

First Anniversary of Fond Doux Foundation Committee

Haitians Assume Leadership

The Haitian FDFC consists of the titular head Pastor Brucely Delma, Vice-President Emile Maceus (actually chief operating officer), Secretary Sonise Paulo, Publicity Chair Schneider Saint-Surin, Soccer Chair Fritzmann Saint-Surin, Wesley Paulo, Jeanliphete Delma, Barthelemy Delma and Danis Jean Joseph.



Emile Maceus

In 2011 mission teams led by persons from Epworth United Methodist Church began a community-based mission at the invitation of Pastor Brucely Delma in Fond Doux, Haiti. This led to joint efforts to enhance the lives of people in the community.



Pastor Brucely Delma

In April 2019 after 8 years of mission encounters, at the encouragement of new young leaders in the community and spurred by his declining health and energy, Pastor Brucely Delma authorized and helped to form a new committee, the Haitian Fond Doux Foundation Committee. This committee consisted at the time of 10 persons, 8 men and 2 women. The majority were in their 20's, one in her 40's two in their 50's and only one (the oldest), Pastor Brucely himself, in his 60's. Presently, it consists of 9 persons because one of the them emigrated.



Four young members of the FDFC

This month marks the first anniversary of this new committee. It has been an amazing year. The new leadership decided that if changes were to take place, they needed to make it happen. They were not only to be responsible for implementing the ideas and programs of the Foundation, but were to offer their own ideas. And they have. The energy originating from this young committee is impressive. They have taken the lead in recommending scholarships, responding to food crisis, the recent malaria outbreak, negotiating for a clinic building with the Wesleyenne Church, arranging life changing surgeries and initiating several brand-new projects.

Americans Expand Awareness

Fortunately (providentially), the finances of the Foundation improved through the Foundation's decision to increase awareness of their work, not only in Epworth Church but also beyond, The publication of the book, *Unto the Least of These*, the publishing of a newsletter, the presentation of a PowerPoint in several other churches and a general word of mouth

campaign have not only increased awareness of what the Foundation is about, but has increased its funding. Thanks to all who have responded.



Rev. Clausing and Several Mission Supporters

As a result, the Foundation and the Haitian Committee have been able to engage in significant new and/or enlarged ministries. Many have been highlighted in recent issues of the Fond Doux Flyer

Scholarships

The Foundation added two people on university scholarships this past year, Faédra Olivier and Frantz Delma and expects to add another this Fall. The Haitians chose the recipients. In addition, eight young people are now on English language scholarship and one on a music scholarship. All these were recommended by the FDFC who actually pushed the Foundation beyond original expectations

These Scholarships could only be offered when the donors pledged to sustain their commitments over sufficient years to maintain the scholarships. We now have three such pledges active. Through these pledges each for \$2000-\$2500 a year we fund Dieuseul Istache in medical school, Frantz Delma in nursing school and Faédra Olivier in teacher education. A fourth pledge by a former board member funds Emile Maceus in teacher education but not through the Foundation. That scholarship is supplemented by a lesser amount by a donor to help with some expenses through the Foundation.

New University Scholarship

The Foundation is delighted to announce that an anonymous donor will now fund another university scholarship. The recipient will be chosen by the FDFC to start school this Fall. The cost is \$2000 per year. This donation is a life changing and a community changing gift. It is difficult to convey how significant this is! We are profoundly grateful. Several persons are being considered for the new Scholarship.

Emergency Feeding



The Haitian FDF Committee asserted significant leadership in providing relief by arranging two feeding programs during the acute food shortages caused by demonstrations. The first was emergency relief for 50 families during the October shut down of the economy. The second was the Christmas party, which fed over 400 vulnerable old people and children. The menu included chicken as well as beans and rice. That was a genuine treat. These feedings were made possible by gifts to the Foundation.



Christmas Meal Preparation

Platon School Initiative

The Fond Doux Foundation Committee further took the lead in suggesting to the FDF an emergency grant for the School at Platon. The school was in such desperate financial shape that it would have closed without our assistance. This grant was made possible by a generous (\$2500) donation from an out of state (Pennsylvania) donor.



Platon School Children with New Year's Dinner

Life-Changing Surgery

The FDFC has asserted considerable leadership in arranging the life-changing surgeries that the Foundation approved these past several months.



Samuel Frontus and his Uncles

Restarting the Chicken Farm.



A young man featured in a previous issue of the Flyer, Dave Stevenson Michael, has been enlisted to attempt to run a re-opened farm. The first step is the training of the new farm manager, which is being explored. If successful, it will begin to address the protein deficiency in some of the children's diet. The farm if re-opened is intended to be a cooperative profit-sharing program. The exact split has not yet been determined, but depends on the profitability of the farm. The Foundation's profits will be used to provide eggs for children in the school.



Eggs for Children

Micro Loans

The FDFC have been very seriously and actively pursuing micro loans. Danis Jean Joseph has been a leading advocate. They identified about 50 people who are interested in this program and/or have previously received loans from other organizations or banks.

They eliminated anyone that previously had a loan from another organization or bank but did not repay their loan. They were left with 20 people that they are considering as possible participants. They anticipate loans in the range of 2000ht to 3000ht or about \$110

to \$165 US per person. They have arranged classes for these people on finances. The first of these took place February 17th. The class included laying aside the money for resupply and for repayment of the loans. Their assessment is that many of the micro-loan failures stem from too high an interest cost for the loans.

They are seeking seed money from the Foundation and also Haitian sources of money. They are requiring from each applicant a business plan and reports on their business as it proceeds. They have a pro-bono lawyer who is creating legal contracts for each applicant to sign. The school is being used to arrange their meetings with the applicants.

The Foundation’s research suggests that the success of a micro loan program depends not solely on the availability of low or no cost loans, but more on 1. developing sound business plans, 2. following those business plans including good and adequate records, 3. adapting when assumptions turn to be inaccurate or circumstances change, 4. receiving adequate monitoring and mentoring, and 5. the determination and will of the business person to persist and adapt in the face of difficulties. Thus, the Foundation has been encouraging the FDFC to develop a mentoring program and not just start up classes.

Community Nurse/Clinic

An arrangement to cooperate with the Wesleyenne Church on the proposed clinic project is being arranged by the FDFC. The clinic building, erected by Samaritan’s purse, is owned by the neighboring Wesleyenne Church. Members of the FDFC have recently toured the building to see what is there. It is a very good building in good shape and is presently unused – very promising!



The Clinic Building

Malaria Response

The FDFC arranged a class on malaria and coordinated the purchase and distribution of mosquito nets.



Gernite Demonstrating Mosquito Nets

After one year, the Haitian Fond Doux Foundation Committee can celebrate a very impressive year. Your support of the Foundation has enabled us to participate in these and other programs. We salute the committee and our supporters.

Our Covid-19 Response in Platon

Our special COVID-10 issue of the Flyer highlighted the Foundation’s response in Fond Doux. As we go to press, the Foundation’s Board also approved a class to be conducted by Nurse Myrdred Kaminskie Delva in the village of Platon along with 5 special handwashing buckets.

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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, USA, whose Christian community