

## Full Time Executive Director



**Emile Maceus**

Emile Maceus was recently hired to become the fulltime Executive Director of the Foundation and to coordinate the various projects of the Foundation. He has been serving as part-time director for the last two years. His responsibilities have been constantly growing as the Foundation has been increasingly dependent upon Haitian nationals to carry on the work of the Foundation in the absence of mission teams and a growing number of Foundation projects. He has seen the addition of the Good Samaritan School in Platon as a Foundation Project, employment of the Community Nurse, the establishment of the micro loan project, the broadening of the English language and university scholarship programs and the furthering of cooperation with the Wesleyenne and Methodist Churches in Fond Doux during his tenure as executive director.

During this time, he has been a full-time university student at Quisqueya University in Port-au-Prince commuting weekly between Port-au-Prince and Fond Doux to take care of all his duties. He is all but finished with his university studies and no longer needs to make the weekly trips to Port-au-Prince.

He is an accomplished leader in the community and a dedicated Christian. In addition to his work with the Foundation, he is also superintendent of the Sunday School at the Primitive Church of Fond Doux.

He married his fiancé, Nadine “Sentry” Toussaint on Christmas day. He is building a home in nearby Lamadleine. He indicates that now he wants to “begin his life”. And that life is dedicated to improving the lives

of those living in the community of Fond Doux through the Fond Doux Foundation. The Fond Doux Foundation will be honored to have him as our full-time director. He will be overseeing the projects of the Foundation. His present priority is to see that the clinic is up and running and that a functioning and an economically stable chicken farm can be sustained.

In addition to these, plans are also being drawn up for some other significant projects as finances can be found. Surprisingly, by American standards, the cost of these projects is very inexpensive – usually one-tenth or less of equivalent costs in the USA.

The goal is to do those things that will eventually enable the community to be self-sufficient and no longer dependent upon foreigners. Improvement in public health, improved nutrition through improved agriculture and education beyond the classical school are the means. The development of a stable Christian “middle class” will provide the motivation.

It has been a long road for the 31-year old Fond Doux resident. He was born into a poor family. His father died when he was nine years old. He needed to find work in order to have food to eat and find whatever work he could to survive and to pay for tuition to attend school. He eventually found work in a bakery in the mornings and went to school in the afternoon. That meant that his education was whenever he could pay for it. He finished high school in his mid-20s having never owned a text book, but needing to borrow them from others.

He comments about the turnabout in his life, “Honestly, things started to be different for me when we moved to Fond Doux in April 2010. I was accepted into Pastor Brucely’s school. I was at that time in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. The school at this period of time was serving a meal which helped me to focus on my studies. I did not have to work in the bakery in the mornings anymore. So, a meal was found at the school, and my mother was recovering from a mental sickness.”<sup>1</sup>

He continues, “I remember when I was in 12th grade. I saw a lot of Americans come down here to Fond Doux. I said to myself, ‘If only I were able to communicate with them, I might find something interesting.’ Maybe in 2012 or 2013, I met a lady called ‘Judy’.<sup>2</sup> She was the one that gave me my first English dictionary. Then I started to increase my vocabulary. Right after that I met Karen Thorsen who agreed to help me attend ‘Wonderful Institute’.<sup>3</sup> She agreed to take care of that for about two and a half years, if I am not mistaken.”<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Our *Haitian Partners*, pages 57-58.

<sup>2</sup> The lady was Judy Daymont of Epworth UMC, Durham, NC

<sup>3</sup> An English-language school.

<sup>4</sup> Our *Haitian Partners*, page 61.

**New Scholarship Student**



**Dawine "Lepetit" Delmas**

At the recommendation of the Haitian Fond Doux Foundation Committee Dawine "Lepetit" Delmas was granted a scholarship to complete a degree in Administrative Sciences. He began studies (three semesters) in a university in Port-au-Prince, but needed to drop out because of inability to pay for further education. He will be attending the University of Miragoane. Some money is already available. We hope to find a donor for an additional \$1000 to \$1200 per year for the next 3 years. Is it you?

**New Computer for Faédra**



**Faédra with New Computer from FDF**

Faédra Olivier is a scholarship student studying education supported by the Foundation, but her computer was broken. Repair not likely. But now joy has returned. She hopes to receive her certificate for teaching this Spring.

**Refugee Family from Port-au-Prince**



**One Room House**

Last month, we featured the story of Charlotte Fanfan, who fled Port-au-Prince with her four children with only the clothing on their backs. Now thanks to the work of the Haitian Committee with the help of the Foundation, she is living in a one room house and her two older children are attending school. Several anonymous donors made the home possible. Earlier, the Foundation paid for a complete physical for the two younger children. They were not significantly malnourished as we feared.





The school uniforms, shoes, and school bags were purchased by the Foundation as well as providing the tuition payment. It is hoped that MTH might sponsor the children next school year.

Meanwhile the Haitians have employed the mother at the local school to help in the kindergarten. Finding employment for her was by far our biggest concern.

### **Bringing Hope to the Hopeless**

The Foundation is not only in the business of giving material aid to people in need, although we are doing that, but more importantly our mere presence is giving hope to the hopeless.

What do you think of when you think of Haiti? Do you think of earthquakes? Hurricanes? Kidnappings? Poverty? Violence? Corruption? What would it be like to live with these every day? Really live there and believe that this will go on forever?

One of our Scholarship students, Schneider Saint Surin, is presently in the Dominican Republic in anticipation of continuing his education at UTESA a technical university in Santiago, Dominican Republic. He desires to help his community and country. In late November, he went to Cap Haitien in Northern Haiti to renew his visa. He spoke of the hopelessness that he encountered and many Haitians feel, especially the young. This is how he described what he saw:

“Let me give you a small refreshment of what’s happening down there. You will never understand the situation that the Haitian folks are going through unless you’re living in Haiti. Down there is not a livable place in the present moment while I’m speaking. . . I don’t mean to say things will never get better. No, this is not what I mean; maybe in a few years, this is a possibility. I’m conscious of what I’m saying. The greatest dream of every single young person like me in Haiti is fleeing away from the country, and returning when things get better. I also know that some say that they will never go back.

You know what I saw during my recent trip down there? I saw misery, desperate people, living dead people, walking dead people, hopeless living people. I saw resigned people who are trying to smile despite it all. It is like we the Haitians have been forged with resignation in our DNA. This is an arena down there.

I assume the term lockdown is familiar to you. I guess you know what it is. Imagine me doing my schooling there. One three months session could last for 6 months because of the situation of the country. Imagine me participating in this horror movie. Which character would I play? Hum! (Gang violence/police shooting people/people throwing rocks) Hum. I should not talk this way about my country, but I sent this small paragraph to give a glimpse of the reality.”

**“It is like we the Haitians have been forged with resignation in our DNA!”**

Powerful words indeed! That is why the work of the Foundation is so important, because the great gift of the Fond Doux Foundation is in bringing hope into this situation. Recently the residents of Fond Doux conducted a survey on the prevalence of malaria and typhoid. It was staggering -- the vast majority! They did so because they believe that with the help of the Foundation something might be done about it. Not resignation! Hope! Things can change. Things will change. And in Fond Doux things are changing – slowly, ever so slowly; but things are changing!

- Some students are studying at a university. They will provide needed expertise for a new future. Another person recently received a scholarship. (See the story earlier in this issue.)
- A soccer field was extended to regulation size! No big deal for us, but for Fond Doux residents an enormous boost in confidence and prestige!
- People are actually talking about possibilities,

## Fond Doux Flyer January 2022

not about resignation -- the possibility of irrigation. Just talking about the possibility brought applause to those gathered to receive a gift of food. They might be able to grow their own!

■ A class is being held on birth control.

One woman said, "I can only say, if it was now, I would not give birth to all these kids, because each time you give birth in Haiti – the more kids you have, the more your poverty is! Now, thanks to the information that I received and follow from the American missionaries, I know more about this. When it comes to natural family planning, my husband and I now practice this."

■ A clinic is poised to open soon.

Although long delayed, it is eagerly anticipated and the process is breaking down barriers to forge new areas of cooperation.

■ A new chicken farm will also open soon.

Not only do we hope it will be self-supporting; but it will give employment and provide a profit, hopefully distributed as eggs for hungry children.

■ Young women are staying in school because



they have received hygiene kits including washable sanitary napkins. They no longer need to miss a week every month. Educated women are a boon to any society.

■ Hungry school children are being fed and educated. Emergency food has been supplied for Platon school children and the Foundation subsidizes their teacher's pay.

■ A Christmas meal was prepared for five hundred people in Fond Doux and another in Platon.

These events are only a sample of the work of the Foundation. The Foundation is not only in the business of giving material aid to people in need, although we are doing that, but more importantly the Foundation's presence is giving hope to the hopeless. Somebody cares! The Haitians know it, feel it! Hope!

## Haitians Deworm Goats



The Foundation began its work in Fond Doux because we discovered that the goats here were dying. Linda Mitchell recruited Dr. Libby Engel, a veterinarian to go to Fond Doux. This year it began to happen again. The goats were suffering severe diarrhea that led to death. But now they knew what to do. They quickly contacted Dr. Libby Engel and the Foundation supplied the medications that enabled the Haitians themselves to deworm the goats and to stop the developing problem. Goats, swine, sheep and chickens are the primary livestock of the area. The Haitians under the leadership of our Executive Director devised and carried out the entire project.

For more information on this or any project or to donate, you may contact us in any of 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.