

Life Changing Surgery

On Monday November 25th Samuel Elniño Frontus entered Harris Clinic Hospital in Petit Goâve for an operation on a double hernia that has given him an extensive painful swollen tummy. He was brought to the hospital by Emile Maceus, his uncle Joseph Frontus and our Haitian Nurse Gernite Bonhomme. He is five years old, just having celebrated his fifth birthday earlier in the month. He is being raised by his maternal uncle, Joseph Frontus. His father is not a part of the family. Dr. Harris performed the surgery that afternoon and Samuel was released from the hospital on Wednesday, November 27th and taken to his home to be cared for by our nurse Gernite. He is progressing nicely. The surgery was made possible by designated gifts to Fond Doux Foundation Medical Fund.



Samuel Enters the Hospital

Emile's Question: How long has Samuel had a problem?

Joseph's Answer: Well, Samuel is a little boy who has suffered very much in his childhood, since he is several months old. Because his mother left him with us when he was only 3 months, he has been growing up suffering, as he was not breast fed. We cannot tell you exactly when we first noticed the (tummy) problem. One day while he was crying bitterly, we noticed that his abdomen had become swollen. When we could feel it, we knew something was wrong with him, but we couldn't find out what was really wrong. When Samuel started walking, we saw that his feet were trembling and next to his penis there was a swollen part too. At this time, we could determine that Samuel had a hernia. Unfortunately, we were not able to do anything because of our limited resources. I remember one day, Samuel was crying and somebody was passing by and saw him weeping, and he told us that at Pastor Brucely 's house there are some missionaries that had come. "Why don't you go there and see if they could give you some medicines for him?" Then, I went there and I met a white lady (Linda) who talked to me with kindness. After taking a picture of his (Samuel's) abdomen, she told me, "I will see if there is a way we could help". Honestly, this phrase meant a lot to me and I started to pray for a "good news".



Uncle Joseph -- Samuel -- Nurse Gernite



Samuel after Surgery

Question: How has the hernia affected him?

Answer: As I see it, that problem affects his development -- prevents him from growing up well. He is now five years old. When I try to compare him with other kids, I can see that he hasn't developed well enough. I could even say that this problem corrupts his health. He had that surgery 10 days ago, if I am not mistaken. I can see that there is a great change in Samuel's life. He couldn't eat well. He used to cry pretty often, and the gestures he used to make would show that he suffered bellyache often.

Question: Could you tell us what the surgery means to the family?

Answer: Well, the surgery means a lot to us. We were always thinking about how that would be possible for us. That surgery means "peace" to our family. We can now start thinking about the other issue that we have in our family. The surgery is something that would be almost impossible for us to do on our own. I don't find a specific word to describe my feelings toward that. We are very happy, so proud because Samuel no longer has that sickness. We thank God for sending

some people our way. I want to make it clear that each time when Samuel was crying, I felt my heart breaking into pieces. People who saw his suffering wished that they could do something. They always told us, "We are praying for the family".

Question: Have you already noticed any changes in Samuel after the surgery?

Answer: All I can say is that after the surgery, Samuel is no longer the same. We all in the Family see -- even our neighbors can see -- that Samuel has become more joyful, noisy. He even wants to climb the tree, if we don't watch over him. Sometimes, we are tempted to tie him to his bed. (He smiles while saying that.)

Question: What you would like to say to the donors? Those who helped Samuel with the surgery?

Answer: I wish that the donors were here in person. I would bow down to express my gratefulness. I just want to say, "thanks a million", and I appreciate their generosity. May God bestow more blessings in their life! And I also pray for God to give them more happiness as they make our family happy! I also want them to know that because of the surgery, we can say that we have peace in the family. We don't have to be worried about that anymore and we couldn't ask for more!

Question: Lastly, I understand that Samuel is not your own son, could you tell us how did you get him in the family?

Answer: The father of Samuel is anonymous. His mother never meets his father after the pregnancy. His mother is my sister. She gave him to us, as I already said, when Samuel was 3 months. You see, Samuel could even die.

Emile: Thank you for the interview. We pray for more blessings and also that the situation of the family can change!

We hope to share more of this interview in a future issue of the Flyer as the family struggles with some other problems including "the other issue that we have in our family" about which Joseph spoke.

Valdine Vitelus Emigrates



Valdine Vitelus, a leader of the music club in Fond Doux and also a secretary of the Haitian Fond Doux Foundation Committee, has emigrated to the Dominican Republic. There she joins a sister, who had emigrated previously. She was also attending the Simple English School on a Foundation Scholarship. As a leader of the music club, she was teaching younger students to read music and to play the recorder. She is in her mid-20's.

Emigrating is one of the ways that some people chose to solve the problem of poverty in Haiti. However, the decision is not easy. The decision is much like many of our European ancestors faced a hundred or more years ago. Emigration means that you will likely not see your families for many years and also requires some money. Schneider Saint Surin described the decision of his older sister to emigrate to Chile in this way: "So, after a bit, news spread widely, that there was an open door to Chile. For my Dad and the family sending her there was a priority and the best option. So, my Dad worked as a crazy guy until he found the needed amount of money to send her there. It hasn't been easy for the family to let her go that long distance, knowing that it will take years before we can see her in the flesh. But as I said, we had no better choice."

For those that can find the money, emigration has been a road to search for a better life. For example, Pastor Brucely's entire family has emigrated, two boys are in France, one boy in Chile, two girls in the US, two girls in the Dominican Republic. Only his adopted

niece, a young child, remains in Haiti. One of the hopes of the FDF and FDFC is that in the future young men and women will not need to emigrate to find a better future, but that they will be able to find it in Haiti. The FDF and FDFC are working toward this end.

The FDFC will replace Valdine on the Committee and has asked the FDF to give her scholarship to the Simple English School to Frantz Delma.

New Scholarships Approved

On December 8, 2019 the Foundation Board approved the following scholarships to the Simple English School in Miragoâne: Frantz Delma, Jowasky Saint Surin and Westenson Paulo. The Board also approved a music scholarship for Ismaelo Polistin, the leader of our music club in Fond Doux.

Meet Sonise Colidor Paulo



Sonise Paulo

Sonise Colidor Paulo is one of the few professional women in the village of Fond Doux. However, this did not come easily. She is a teacher and mother of six children, ranging in age from age 2 to age 21 (Jobson Paulo 21 years, Westenson Paulo 19 years, Withny Paulo 13 years, Wisloveline Paulo 10 years, Witchina Paulo 8 years and Wedchensky Paulo 2 years). She is married to Wesley Paulo and is a member of the Primitive Church of Fond Doux and also a member of the Fond Doux Foundation Committee. She serves as one of its secretaries.

Sonise's education stopped at the 12th grade. Her parents were able to pay for her schooling through the

12th grade. Unfortunately, she then got pregnant and her parents told her that they would no longer support further schooling because of that mistake. She could not afford further schooling on her own.

Now in her 40's and with a large family she still cannot afford to go to college. However, she now teaches the first grade at the Ecole Pr sbyteral M thodiste of Fond Doux, the "Presbyterial Methodist School of Fond Doux." It is unusual for persons that have not completed secondary school to become teachers, although we of the Foundation know of at least three such persons: Sonise Paulo mentioned here, Eugene Belizaire (Platon School teacher) and Ancitho Gene, another FDFC member.

The school/church is located about a kilometer west of the Primitive Church of Fond Doux in a region called Culpelier. It can be reached by walking, in about 15-20 minutes depending on the speed of the walker or about 5 to 7 minutes by tap-tap, the local means of public transportation.

The school has about 90-95 students with classes kindergarten through 6th grade. The school is about 3 years old. They do not yet have a building, but use the Methodist Church building to hold class sessions. The pastors of the Church are two Americans, Pastors Wesley and Roma, who apparently get money to run the school from American sources.

However, the school is struggling financially. Sonise was promised a raise of 200ht (US \$11.11) per month. However, to her misfortune, she not only did not receive the promised raise but did not receive much of her salary last year. Non-payment of teachers appears common unfortunately.

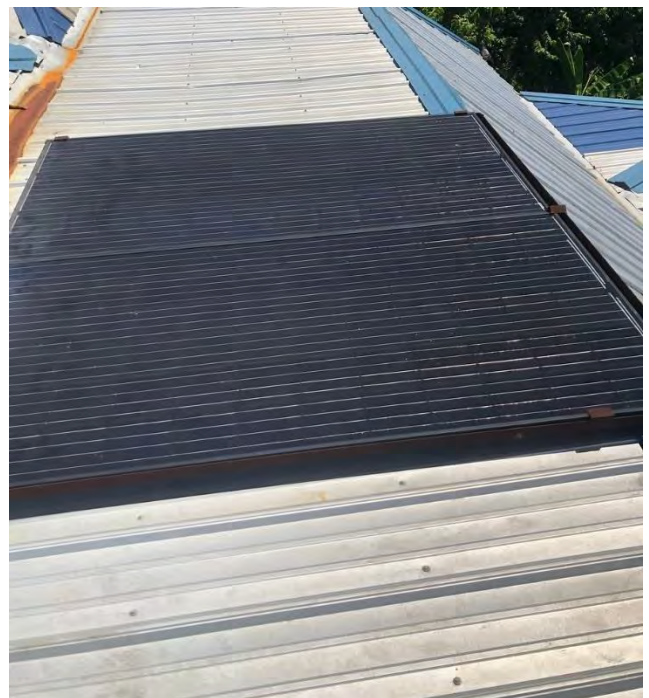
She thinks the best thing about the school is in their sharing of love, showing that there is strength in unity and sharing the Word of the Lord. However, she also thinks that the school needs its own building.

More Effective Birth Control Classes

An improvement planned for future Mission trips is increasing the effectiveness of our birth control classes. For many years it was a taboo subject. Now, we teach the village women to make fertility beads. Because many women have little to no education and

no calendars, we make a string of beads which has the fertile days in a different color. Each day they move one bead. Thus, they know the days for sexual abstinence. We also include the men in the planning.

Other items on the agenda for the next trip might include the proposed library, which is our expected 10th Anniversary project, the enlargement of the soccer field and its drainage problem, and plans for developing a clinic. We are exploring an underutilized clinic building owned by the neighboring Wesleyenne Church as a possible site. It stands virtually empty.



Solar Power Roof Panel

Our proposed 10th anniversary project is a library. We contemplate that we will use solar power for its electricity. We are eager to find someone familiar with solar power to help in the planning. If you are knowledgeable and wish to help or know someone else knowledgeable that we might invite, contact us @ www.fonddouxfoundation.org

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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.