

Two Fond Doux Foundation Board Members Honored

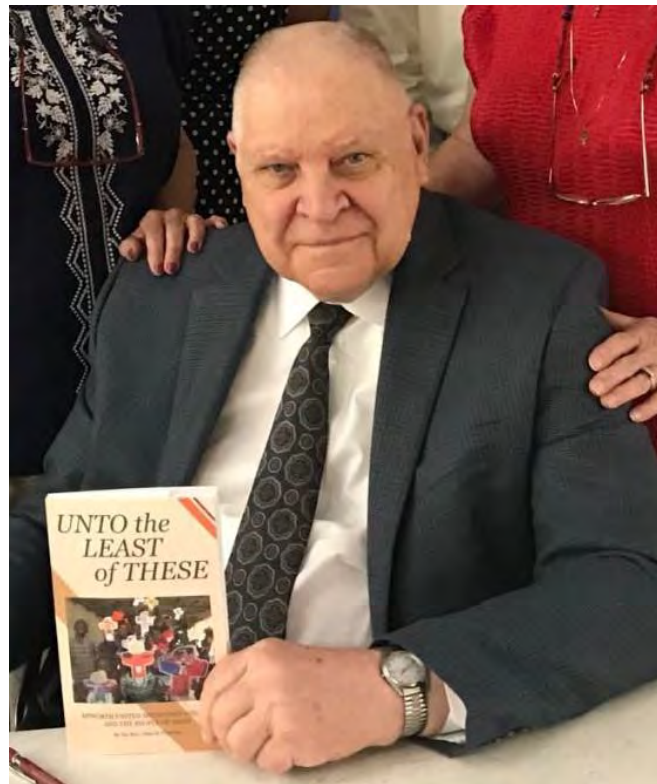
On Sunday December 20th 2020 during the worship service of Epworth United Methodist Church, the Church's Outreach Committee announced its 2020 Outreach Committee Award to two members of the board of directors of the Fond Doux Foundation. The board members are Ruth and John Clausing.



Ruth Clausing at Work

Ruth Clausing was recognized for her work with the Sewing Sisters of Epworth Church's work with the Days for Girls Project. The project sews hygiene kits (feminine hygiene pads) to keep teenage girls in school in the village of Fond Doux, Haiti. She has organized and administered the project for about 6 years. The project has received national attention and recognition by the United Methodist Church Women and has attracted the support of one kind or another from over 20 different Churches. The kits are distributed through the Fond Doux Foundation.

The Rev. John Clausing, the other recipient was recognized in part for publicizing the work of the Fond Doux Foundation. In 2019 the Foundation published his book on the history of Epworth's 30-year work in Haiti. He is now in the process of completing a second book, which features our Haitian partners in the mission in Fond Doux and Platon, Haiti. It should be available shortly. He also is the editor and publisher of the Fond Doux Flyer which features the work of the Foundation.



Rev. John Clausing and First Book

Haitian Political Unrest

A new round of political unrest has hit Haiti. Spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Marta Hurtado, said in a press release on January 19th, "In recent months, kidnappings for ransom, attacks by criminal gangs against perceived rival neighborhoods and widespread insecurity have increased in a context of almost total impunity. In parallel, political tensions are resurfacing due to disputes over the timing and scope of elections . . ."

Haiti is still trying to recover from the devastating 2010 earthquake and hurricane Matthew that struck in 2016. Its economic, political and social woes have deepened with inflation. Many Haitians have given up on the political process. It is very complicated. Only 21% voted in the last election. Some are turning to road blocks, kidnappings and just plain criminal activity – sadly!

The Fond Doux Flyer February 2021

2020 Christmas Meal

In the absence of any mission trips this year, the Fond Doux Foundation authorized and the Haitian Committee arranged a massive Christmas dinner on December 29th for those in need in the village of Fond Doux. Emile Maceus, who arranged the meal, said, "I wish you could enjoy some Haitian 'picklese'! Believe me you would fall in love with Haitian food! Haitian 'picklese' is the best in the whole World! LOL. Ask Linda and Brent about our 'picklese!'" 😊 😊 😊 😊



Haitian 'Picklese' Preparation

Brent Engel replied, "I'll second that. I do love the Haitian 'picklese.' It's a sort of spicy drier coleslaw."

The Haitians prepared for 500 people. Although they believe there were actually over 500 people present (an exact count was not made), they had enough food. Many of those that came were children. The people needed to come in shifts in order to serve them all. The preparation of the food was a community undertaking, beginning already the night before.



A Father and his Child Enjoy the Meal

"Thank you all! Thank you for helping us in this way! The people were so happy to get a meal! We had more people than what we could ever imagine! Some people came with their whole family in order to make sure everyone in the family got something to eat!" -

--- Emile Maceus

A similar meal was held in Platon for a much smaller group arranged by Pastor Jonas. We do not have the same kind of pictures.



Haitian Food Preparation



Haitian Food Preparation

Malaria and Typhoid “Raging”

Our community nurse told us that malaria and typhoid are ravaging Fond Doux. An estimated 100 people in or near Fond Doux have been afflicted with either malaria and/or typhoid. The Haitian Fond Doux Foundation Committee decided that something needed to be done to counteract the epidemic. A community class was organized and people associated with afflicted people were invited to hear about these diseases, how to prevent contracting them and what to do if you or someone in your family becomes infected. The class, taught by our Haitian community nurse Myrdred Kaminskie Delva, was held on January 5th at 3:00 PM at the Primitive Church of Fond Doux.

Water purifying tablets and soap, provided by the Foundation, were handed out during the meeting and instructions in how to use them were given. Additionally, a survey is being taken to determine who were afflicted, what treatment was administered and what environmental factors might be playing a role in the large number of infections. The survey was not yet completed during the last week of January. Thus, we do

not have the results as yet. Malaria is borne by mosquitoes. The best-known ways to fight it are drying up mosquito breeding spots and use of mosquito nets while sleeping. A large number of mosquito nets were previously purchased by the Foundation and distributed by the Haitian Committee. They also had dried up previously known breeding areas. The Haitian committee wishes to know what was overlooked.

Typhoid is spread through water or food contaminated by human feces of infected persons. Improving sanitation facilities, increasing hand washing and assuring clean water sources are the best-known preventatives. For untreated persons, the typhoid death rates may be as high as 20%. Identifying persons with typhoid, treating them and identifying sources of contamination are thus very high community health priorities.

The FDFC has been trying to arrange testing of water in the village wells. Results of their efforts were also not yet available by press time.

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Middle front --Jamessel in Mirebalais

Jamessel's Experience

Jamessel Derisier is awaiting surgery to correct a facial deformity. The surgery has been delayed since March because of the pandemic. Unfortunately, the tumor has been growing during the delay causing eating problems. This month he took a long trip to a hospital in Mirebalais operated by PARTNERS in HEALTH to see a doctor for pre-surgery evaluation. Social worker Jonathon Lamarre has been the contact for the surgery. Emil Maceus is arranging the pre-surgery details. The hope is that this trip might speed the process. Emile reported on the January 17th- 18th trip:

"The trip to Mirebalais went well! We left Fond Doux on Sunday around 1 PM. We had to leave Fond Doux that late because it was very difficult to find a car to rent because of the situation in the country -- especially when I told them we were going to Mirebalais with the car. Actually, there is demonstration almost everywhere. (I believe that is the reason why some people didn't want to rent their car.) We had to overcome many road blocks and begged them to let us go through because we are going to the

hospital with a sick person. Having Jamessel in the car played (well) for us. Each time we were asked, "Where is the sick person?" When we showed them Jamessel, some of them even indicated which way for us to take to prevent more road blocks. So, we got to Mirebalais around 8 PM.

On Monday morning we tried to wake up early in the morning to get to the hospital in order to have a small card number. But, hey! Some people even slept at the hospital to get a small card number. LOL. I could not understand this. Anyway, we received number 30 which was not too bad.

We saw a doctor around 12 noon. After several check-ups, Jamessel was asked to go back to the hospital this upcoming Monday (January 25th). And also, he was asked to bring with him the result of the CT Scan which was already made!

This trip was a very good step towards that surgery. Thanks to the FDF that took care of the expenses. Without money it would be impossible to get there!"

Unfortunately, the return trip did not happen that way. The CT scan was over 6 months old. It needed to be redone (probably a good idea anyway, because of the changing nature of the growth). This was done on January 25th instead of the return to Mirebalais. The good news is that depending on what the doctor in Mirebalais finds on the scan, the Mirebalais surgeon may have the expertise to do the surgery and will not need to wait for the US doctor. We shall see.

For more information on this project or any project, you may contact us the address, website or email address below:

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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.