

Executive Director to Wed



Emile Maceus & Nadine Tousaint

Emile Maceus, the Executive Director of the Fond Doux Foundation, will be marrying his fiancé Nadine Tousaint on Christmas Day, December 25th. Miss Tousaint is a resident of Petit-Goâve and a lab technician by profession. The couple is in the process of building a house in nearby Lamadleine.

Refugee from Port-au-Prince

On Sunday October 17th Charlotte Fanfan and her four children showed up at the Primitive Church of Fond Doux after fleeing the slums of Cité Soleil (Sun City) in Port-au-Prince¹. Her husband was killed coming home from work several months ago. The place was so dangerous that she just decided to flee with only the clothing they were wearing, not knowing where she was going. She wound up in Fond Doux when the bus broke down there. She had no desire to go further. She told her story in Church, when they asked for first time visitors to introduce themselves. The Church gave her temporary shelter and the Foundation gave her emergency food and school funds for the two school age children.

However, the temporary shelter was good only until the end of November, when the intended occupants of the house (already rented to another) would come to reclaim the home. Longer-term considerations were discussed by the Haitians on how to help her. She previously knew no one in Fond Doux so the Church and the Foundation chose to further assist her. The Church with the assistance of Pastor Bruceley

found a location. An American donor who prefers to remain anonymous, a friend of Linda Mitchel and a Foundation admirer, agreed to provide funds for the erection of a shelter for her and the family.



Family on First Sunday in Fond Doux

Another anonymous donor gave an additional \$250, which the Foundation used to completed the building. A simple one room house has been constructed.



Starting to Build Near Grain Mill

¹ Linda Mitchel, a board member of the Foundation, said it was one of the worst experiences of her life during one

of her trips to Haiti just to pass through this slum of Cité Soleil from which Charlotte fled.



Building the Structure

Charlotte Fanfan Tells her Story

That first Sunday, October 17th, the following story was told to Emile Macesus, Executive Director of the Foundation and translated by him:

Good morning, it is a pleasure for me to greet you. My name is Charlotte Fanfan! I was born in Port-au-Prince, Achachon 32, Port-au-Carrefour, Haiti. And I grew up over there too! I made my primary school in Carrefour, Haiti and a part of my secondary school also! The name of my school was Nouvelle Jerusalem (New Jerusalem). That was In Carrefour. I have to say that I grew up with my godmother as I did not know my biological mother. For a while I thought that my godmother was my biological mother -- until I heard some people whispering that it was not true. But that had no impact on me. However, things turned out so badly when my godmother became sick and died. During that time my problems started! I had a good life at my godmother's house. She made sure that I went to school and had what was needed.

Unfortunately, after the passing away of my godmother my life transformed into a real nomadic. I went to different places in the capital searching for stability! I remember a woman who offered me her hospitality for a couple of months. I helped her with some activities as she had a little restaurant, like doing dishes, doing laundry, etc. In return, she offered me the basic things -- food, a place to sleep and necessary clothes. Unfortunately, her husband wanted to abuse me. He asked me to sleep with him a couple of times, but I always refused. You know, I was working in the little restaurant: so, I was fleshy. I believe that was the reason why he wanted me to abuse me. But as I said, because I didn't want to have sex with him. everything I did was not good in his

eyes. A certain time came that I could not bear with his weird behaviors. So, I had to leave the house.

One of my friends that knew the story about the man who wanted to abuse me told me that she could help me to get a new chance in life. Without asking how, I said to her that I agree. She got me to seeing a witch doctor/ a Voodoo priest. I stayed in his house for a couple months. Unfortunately, the chance he gave me was "abusing me" a couple of times, saying "This is how we can please the spirit and get a better chance in life." (Her face was full of sadness while she was explaining this). That was in 2010. During that time, I unfortunately became pregnant from him. He did not want anyone to know the story. That is why he gave me some medical plants that caused me to miscarry!

As time passed, I met a man who was interested in me. I fell in love with him and I lived for a couple of years with him! He rented a house in an area called "Tabarre" where life started to smile at me. I gave birth to two children. But one day he went to work and never came back to the house. The saddest part of that was that he abandoned us at a time when the rent was getting close to being due. Now, you can understand that with two children without a father there is no hope! My life kept diving into an ocean of suffering!

I did everything I could to survive! I did laundry for others, etc.

I had no other choice but to leave the house. The owner did not care about what I was going through. When the rent comes due. either you renew it (pay it) or you leave the house. That decision was undoubtedly his to make; so, I left the house. As time passed, I sold almost all of my furniture. I did that for two reasons. The first one was because I didn't have a place to put them. Secondly, I needed to feed my kids.

I am wondering if he is still alive! I have no idea where he is, even now. That was the reason, I moved in with another man. That man rented a house for me in Cité Soleil (Sun City) for a few years! The house he rented was not expensive, but the house was not in a safe zone. At this time, I learned, I found out, what I really don't like! In this area you can hear shooting almost every day! After a couple of months, I became used to the gunshots. The area in which I lived in Cité Soleil was controlled by armed gangs. If you had a problem with someone, it was useless to invite that person to court. The police officers won't

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come to arrest somebody in that area. Maybe even, the police can't come!

He was a back-up man! He was working in a bus station in the Capital. He would leave the house early in the morning and come back late at night. Unfortunately, he got killed while he was returning from work. I believe he was returning from work at a very bad time. There was a police operation taking place and he got killed while I was 5/6 months pregnant. . .

There was no one I knew here in Fond Doux. As the area in which I lived become more and more dangerous, the area became more deserted I managed to leave that area. The problem was that if one of the gang leaders knew that you were planning to leave the area, that would get you killed by them immediately! One day I decided to take the kids and leave the area clandestinely! I took nothing with me. So, when I got in a in line at the bus station, I did not know where I was going. All I had in my head was leaving Port au Prince. I finally got into a bus with the kids that was about to go in Miragoane. To tell the truth, I didn't even have money to pay for the trip. Then I started to explain my problem in the bus, and some people gave me some money to pay for the trip and bought something to eat for the kids! Some of them said that they would like to take me with them, but with 4 kids that would be too difficult to deal with. While in the bus for Miragoane, I had one thing in my mind "not ever to go into a city again!" That was the reason I kept saying to the people that were on the bus to let me know when we were almost to Miragoane; so, I could get off before the bus got in the city!

I don't know why, but the bus broke down here in Fond Doux. I didn't want to continue the trip. As it was a Saturday afternoon, I asked someone for a place to spend the night. Then I woke up in the morning (Sunday), I asked where is the closest church. Someone told me about the church that I was in this morning (The Primitive church). During the church service, they asked if there was someone visiting the church for the first time to stand up and greet the church. So, I decided to stand up and tell how I came to be in the church and where I came from.

Emile: Thank you, Charlotte, for sharing such a story with me. I hope that God will provide for your family!

Charlotte: Ok! I hope so too!



Charlotte's Family with Food from FDF

Brent Engel Visits the DR



Board member and Treasurer, Brent Engel, recently went to the Dominican Republic to visit Schneider Saint Surin and give him material and moral support. Scholarship student Schneider Saint Surin has been in the DR during the last year learning the Spanish language in preparation for enrolling in the University (UTESA) located in Santiago, the Dominican Republic. Unfortunately, Schneider ran into considerable difficulty with the enrollment process and appropriate visa. He has been studying the language with a visitor's visa, with monthly renewals and a November, 2021 expiration. He and the board desire a student visa, which does not require continual renewal. The enrollment process was delayed by misunderstandings, bureaucratic delays, visa freezes and embassy closings due to violence in Haiti. As a result, Schneider went to Cap Hatien for visa renewal; has received another visitor's visa and is back in the DR.

Nurse Myrdred Recovering



Nurse Myrdred with Computer

Our community nurse was ill with a cough, fever and headache for about three weeks in October and early November. She has now recovered. The FDF board feared that she may have contracted COVID; but fortunately, this turned out not to be the case. She did need to reschedule her two planned health classes: 1) girls' sexual health with hygiene kits and 2) family planning classes. Some items relating to the opening of the clinic were also delayed! We pray for her renewed good health and continued recovery.

Board Requests Epworth Grant

As many of you know, Epworth UMC of Durham, NC during 2021 donated \$30,000 to various Durham charities that help the poverty stricken and homeless that are the near neighbors of Epworth Church, mostly out of funds derived from compensation from the Department of Transportation for land to build a round-about. They were distributed by the Outreach Committee of Epworth. For thirty some years Epworth Church has also been at work with the far neighbors in Haiti -- for the last 10 years in Fond Doux and Platon, Haiti. The Fond Doux Foundation, an outgrowth of that ministry, has officially requested Epworth Church to consider making another grant to help the far neighbors of Fond Doux.

The Foundation is seeking grants to undertake a series of proposed projects to enhance the lives of the people of Fond Doux. The homeless and poverty-stricken in Durham have numerous safety nets to fall back upon, but the those of Fond Doux have no such

safety nets, no governmental poverty programs, no wealth and no way to relieve the even greater poverty of the area.

The Foundation has several projects in various stages of development. The opening of a clinic is imminent as is the start-up of a chicken farm. Others planned or under development are a new public toilet and a clean water project as part of community responses to malaria and typhoid. An astonishing 62% of the people recently surveyed in the village suffered from malaria, 46% during the last year and almost 50% have suffered from typhoid 30% in the last year – an epidemic of major proportions.



Present Public Latrine

Clinic expansion, an irrigation project, a community library, and a trade school will require developing resources not yet found. A significant grant from Epworth Church may help in the developing and attracting other possible sources of funds including various foundations. A pro bono consultant, Melissa Armitage of Kansas City, MO, has been providing guidance. For more information on any project or to donate, 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.