

Feeding the Hungry



The Methodist Church of Fond Doux

The Fond Doux Foundation in cooperation with the Methodist Church of Fond Doux provided a big January community meal for over 450 people including the children of the Methodist School. For the last two years a community meal was held at the Primitive Church in Fond Doux to celebrate Christmas with special invites to the elderly and most vulnerable. This year it was delayed until January 18th and moved to the Methodist Church.



Lovely Felix and Sonise Colidor Buying Food

Sonise Colidor, Secretary of the FDFC, and Lovely Felix, vice-principal of the Methodist School, and

Emile Maceus did the food buying. Some men and women, mostly from the Methodist Church, prepared the food. Among them was Germanie Ferus, a teacher at the Methodist School.



Germanie Ferus Preparing Pikliz

Majorie ELLIASSAINT was the chief cook (not pictured). Jobsonn PAULO and Perciné OSNE helped with heavy labor. There were also other helpers.



Jobsonn PAULO and Perciné OSNE

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The food was prepared and ready for distribution at noon. The pastor of the Methodist Church led the school children in an opening prayer.



The School at Prayer



The School at Dinner

This small Methodist Church houses a school of about a hundred and twenty students in this essentially one room building, which is divided with movable partitions during the school day. Older people in the United States may remember Sunday schools divided this way but probably not regular schools. The school is extremely overcrowded and desperately needs a building of its own. The Caribbean Mission Partnership formed by the two New York Conferences of the United Methodist Church which support the school is having difficulty finding sufficient money to pay the teachers, not alone provide a new building. Unfortunately, they are months behind in paying the teachers their salaries. UMCOR used to provide breakfast for the children of the school, but have not done so for several years now. The presence of the FDF Dinner was a big boost to the morale of the teachers and students at the school.

The food included Piklliz, chicken, hot salad, beans and rice. Most of the children rarely if ever have such a meal. This made it a very festive occasion. The portions were generous befitting the hungry.

After the children were dismissed, adults from the community were able to come in. Some of them came early and were waiting outside for the children to be dismissed. Director Emile Maceus said that they were "all so patient and kind." When they were permitted into the Church, they also began with Prayer.



Adults at Prayer



The Elderly Had a Special Invite

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Rejoicing with Schneider!!



Schneider Saint Surin at UTESA

On January 13th we received the following from Schneider Saint Surin, an FDF scholarship student:

Good news

This is the beginning of a new era, and we're one step closer to the future that we've been dreaming about long time ago. I'm successfully enrolled at the school. Thank you so very much for your support/patience/endurance and sacrifices. Special thanks to the Engel family who really gave some extra help! Thanks to Mr. Brent for flying to DR for fixing things. I'm speechless! Again, thanks to the FDF. This wouldn't have been possible without you. I honestly owe you all my life. Trust me!

Class will start on January 17th. I'm so sorry that I was unable to communicate at the due time in these last days. It was just a lot on me. My apologies! I had to move to Santiago very quickly. Because it was so hard for me to get a room, I was unable to find a room close to the school right away. So, as it was considered an urgent matter, I was obliged to pick a room nearby. It is about a 30-minute walk which can also take me 10/15 minutes by car. So far, I think we're on the good path. I'll keep you posted. . . God bless you abundantly!

Respectfully,
Schneider Saint Surin

What is this all about? For the last year Schneider has hit one obstacle after another getting properly enrolled in the University. First, of course, he needed to become fluent in Spanish. He enrolled in a Spanish School in Boca Chica. Except because of the COVID pandemic, it closed before he could enter it. He needed to find a different school. He did so, but not close to his apartment. Then because he was not enrolled as a degree student, he was unable to obtain a student visa. Although his visa was good for a year, permission to remain in the country was good for only 29 days. He needed to renew the permission monthly. This is a story all its own, but let us continue.



One of 17 pages of Stamped Documents

For a foreign student to enroll in a Dominican Republic university, all of the paper work must be translated by an officially approved translator into Spanish. The original paper work must be officially stamped by the granting institution and then in Haiti by the Haitian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and then the translated documents must be taken to the Dominican Ministry of Educational Affairs and officially stamped by the Dominican Government. Each step must be stamped and authenticated. The number of steps is unbelievable.

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Schneider obtained an attorney a year ago to guide him through the process. The attorney translated the documents. Schneider believed he was all set. He took them to the University, which told him that they were not officially stamped. He then took them to the Ministry of Educational Affairs in the DR to get the papers officially stamped. They told him they would call him when they were ready. They did not call him for months. He inquired repeatedly without success. Finally, he received them and was told, there were missing papers that he did not have. He must obtain them in Haiti. He asked his father and friends in Haiti to obtain the papers. It took months to obtain the papers. The missing papers unbelievably included elementary school grades. (Why were they necessary? Who knows?)

He missed the enrollment date for fall admission. His friends were finally able to take the missing papers to the embassy in Haiti to get them officially stamped. Again, it took months. They would call when they were ready, but the call did not come. In November the deadline for getting a new visa came. Brent Engel flew to the Dominican Republic to help Schneider navigate the visa and enrollment process. He also met obstacles, but uncovered some facilitators. This enabled Schneider to get a visitor's visa again by taking a bus to Cap Haitien in northern Haiti (a very long ride). The embassy in Port-au-Prince was closed by threat of violence. Finally, the papers from Haiti came back stamped, but they needed to be translated and stamped in the DR. The deadline for UTESA enrollment was only days away! A paid facilitator finally accomplished everything in time for the January enrollment. Thus, the special rejoicing! The FDF board when it heard the news that everything was in order, still "held their breath"! What else could go wrong?

On January 18th Schneider wrote again:

"I'm so excited, Pastor!

Thanks a lot for being together in this. This would not be possible without your (FDF) efforts, I'm grateful! Yesterday (Monday), was a welcoming and an updating day for all of the new students. That was so awesome. We really enjoyed it. But one thing I don't really like is that COVID is starting to give trouble again; so, they have to restrict things again. Due to the new restrictions, the courses will be hybrid. Sometimes we will be physically at the school, but mostly it'll be blended courses. I have

not yet attended classes because they will first start at the end of this month, Thursday January 27th. These are the actual updates I have for now. But of course, I will keep you posted of every upcoming thing.

God bless,
Schneider Saint Surin

Chicken Farm Delayed

The anticipated opening of a chicken farm In Fond Doux unfortunately has been delayed as the Foundation looks for a possible new location. The Foundation had an agreement with a landowner to use his chicken coop for the project. The chicken coop needs major repairs including a new roof. In the agreement the owner was to receive 20% of the net profit with the repairs being taken out of his profit. He desired to change the agreement. Although the owner is reconsidering, the differences in approach may be too great, The Foundation is looking for a different location although it is not aware of an immediately usable site. Several approaches are being explored including the purchase of land. A location in Fond Doux is now being considered. The Foundation is exploring whether it is suitable. The project is seen as a potential source of protein for school children. The Foundation finds its delay a great disappointment! But we are hopeful for a good outcome.

Late News Flash: A flu epidemic has hit Fond Doux. We do not know if it is actually Omicron. No testing has been done.

To obtain information on any project or to donate, you may contact us through our website, online or by US postal service:

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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.

