meet Jonathan and his family. When I met Jonathan in person I could not help but think about how much this amazing person has changed our lives. There is something so much bigger than ourselves and I believe it is Jonathan who has made our family live an extremely grateful life. Our time with Jonathan in person and on social media is incredible (we message each other almost everyday). Through the years this relationship which costs very little and reaps enormous benefits is a gift to seriously consider. The truth of sponsoring a child is that I believe it benefits our family probably more than it benefits him. Our family is full of love for him. At a time of such a focus on materialism, it has been a good lesson to us that our lives are so rich in loving Jonathan. After seeing how much this program helps people in need my sister and mother started sponsoring 2 young children that they have watched blossom. I think about Montrouis and all LCM has done to give the citizens their dignity and a better way of life. If LCM did not exist, the people of Montrouis would literally have nothing. This program is so special to me and I am forever grateful for the opportunity to have Jonathan in our lives. He has enriched our lives to the end of our days.

By: Cici Allen Daves, Rockville, MD.



Remembering & Honoring...

The day of the earthquake started off as an exciting day. Peggy was coming to visit for several weeks, our relationship was young at the time. I picked her up from the airport, ran a few errands, and returned to Montrouis. I was helping Peggy settle in when the earthquake hit. I didn't realize the gravity of it until later that night. Who could possibly imagine their "White House" collapsing. It was unimaginable that our Palace dropped to the ground like a pancake. My father, Jean, and I left

Montrouis at 5am the next morning to find people we and others working for the mission knew. We brought back as many people as we could. That afternoon, I went back to Port-au-Prince with as much water as I could carry in the truck. We made multiple trips for days. We brought sixty-three people back to stay across the street at the clinic. We supported over four hundred people sleeping at the Life Connection Mission School. A camp was set up on land that Dr. J had purchased by the public beach. We built a shower and provided food. Many people related to families we knew and trusted had relatives staying with them; we helped support them too. There is no positive to the earthquake, but being the director of Life Connection Mission allowed me to help so many people. We made several trips to Port-au-Prince giving as much water as we could afford to buy, emptying our supply of clothes, and providing hope. We prayed with people everywhere we went. I saw the awesome strength of my people during this horrible time. By: Sebastian Lucien





Sponsor Me!

Please help our newest and youngest students find a sponsor. Share in our goal this year of getting 20 children sponsored in 2020!

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.



Myriam Chrisite Jean
Preschool
Date of Birth: May 6, 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



Clinchy Volcy
Preschool
Date of Birth: March 18, 2016

Do not look to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. Philippians 2:4

On the afternoon of January 12, 2010, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck Haiti. It was one more disaster in a country that has suffered from decades of political, economical, social setbacks, and inequalities.

With approximately three million people affected, the earthquake was the most devastating natural disaster ever experienced in Haiti. Roughly 300,000 lives were lost, and 300,000 people were injured. About 1.5 million individuals were forced to live in makeshift displaced person camps. As a result, the country faced the greatest humanitarian need in its history.

2018: While progress has been made, some of the issues prior to the earthquake persist in Haiti, such as weak political governance, lack of infrastructure, and limited access to basic resources.

2019: In March, opposition parties block a vote to ratify a new prime minister effectively shutting down the government and calling for President Moïse to resign. By fall, widespread antigovernment protests have shutdown schools, businesses, and have worsened humanitarian needs. Today, with nearly sixty percent living below the poverty line, many children are hungry. In fact, half of all Haitians are undernourished and 100,000 under five suffer from acute mal nutrition.

The nightmare that Haiti no longer wants to relive.

Already 10 years since a terrible earthquake took away almost everything. The 2010 earthquake devastated the country enormously in terms of materials damage and loss of human lives. Most of us have been affected in one way or another by this tragedy. We have seen more than 300 thousand people leaving for the after-life. These people were our children, our fathers, our mothers, our friends, our work colleagues, our classmates, etc. In fact, we have all somehow lost a loved one to ourselves.

Myself, having survived this drama, I give thanks to God and honor the memory of all those who did not have the chance to survive it. And I believe that if I am still alive, there is certainly a good reason for that. I believe that my mission was not



yet coming to an end and God still wanted me on this earth in order to be able to serve the most underprivileged. And 10 years later, I am here at Life Connection Mission, working for the well-being of others whom I consider to be the most exciting job of my life. The 2010 earthquake struck us, of course. But, it also impacted our lives in positive ways. It allowed us to retrospect in order to be able to correct our mistakes made in the past and set better goals for the future. Life Connection Mission always knew how to set big goals and tried to achieve them. Its most recent projects date back to the construction of a trade school, a much

more spacious kitchen and a sports field. None of this would be possible without the continued support of our dear donors. Thank you to all of you for supporting our projects. I hope brighter days for the future. I am dreaming of Life Connection Mission supporting other schools in the community by providing school materials as it is with the Mission school. Please, keep supporting in every little way you can! It really makes a difference.

By Jean Rene Nore



A Journey to LCM

By Yves Jerry Pierre



From January 2010 through January 2020, a lot of things have happened and positively impacted my life. One of the most important things that really captured my attention during this decade is my arrival at Life Connection Mission. I came up as a junior student in business administration, and I started serving at the LCM Clinic as an intern. Before I knew about LCM, my goal was to be able to serve the most needy people especially in Haiti. Guess what? Upon my graduation, LCM has given me the opportunity to fulfill that dream with a servant attitude. My experience at LCM has greatly changed my life for good. Being able to serve is such a great privilege for me that I value every second I spend working with LCM. Since my arrival, there has been a lot of change. I had the opportunity to see how LCM has played a crucial role in helping the population of Montrouis grow spiritually, economically, socially, educationally, and healthily. As I am particularly involved in the health care system provided by the mission, my dream is to see LCM clinic occupied not only with consultation and minor surgery services, but also with services like maternity care, dental care, and a medical laboratory. Such services would be available to serve not only the population of Montrouis, but also any other Haitian desperate for the health care services provided by the mission in the national land of Haiti.



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 2020 and see dreams become a reality for our students.



The top two pictures you saw fall 2019. LCM celebrated a piece of land that was cleared and leveled for a future site of play yard for our upper elementary, junior high, and high school students.



**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

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)

Apology to My Brothers and Sisters in Developing Countries

by Joyce Rupp

To my brothers and sisters in developing countries:

While I was deciding which oat bran cereal to eat this morning,
You were searching the ground for leftover grains from the passing wheat truck...

While I was choosing between diet and regular soda,
Your parched lips were yearning for a sip of clean water...

While I scanned the ads for a bargain on an extra piece of clothing
You woke up and put on the same shirt and pants that you have worn for many months...

While I built a fourteen-room house for the three of us,
Your family of 10 found shelter in a one-room hut...

My brothers and sisters, forgive me for my arrogance and my indifference. Forgive me for my greed for always wanting newer, bigger, and better things. Forgive me for not doing my part to change the unjust systems that keep you suffering and impoverished. I offer you my promise to become aware of your situations and to change my lifestyle as I work for the transformation of our world.



This year, please help us continue to raise awareness and teach others about the needs not just in Haiti, but all around the world. Join us as we pray for those who lack clean water, food, clothing, & shelter. The children who grow up with violence and addiction around them, those who do not receive medical care, suffer abuse or neglect, pray with us that LCM, all nonprofits, generous donors, and politicians will work towards world peace, equity for all, and a world in which we serve Him and serve as we have been called.



LIFE CONNECTION MISSION

23 Grey Pebble Ct.

Germantown, Maryland 20874

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