



Irrigation Proposal

On February 27th, 2021 three engineers from Leogane, Haiti joined FDFC members, Brucely Delma, Emile Maceus and “Le Petit” Delma to examine the layout of the upper regions of Fond Doux to explore the feasibility of building a reservoir to enable citizens of Fond Doux to irrigate their gardens during the dry season. The engineers were led by Anchelot Delma.

Emile Maceus reported, “The engineers have successfully determined the right position for the reservoir. A very good place has been chosen by them, from that position water will be able to spread all over the village! What a blessing that would be! We haven’t officially broken the news to the villagers yet. But some of them have already known about it and that will make them very happy!”



Left L to right: FDFC Executive Emile Maceus, Engineer Anchelot Delma, Pastor Brucely Delma, Engineers Junior Martin and Maquely Paul

Dieuseul Istache at Medical School



Dieuseul Istache is a medical student on scholarship from the Fond Doux Foundation. Recently we talked with him and asked him to describe his experiences with the hospital in which he is now working. This is his reply:

“When you are a student at medical school, after finishing the pathology courses you are sent to a hospital to practice. I spent a month at Fame Pereo hospital, where we treated different skin infections. I don't really know that hospital (very well) because I did that internship with a lot of fear and anxiety because of the insecurity problems in the city (Port-au-Prince).

“But I have now spent two months in Belladère. I am able to describe Hôpital Notre-Dame de la Nativité in Belladère. Before describing that hospital, I want to let you know something about Belladère. It's a city in the central department of Haiti. The city is the largest of las Cahobas arrondissement and borders the city of Comendador, Elias Piña, Dominican Republic. It has a tropical climate which has much less rainfall in winter than in summer. The economy of Belladère is heavily dependent on the cross-border trade mainly by produce distributors through its port of entry. The population is predominately Catholic.



Dieuseul with Schoolmates

“The Hôpital Notre-Dame de la Nativité in Belladère is a great public hospital. In the entrance there is a big barrier wall. Before entering there is a security officer who questions you on how he can help you. He's a good man.

“The hospital contains several departments. One is emergency service where I spent two weeks providing patient services. There are only four beds in that department. Another is the maternity ward and the delivery room, where we welcome women who are going to give birth. We work all the time. I spent two weeks in that department where I helped 18 women to deliver babies without having any difficulty. There are 26 beds. There are 2 nurses who work in this department taking the vital signs of the mothers as well as the babies. Then, they record the number of deliveries and give medication to hospitalized patients.

“In the pediatric department, I spent 2 weeks. There we treat hospitalized infants with dyspnea, bronchitis, pneumonia, bronchiolitis and other things. There are 30 beds in that department. In the outpatient clinic, I spent another 2 weeks consulting patients with different health problems.

“In the internal medicine women's clinic, where I spent a week, we treated hospitalized women with

health problems such as heart disease, lung disease, cancer, liver disease, pancreas disease. etc. The same is true for the male internal medicine clinic. Each department here contains 20 beds and the nurses are always there to monitor patients, taking vital signs and giving medication at the times requested by the doctor.

“There is a laboratory. There we do exams like blood count, kidney workup, liver workup, lipid workup, h pylori examination, urine test, etc. Only the blood count test is free in that hospital.

“There is a drugstore, where you can obtain drugs with a prescription after seeing a doctor. It's free. Sometimes, when you don't find the drugs mentioned in your prescription, you have to go out to buy it.

“Finally, I could say it's a wonderful hospital. it's always clean. It smells so nice. This is my first time that I see a public hospital smelling good in Haiti. People really take care of the hospital. That hospital doesn't cost too much, which is why all the inhabitants come to consult for their health problems in the region.”

His experience in Belladère has been quite different from his experience in Port-au-Prince with the constant fear of protests and violence and potential kidnappings. We (the Foundation) are grateful to hear of his good experiences here.

Contract Approved

A major step to the opening of a clinic in Fond Doux was reached with the approval of a contract with the Wesleyenne Church for the use of the clinic building erected by Samaritan Purse. The idea for a clinic was proposed by members of the Primitive Church of Fond Doux. A chief advocate for the need for a clinic has been Fritzmann Saint Surin, a man who himself had experienced serious illness and has been a close personal friend of Pastor Brucely Delma. At the first joint meeting of the Haitian FDFC with Foundation mission team members, he strongly suggested the need for a clinic. Approval by the FDFC was the week of March 28, 2021.

The Foundation gives thanks first to the members of the Primitive Church for proposing the idea and pursuing it. Secondly, we are grateful to Samaritan Purse for the erection of the building and to the Wesleyenne Church, which now owns it, and finally to the Foundation's donors that are making this now possible. It is an example of the pursuit of cooperative

action that the Foundation desires wherever possible. We will keep you advised as we proceed.

New FDFC Members

The Haitian Fond Doux Foundation Committee has added two new members to their ranks. They were appointed as a result of losing several members to emigration. Valdine Vitelus emigrated a year ago and Barthélèmy Delma is planning to emigrate to Brazil. The new members are Dawine “Le Petit” Delmas and Pastor Wakel Joseph.



Dawine Delmas

Dawine's nickname is “Le Petit”. This might be equivalent to an American nicknamed “Tiny”. He is a high school teacher at College Mixte Capois la Mort, the school founded by Pastor Brucely Delma, and a student in accounting science. He also serves as the local representative of Mission to Haiti in recommending students for sponsorship.

Wakel Joseph has become an associate pastor of the Primitive Church of Fond Doux assuming many of the duties associated with being a pastor. He is also a mason by profession. Pastors in Haiti usually need other occupations to support themselves and their families financially. Pastor Brucely, for example, was a taxi driver.

Spanish Progress

“Thank you for checking on me. Well, I do make great progress, I think. My understanding is quicker nowadays. You won't imagine! I speak Dominican. I'm not perfect but they say I do good. I become like a crazy guy. Please tell the FDF that I'm trying so hard with the language and I am doing great. In the meantime, I'm looking for another school and a tutor. But a school would be better, because when I asked about a tutor, it sounded expensive.”

--- From Schneider Saint Surin, Scholarship Student.

Fond Doux Joint Mission Meeting

Representatives of the Fond Doux Foundation, the Caribbean Mission Partnership (an organization arising out of the New York Conferences of the United Methodist Church) and the Marco Depestre Foundation (an indigenous Haitian family foundation, honoring the first Haitian ordained by the Methodist Church) met by Zoom on Sunday March 14th to discuss common interests and possible collaboration. Among the subjects explored were the following:

Trade school. The group showed common interest in pursuing the idea of a trade school. Equipping youth for employment in Haiti is an urgent need. Without committing to its use, the group decided to examine a site in Violet owned by the United Methodist Church of Haiti formerly operated as the Christian Institute for Rural Life. The site has several buildings and is about six acres in size. It is presently unused except for a nursery. Violet is about 45 minutes walking distance from Fond Doux or 10 minutes by tap-tap, the Haitian form of taxi. Violet is the location of the marketplace used by many people of the village.

Breakfast for School Children. What kind of education can you receive when you are hungry? A recent food survey of students at the Good Samaritan School in Platon, Haiti revealed that one third of the children had not eaten before coming to school and half of those had not eaten for over 24 hours. While two-thirds of the children had eaten before school, for most of them breakfast would be their only meal of the day. Only one in six children regularly eat more than once a day.

Pastor Jonas, school administrator, reported that some of the kids used to suffer an awful bellyache and some vomit at the school. When he asked those kids if they ate before coming to school, they would answer, "no". Then, he would buy some crackers for those kids. Suddenly the bellyache and the vomiting stopped. Why did he tell us this? He would like us to understand how important food would be at the school.

At the Methodist School in Fond Doux UMCOR used to supply breakfast for school children. It no longer does so. The Caribbean Mission Partnership (which supports the Methodist School) now finds the same food insecurity problem among the children of the Methodist School in Fond Doux that the FDF finds in the Platon School. With neither group having the funds to provide breakfast for children, they are jointly seeking out others for help with such a project.

As an emergency measure, the group decided to solicit a GoFundMe. That is clearly not the real solution to the problem. A Haitian solution must be found. The FDF is exploring several through a possible irrigation project and a chicken farm. From a special contribution the FDF recently provided a breakfast for the children at Platon.



Breakfast for School Children at Platon

Chicken Farm Delayed

A proposed chicken farm has been eagerly anticipated as a contribution toward solving the food insecurity problem in Fond Doux. At the March 21st the Board of the Foundation reviewed the plans for the chicken farm. Unfortunately, the income projection did not cover the projected costs. It was a huge disappointment. The committee needs to explore options for reducing the costs of operation.

Micro Loans Expanded

The FDF board after reviewing the repayment history of the present nine loan recipients and the efforts of the Haitian FDFC's micro loan committee to mentor them issued an additional \$1500 to expand the program at the request of the Haitian Committee. It may allow 10 or 11 additional loans. For more information on this or to support any project, you may contact us in the following 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, USA, whose Christian community outreach began in 2011.