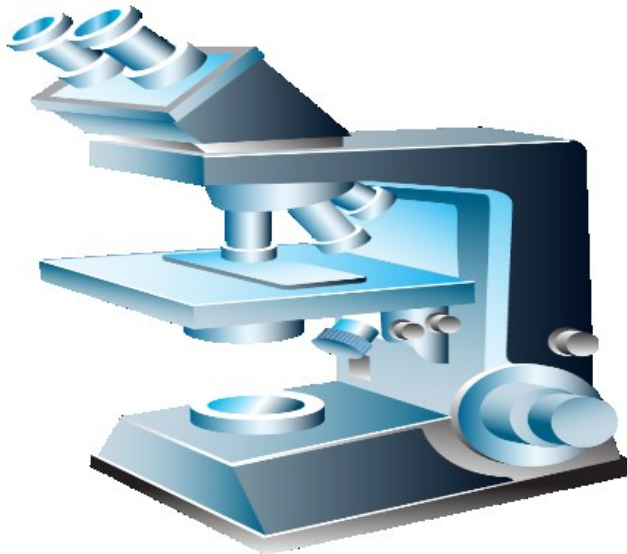


### Laboratory for the FD Clinic



At the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on September 18<sup>th</sup>, the Foundation announced a recent donation of \$8,000 by Judy Daymont of Epworth United Methodist Church. toward the establishment of a diagnostic laboratory for the Fond Doux Community Clinic. This will enable the Foundation to fulfill one of its major goals for this year -- the inclusion of a laboratory in the clinic. It will greatly enhance the diagnostic capabilities of the clinic. Although the lab will be quite simple, it will enable certain tests to be done on site.

How soon the laboratory will be functioning is not certain. It depends upon what needs to be brought from the United States and what can be purchased and transported in Haiti. The severity of gang violence on the road between Fond Doux and Port-au-Prince needs to be evaluated almost daily to measure the ability to transport the needed equipment to Fond Doux. Nevertheless, the hope is that it may be functioning before the end of November. Let us hope that we are not too optimistic.

Eluard Louis, our management assistant at the clinic, upon hearing of the donation said, "This is tremendous news. I'm so excited to start our lab. I am looking forward to seeing this happen." We all are exceedingly grateful for this gift. Thank you, Judy!

### Land Purchase

A second announcement at the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration was that the Foundation is purchasing land toward fulfilling a second major goal of the Foundation – the establishment of a community center/school north of the Methodist Church of Fond Doux. The Methodist School, housed in the one room of the

Church, has approximately 100 students and desperately needs better facilities. At the same time the Foundation and our Haitian Committee have long desired to have a location of our own to host community activities and a library. The Haitian Committee feels strongly the need for a place to answer the question: Where are you located? The Executive Director Emile Maceus listed this as his number one priority. The plan is to erect a dual-purpose facility that can serve as a school in the morning and a community center after the school day is over and on weekends.



The above picture taken from the porch of the Methodist Church shows Eluard Louis (barely visible near the center of the picture) standing at the near corner of the land purchased. The parcel is about one third of an acre. The purchase was made possible by a donor that gave \$15,000 earmarked solely for the purchase of land.

### Alexis Family Home



### Alexis Family Old House Demolition

A third announcement at the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration was an \$11,600 donation for the Alexis family to receive a new home, thanks to two generous donors to the Foundation. The major gift was \$10,000. Several mission team members became acquainted

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with the family when their nearly blind daughter Japhcanie was taken to Mirebalais hospital some years ago supposedly suffering from cancer. In fact, she was suffering from vitamin A deficiency which caused her blindness. (Our Vita Mamba nutritional supplement snack program is designed to prevent such occurrences.) Like many houses in and around Fond Doux, their house had a leaking roof and really did not keep the weather out. A builder was requested to see how it could be repaired. He recommended that an entirely new house would be a much better investment. The house was in such sad condition that repair was not really an option, he said.

The family has moved in with some friends in order for the old house to be demolished and a new one built on the same site. Some years ago, building houses was one of the goals of the Foundation. Unfortunately, the cost of providing shelter is too costly for us to routinely build new houses. The Foundation is, however, happy to assist in this endeavor when donors make it possible.

### Solar Power and Celebration Offering

Jim Johnson spoke at the celebration about the need for solar power to operate the clinic. An offering was taken at our celebration. We received over \$5000 and a pledge of \$1000 more. \$2500 was designated for solar power for the clinic to add to the nearly \$4000 on hand for that purpose. Thank you! Thank you!

### Demonstrations Hit Fond Doux



**Protest in Fond Doux**

While violent demonstrations have been present in Port-au-Prince and ever-increasing gang activity has hit major cities and certain areas, demonstrations had generally been absent in Fond Doux. This changed in late August. Fortunately, demonstrations in Fond Doux were peaceful with hundreds of people gathering to march to protest the high price of gasoline and food. Much of this has come about because of the

tremendous change in the exchange rate for the dollar according to Venelson Vitelus, one of our Haitian correspondents. He said that the aim of the demonstrators was to lower the exchange rate. He sent us a video of peaceful marchers in Fond Doux. The majority of the people in the village were taking part, he said.



**Road Blocked September 6th**

However, the threat of violence was clearly always present. Eluard Louis, our management assistant, said, "Things are not going too well because of the protests against the high cost of living and the insecurity carried out by the people. Political instability is ravaging our country because of illegitimate rulers. As a result, the Haitian population took to the streets to demonstrate against the situation in which we all live. . . The streets are blocked, the tires are on fire. To be honest with you, the political behavior of fellow citizens is very violent. . ."

Venelson said, "They blocked the street. No one could cross it. Some people risked themselves walking by foot to go to purchase food. . . From day to day the Haitian lifestyle is becoming more difficult."

Eluard also said, "For Thursday and Friday), we did not open the clinic. Thursday, we came to work; but we closed early. The reason was the demonstrations organized by the people against the high cost of living. For the umpteenth time, the Haitian people, my people have braved the streets against the high cost of living. I don't want to sound egocentric but we are the only country, the only people living in such a chaotic situation. We demonstrate for access to food, drinking water. We demonstrate against poverty, insecurity.

The streets were blocked, traffic completely paralyzed, tires on fire in the streets. It paralyzed all activities, all businesses. This kind of political behavior speaks for itself. Such violence, such bitterness consumes our

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country. What will we do as a people, as a nation that lives in the most extreme poverty? Other countries are protesting for covetousness, for access to the tertiary sector; but we, the people of Haiti, are protesting for having to eat, enough to support our family. . .”

Emile Maceus, our executive director, said, “Everything is upside down. The country is paralyzed. Often, we cannot go a kilometer without running into a road block. The clinic is closed because Myrdred, our clinic nurse, cannot get to Fond Doux.”

On September 16th he said, “Things are becoming worse! There are riots almost everywhere at the moment that I am writing this! The transportation is paralyzed! Please, pray for us as we are crossing such a sad period! I should have added looting too!”

School opening has been officially delayed until October 3<sup>rd</sup> to enable the situation to get back closer to normal. The demonstrations are causing severe problems in finding gasoline (including for our clinic generator) and food for the people. They are stopping construction and virtually all economic activity.

### Meet Johnson Louis



#### Johnson Serving Food for the Club

Johnson Louis is a Bible teacher in the Saturday Club which the Fond Doux Foundation conducts together with the Methodist Church of Fond Doux. The Methodist Church provides the Bible teacher; the Foundation is providing teachers of English and music. Sometimes, we offer food at the club because food insecurity is a big problem in the community.

Here is what Johnson told our reporter Venelson Vitelus about himself:

Hello, my name is Johnson Louis. I am twenty-nine (29) years old. I heard of the Fond Doux Foundation as an

organization that is doing things so people in Fond Doux can help themselves earn a livelihood.



#### Saturday Club Children with Food

I became interested in the Saturday club, first because when I was growing up I saw the needs of the area. When I talked to Émile Maceus, the leader, about the club, he took that into consideration; and finally, I also saw that with the club the Methodist Church could grow in numbers. The most important part of the Saturday Club for me is teaching the Bible.

My life is teaching. I don't have a job; but sometimes, I tutor kids in the community.

I do not live on a farm, but I have animals. I have two beef cattle, four goats and one pig. They are at my parents' farm. My mother's name is Yvrose Pierre and my father's name is Louis Manerle. I have three brothers: Nesly Pierre is 27; Kempes Pierre is 25; and Beaulange Pierre is 23. I have two sisters: Kerlange Philipe is 26 and Viviane Pierre is 12.

My house is a wooden house with a sheet metal roof. It has two bedrooms and it has a wooden fence.

I am not presently in school. I am finished with my high school and I want to learn a profession now, but my finances are not sufficient for that. My favorite school subject was math.

I obtain water at a village water pump. I eat twice a day. As for my greatest joys, I feel good when I'm teaching at school and talk about the Bible. My greatest difficulty is that I don't eat well and I don't have something to do to earn money. Religion is very important in my life. I became involved with the Methodist Church because of an evangelistic campaign at the church. Ever since I have been involved.

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The greatest need in the community is that we need a water system to water our gardens. I believe that in 10 years the majority of people in Fond Doux will be able to help themselves.

I would like to tell the Americans that I hope the work we are doing together will be successful. Thank you, "Fond Doux Foundation", for all you do for the people in Fond Doux!

### Congrats to the Champions



**Fond Doux Soccer Team**

The Fond Doux Community soccer team ended a very successful season. Congratulations to the champions! Uniforms and shoes were purchased by the Foundation from special contributions designated for that purpose.

### Uniforms for School



At the request of Lovely Felix, the vice-principal of the Methodist School of Fond Doux, the Foundation made a \$500 grant to the school to purchase fabric for uniforms. Students needing help to provide uniforms were invited to come to the Church where the fabric was distributed.

### Remembered in Death



**Semidoine and Saintany Merolis**

Two of Fond Doux's oldest residents died this past month. Semidoine was 100 years old and his wife was 96. Saintany recently injured her foot and Semidoine was not feeling well for several months. They apparently died within about 24 hours of one another. We were notified of Saintany's death on September 12 and Semidoine's on September 13<sup>th</sup>. The couple had been recipients of food from the Foundation for some time because they were unable to provide for themselves and have no known relatives in the area. The neighbors were unable to find any relatives to notify concerning their deaths. We the Foundation do not wish their deaths to go unrecognized and to honor these humble folks. May they rest in Peace.

### **"SO LITTLE CAN DO SO MUCH"**

To learn about our projects or to donate, you may contact the Foundation in a number of ways:

Website: [www.fonddouxfoundation.org](http://www.fonddouxfoundation.org)

Email: [John@fonddouxfoundation.org](mailto:John@fonddouxfoundation.org)

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Fond Doux Foundation

PO Box 51443

Durham, NC 27717

Website manager: Brent Engel

Newsletter editor: John Clausung

The Fond Doux Foundation engages friend-to-friend with people in and around the village of Fond Doux, Haiti, helping to provide better access to medical care and health education, improved nutrition through agriculture and animal husbandry, educational scholarships, and intercultural faith-based activities. FDF is a 501(c)3 organization based in Durham, North Carolina.