

## The Fond Doux Flyer January 2023

### The Year 2022 in Review

The Year 2022 was a very difficult year for the Haitian people. Following the assassination of the President, the already unstable political situation in Haiti continued to slide toward complete anarchy. Violent gangs terrorized significant parts of the country and mass demonstrations and road blocks ground most of the economy to a halt. For the first time in memory demonstrations (fortunately non-violent locally) actually hit the village of Fond Doux. The result was a brand-new climate for the Foundation in which to work. It created new challenges and slowed down projects long in the works. The Foundation through the presence of our Haitian staff has been able to respond in a positive manner, however.

**Moving Our Base of Operations.** A significant change in the operation of the Foundation in 2022 was to move the base of our operations. For a variety of reasons including an expanding number of Haitian partnerships, the Foundation moved its base of operations from the Primitive Church of Fond Doux (where Pastor Brucey Delma is pastor) to the Methodist Church of Fond Doux and to a clinic building owned by the Wesleyenne Church of Fond Doux.



**The Methodist Church of Fond Doux**

The Foundation held its 2021 annual Christmas dinner at the Methodist Church (delayed until January 2022 because of our executive director's wedding). We held several community events including a class on family planning and established a Saturday Club for children at the Methodist Church. This program includes a Bible lesson, English lessons and a music component. The Church was also the host for two teacher training events: 1) for all teachers in our sponsored school in Platon and the Methodist and Ravine Parc schools. 2) for all teachers of English in the Fond Doux schools.

Both events were also attended by some teachers from other schools.

**Opening of the clinic.** At the same time, the Foundation was repairing the clinic building owned by the Wesleyenne Church and began the operation of a clinic in that building in June of 2022. In addition to holding clinic every Thursday and Friday, the clinic building has also been used as a place to hold two significant events: a training session for midwives taught by our nurse Myrdred Kaminski Delva and a class on the prevention of cholera taught by Manika Paulo, a health worker.



**Clinic Building**

**English Club in Ravine Parc.** Through the efforts of Ancitho Gene (Haitian committee member), Jowasky Saint Surin (English scholarship grad) and Venelson Vitelus (English scholarship student) an English Club was initiated in Ravine Parc and is now sponsored by the Foundation. They celebrated their first anniversary on December 30<sup>th</sup> with a party. They have as many as 30 students interested that sometimes attend. Fifteen of them learned enough to take a test to see how well they are progressing.

**Emergency Help for William Burke and his Neighbors.** In response to an urgent plea in April about lack of food and seeds from one of our sometime used translators, William Burke, who is now living in Dame Marie, the Foundation sent some emergency relief for him and his neighbors and sent letters to various Methodist officials concerning the developing crisis in the country.

**Emergency Food for Fond Doux.** The crisis in the country grew worse. The price of gasoline shot to \$35 to \$50 a gallon on the black market and local Fond Doux demonstrations forced closure of our clinic for most of September and October. All construction projects were placed on hold. The Foundation responded with an emergency distribution of food for hungry residents.

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**Food Distribution in October**

**Other emergency grants.** The Foundation gave several emergency grants to the Methodist School. And individuals (made aware of the needs through the Foundation) directed gifts to the Ravine Parc School and also for the education of some children that would not be able to attend school except with assistance.



**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cake**

**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.** With the relaxation of COVID restrictions, the Foundation celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in September. We also received some significant gifts (before, during and after) to enable us to proceed on several goals of the Foundation. These include the establishment of a clinic laboratory, provision of solar electricity for the clinic, the purchase of land, and money to build a house for the Alexis family. We are deeply grateful for those donors that have made this possible.

**Attacking Malnutrition.** The Foundation would like to improve agriculture in Fond Doux. In the meantime, however, we are providing Vita Mamba, the Haitian grown and manufactured snack for school children to combat malnutrition and hunger at the school in Platon. We will provide it more widely to the Methodist school and Ravine Parc school to the extent that we have sufficient gifts directed toward it.

### Looking Toward 2023

**Community Center/School building.** In the closing months of the 2022, the Foundation was able to purchase some land north of the Methodist Church of Fond Doux. During 2023 the Foundation will be seeking significant additional sums for the erection of a community center on this land which can also serve as a school building during the morning hours. This would greatly improve the Methodist school and also give the Foundation an identity in the community.

**Laboratory for the clinic.** With funds now available, we look forward very soon to a functioning diagnostic lab at the clinic. Much of the necessary equipment was brought to Port-au-Prince by Brent Engel in November and other needed materials are being purchased in Haiti or made in Fond Doux.



**Laboratory and Pharmacy Room**

**Solar Power in the clinic.** Because of the great response at our anniversary dinner, the Foundation plans to move ahead with the erection of a latrine and place solar panels on the roof as soon as construction can begin. Perhaps this can be finished by mid-year.

**New English Language Program.** In 2022 we phased out most of our ESL scholarships and held the first of special training sessions for teachers of English in the Fond Doux Schools. We are experimenting in how to help the present teachers of English in the Fond Doux schools enable their students to gain a competency in spoken English. It requires creating the means and opportunities for students to actually practice the language. If we are successful, a far greater number of students will gain proficiency, although spending less money than by providing scholarships.

**Maintaining the Clinic and Platon School.** A major goal for the coming year is to get the Fond Doux Clinic and Platon School on a sound sustainable financial footing.

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### Cholera Prevention Class



**Emile Maceus Addressing Cholera Class**

The Foundation conducted a class on Cholera prevention on Tuesday December 13<sup>th</sup> at the Fond Doux Community Clinic. The class was arranged by our Executive Director Emile Maceus and planned by our Community Nurse Myrdred Kaminski Delva and taught by a health worker Manika Paulo. Cholera had almost been eliminated from Haiti until the assassination of the Haitian president and subsequent political upheaval, which left violent gangs in control of much of the capital of Port-au-Prince. People were afraid to venture forth and turned to puddles for drinking water. With contaminated water, cholera spread rapidly through the city and into the surrounding countryside. When it reached Vialet, the community directly east of Fond Doux where Fond Doux residents often go to market, it was time to alert the villagers to the danger and how to avoid it.



**Sonise, Christella, and Fedner Preparing Packets**

Each participant received a small packet of items to help with prevention and treatment including soap, bleach and purifying tablets. These packets were prepared by Haitian committee member Sonise Paulo, staff member Christella Julsaint and volunteer Fedner Dorrinvil. Fedner is a villager, who had heard of the good work of the Foundation in the community and asked how he could help the Foundation in their work. So, he was enlisted to help with this preparation.



**Registration Table**

There were 112 persons that registered as attending the event – a very nice turn out.



**Manika Paulo with the Packets**

In addition to teaching about how cholera spreads and the importance of personal hygiene, Manika explained the use of each item in the packet. The participants were asked to come by the clinic the following Thursday if they needed a bucket for purifying water. Surprisingly people came by the droves and all 80 buckets available were distributed before noon on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.

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Distributing Buckets on December 15<sup>th</sup>

### Cooperation Discussion Continues



**Myrdred Delva and Michaëlle Sainatus**

Myrdred Kaminski Delva, our community nurse and medical director of the Fond Doux Community Clinic, met with Michaëlle Sainatus, the Haitian running the pregnancy program originated by persons associated with Chi Alpha, the campus ministries of the Assemblies of God. They met on December 15<sup>th</sup> at the clinic building to seek ways to coordinate and cooperate in their ministries. The pregnancy program has been operating from

a small room at Theo's Place, a short distance from the clinic. The goal of the pregnancy program is healthy babies through pre-natal care and education. The Haitian clinic committee was scheduled to meet on December 30<sup>th</sup> to act on a recommendation to run a coordinated program from a room in the clinic building. At press time we have not yet heard the outcome of this meeting.

### School Resumes in Fond Doux -- Mostly

Most children in Haiti missed almost an entire semester of school this year because of the domestic turmoil – a genuine tragedy! However, the schools have finally reopened in Fond Doux. The Capois la Mort school allowed students to attend school without wearing a school uniform beginning December 14<sup>th</sup>. They will be required beginning January 9<sup>th</sup>. The Wesleyenne School opened earlier. The Platon school opened the week of December 12<sup>th</sup>. The Ravine Parc School has stayed open since September, one of the few schools not to close because of the domestic turmoil.

The Methodist school did not open and is planning on opening on January 9<sup>th</sup>, the official national starting time, if they can obtain sufficient funding. The school is in precarious financial condition. Their sponsors have had a difficult time raising money. The teachers have been virtually unpaid for two years – tragic! We are giving some emergency assistance. More is needed.

**Christmas Dinner for 500 people was served on December 29<sup>th</sup> – Details next month.**

### **“SO LITTLE CAN DO SO MUCH”**

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

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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.