

President Moise Assassinated

Wikipedia reported,

“Jovenel Moïse, the 58th president of Haiti, was assassinated by a group of unidentified armed men at his private residence at 1 a.m. EDT on 7 July 2021. His wife, First Lady Martine Moïse, was wounded and hospitalized. Interim Prime Minister Claude Joseph has said that he is in control of the country.”

Claude Joseph assumed the role of President and immediately closed the airport and basically shut down commerce. Under pressure from the international community, he is planning to turn control over to Ariel Henry, who had recently been appointed Prime Minister by the deceased President Moise shortly before his death, but who had not yet been sworn in and assumed duties. He had claimed to be the rightful heir to power.

Our Haitian partners said that despite the political turmoil, the streets were relatively calm since the assassination, but the turmoil in the country affected their morale, disrupted their access to food and transportation, and created a pervasive sense of uncertainty.

Food Crisis and Our Response

The political situation exacerbated the food crisis in Fond Doux. The shutdown means that people have not been able to get to Port-au-Prince which is the distribution center for food. It has also caused a scarcity of gasoline, which affects Fond Doux as well.

One of our more generous supporters upon hearing the news of the new turmoil in Haiti immediately made a generous gift for food and medicine as an emergency measure. The board with the aid of our Executive Director Emile Maceus and Pastor Wakel Joseph were able to secure food for the poorest most vulnerable -- 63 persons, mostly 60 or older, but including a few very vulnerable younger people and a paralyzed member of the Primitive Church of Fond Doux.



Purchasing Food

The food was purchase on Friday July 23. On Sunday July 25, Pastor Wakel preached a sermon on the Good Samaritan and how God provides for his own. They then distributed the food immediately after Church.



Jesula Lamour¹ a Food Recipient

On receiving the food, Jesula said, “May God bless you all. Honestly, I didn’t know what I was going to cook today, God sent a Good Samaritan on my way.”

Food distribution is not our primary focus as we want to create long term sustainable projects that lead to self-sufficiency, but sometimes the situation is just so desperate that there is no long-term solution if short term emergency measures of immediate compassion are not taken.

¹ Picture and name used with her permission.

Clinic Contract Signed



Signing Group

A group representing the Wesleyenne Church of Fond Doux and the FDFC met on July 15th to sign a contract to arrange for a clinic in Fond Doux to be operated by the Fond Doux Foundation Nurse Myrdred Kaminski Delva. The group from left to right consisted of Daddy PIERRE, Emile MACEUS, Pastor Christian DEMERO, Virton ST-CYR, Dieve DORELUS, Madame Laudanie FÉRUS, Wesley PAULO, Madame Wesley (Sonise) PAULO and Pastor Wakel JOSEPH. Wakel JOSEPH and Sonise PAULO signed for the FDF.



Sonise Paulo Signing for the FDF

A Committee to oversee the clinic was appointed. Representing the FDF are Emile Maceus and Dany Joseph. Representing the Wesleyenne Church are Madame Laudanie Férus and Teacher Jeanol Vertus. On July 17th a fifth person associated with neither

group was appointed by the other four. He is Jean Gaston OVIDE. We will introduce these people more fully in future issues. The signing of the contract and the formation of the committee mark a big milestone in Fond Doux. The clinic building has set empty for about seven years. Erected after the earthquake of 2010 by Samaritan Purse, it is now owned by the Wesleyenne Church of Fond Doux. Plans to repair and upgrade the building are underway. The group was enthusiastic about the forthcoming opening of the clinic and the Wesleyenne Church commended the FDF for their work in the community.

Youth Help Others



Venelson Vitelus and Jowasky Saint Surin

Two Haitian youth found a way to enliven recent celebrations. Jowasky Saint Surin (age 17), who celebrated his graduation from the Simple English School, and Venelson Vitelus, who celebrated his 19th birthday, each received some gifts to help them celebrate these milestones in their lives. As part of these celebrations, they chose to help others. Venelson Vitelus chose to help his mother pay some back bills with part of his gift and then buy a goat for future family needs. Jowasky Saint Surin chose to buy some shoes for a friend and his two children that did not have shoes or money to pay for them.

These two set an example of how to celebrate important milestones. We commend these two young men on their work for others. Both Venelson and Jowasky are new correspondents for the Fond Doux Flyer, making use of their newly created English skills. We look forward to hearing more from these two outstanding young men in the future.

The Fond Doux Flyer August 2021

Meet Ancitho Gène

Recently Venelson Vitelus, one of our eight English scholarship students (and new Fond Doux Flyer correspondent) talked to Ancitho Gène, a member of the Fond Doux Foundation Committee and also an English scholarship student in order to introduce him further to the American audience. Ancitho is in his 20s and has just finished high school. He sometimes serves as a worship leader at the Primitive Church of Fond Doux. The interview has been edited and abridged. After a few explanatory and introductory comments, Venelson began by asking him about his living arrangements.



Ancitho Gène and Venelson Vitelus

Venelson: Do you live alone? Or, do you live with your family?

Ancitho: I am living with my family.

Venelson: Tell me about your family.

Ancitho: I have a big family, two brothers and five sisters. My father's name is Jinès Gène. He is an old man. He is 65 years old. He is still living. He grew up in Petit Goâve. His occupation is farmer, but he mines coal to earn money. My mother is Simòn Phildor. She is 52 years old. She grew up in Petit Goâve and she is a businesswoman. She works outside the home selling cloth. My brothers are Almando and Dionès. My sisters are Venise, Jina, Stéphanie, Sarah and Mikerline.

Venelson: I understand that you do not live in Fond Doux? Did you always live up in the mountain? If yes, how did you become involved with the church and school in Fond Doux? How do you travel to the church and school?

Ancitho: I have always lived up in the mountain. I became involved with the church because I was attending the school. I learned about compassion in the school. They gave me a half scholarship (which

really helped). Because of that, I chose to join the church. I go to church on foot. [Editor's note: It is a long walk.]

Venelson: Some time ago you experienced two major difficulties – falling from an avocado tree and contracting an illness at the same time. Tell me what happened when you fell from the tree.

Ancitho: Actually, I fell from an avocado tree at the same time that I acquired the flu. I felt a stomach ache, but I wasn't injured because of falling. I fell in a favorable location. I just had a sore stomach. I saw a doctor and the doctor gave me a prescription for that.

Venelson: Describe your experience with the disease. Have you returned to normal activities?

Ancitho: I had difficulty with water because water is a little far away (to obtain). I had a high temperature and weakness. I took pills for the disease and afterwards I felt better. I have now returned to my activities.

Venelson: You are a part of the Fond Doux Foundation Committee; how did you become a part of the FDFC? What duties have you assumed as a result of becoming a part of this committee and what things would you like for the committee to do?

Ancitho: I became a part of the FDFC because of Pastor Brucely Delmas, but I did not assume any specific duties when I became part of the FDFC. The things that I would like to do are helping with things school related. The things that I would like to see in the community are establishing a clinic, providing education beyond high school through scholarships, developing better agriculture and developing a location to use computers.

Venelson: You have been attending English school in Miragoane; how is it going?

Ancitho: I have been attending English school. I travel by car. (Transportation is part of the FDF English scholarship.) It has been going really well.

Venelson: What are your goals for your future? How do you expect to achieve them?

Ancitho: My goal is to become an English teacher. I would like to help those who want to speak English. To achieve that I will need the help of the FDFC and FDF.

Others receiving English language scholarships are Jean Guitho Pierre, Andy Merjuste, Danis Joseph, Myrdred Delva, Orlmy Dorce and Jowasky Saint Surin.

Board Has Planning Retreat

The board of the Fond Doux Foundation met at the vacation home of board member Linda Mitchell from July 30th to August 1st. They were joined by Laurie Johnson, wife of board member Jim Johnson. The group discussed long-range and short-range goals and how to achieve them. The clinic, fundraising and the proposed chicken farm, a means to improve protein nutrition, were some of the major topics.

Know Your Far Neighbors

An Acceptable Year Our Haitian Partners



EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
AND THE PEOPLE OF HAITI

By the Rev. John M. Clausing

Do you know your neighbors? For ten years, the people of Fond Doux, Haiti have been receiving visitors from Epworth Church, Durham. They are our neighbors, "our far neighbors," in the Christian sense just as surely as the people in Durham are "our near neighbors." You now have the opportunity to learn to know them. The Fond Doux Foundation just published a book on these Haitian Partners. The book was written by one of our own, the Rev. John Clausing. But most of it is told by our Haitian partners and neighbors themselves.

Meet the Saint Surin Family. Father Fritzmann is chairman of the soccer field improvement committee and a deacon in the church. Learn how his life changed and his commitment to a better future for his children. Meet his son Schneider Saint Surin, one of our university scholarship students.

Meet the Merjuste Family. They used to live in a UNICEF Tent. Through the efforts of the Fond Doux Foundation and people related to the Foundation they now live in a house. Learn of the changes in their lives, their faith and how they cope with their poverty.

Learn to know Faédra Olivier, who is the first person in her family to obtain a job -- all because of a Foundation scholarship. Learn the life of a sand miner, a fisherman, a school teacher, a farmer, a school principal, a pastor, a homemaker, a church deacon, a widow and our university scholarship students. They are all here. Listen to their struggles. Listen to their dreams. Hear how the Foundation has affected their lives. Hear what they have done in the face of malaria, COVID, typhoid, earthquake, hunger and political unrest. Hear how young adults are changing and will change their community in the face of formidable obstacles.

Price: \$20.00

Postage and Handling: \$2.00 for mailing

Where can you obtain the book?

Epworth Church Office or an FDF board member. Or by contacting the FDF at addresses below.

For more information on any project, to buy a book, or to contribute, you may contact the Foundation in the following ways:

Website: www.fonddouxfoundation.org

Email: John@fonddouxfoundation.org



Address: Fond Doux Foundation
PO Box 51443
Durham, NC 27717

Website manager: Brent Engel

Newsletter editor: John Clausing

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.