

The Fond Doux Flyer July 2021

Meet Pastor Wakel Joseph



Pastor Wakel Joseph

Pastor Wakel Joseph is one of the two new members of the Haitian Foundation Committee with whom we partner in Fond Doux. The following slightly abridged interview was conducted by Emile Maceus.

Emile: Good afternoon, Pastor Wakel, the Fond Doux Foundation is interested in knowing more about people who take part in its team, would you be willing to answer a few questions?

Pastor Wakel: Good afternoon, brother Emile. Yes, no problem.

Emile: I understand that you have become an associate pastor of the Christian Primitive Church of Fond Doux. How did you become a pastor?

Pastor Wakel: I have been a pastor for a couple of years; however, I became an associate pastor of the Christian Primitive Church about six months ago. My duties in the church are teaching, leading Bible study, and managing the church. What made me become a pastor? First, I received a call from God and secondly, I undertook theological studies at Séminaire théologique d'Haïti, in Port-au-Prince. I spent three years in the theological school. As a pastor who works for God, what I like most about this work is to lead worship and to teach classes.

Emile: We understand that you are a mason by profession.

Pastor Wakel: Not only am I a mason but I am a mason's foreman also. I have been working as a

mason for about ten years. . . As a mason I do everything. I can plaster a wall as well as lay block. My limit is in plumbing. I do not do plumbing. When building here in Haiti, we use cement for most all the work -- for both floors and ceilings. In Haiti. . . you do whatever work you can find. I have become accustomed to working as a mason and I love all aspects of my work.

Emile: You recently became a part of the Haitian Fond Doux Foundation committee. What do you see as the role of this committee in the community? Describe your dreams for the community. What is your role?

Pastor Wakel: I am a member of the committee. My role is to put our ideas together in order to come up with a new plan to ameliorate (improve) our community. Especially in Haiti, there are a lot of things we need. As a society that is going from bad to worse, my dream is to see a change for our young people -- notably in education creating new activities for their development. We see a phenomenon of outmigration. Many people are trying to leave Haiti because they see and say that the country doesn't offer anything for them. My dream is to create a standard education that limits the rate of migration and opens up jobs for them. As I am a mason foreman, I could create a professional school as polyvalent to teach them masonry: lay blocks, plaster, pebbledach, roughcast, tile, etc. That is a role I can play in my community's development.

Emile: Would you be willing to tell us a little about yourself and your family? If so, can you tell us about them?

Pastor Wakel: I was born in Petit-Goâve, I started my primary school in Port-au-Prince but I finished my primary school in Petit-Goâve in 1993. After my primary school, I went to Port-au-Prince to finish the rest of my studies. After my studies I learned a couple of professional jobs. I learned refrigeration. I can work as a refrigerator maintenance person. Then I am married; I have two daughters. One is eleven years of age, and the other is ten. My wife is a teacher. She is learning the science of education. I have three older sisters, but I don't have any brothers. That is what I can say about myself and my family.

Emile: Tell us about your childhood. What do you remember most fondly? What were your greatest challenges?

Pastor Wakel: As I said before, I was born in Petit-Goâve, but I grew up in Port-au-Prince because I spent

The Fond Doux Flyer July 2021

most of my time in Port-au-Prince. I remember in my childhood that I was a vagabond. But what happened to me then I will not forget. The fact is that I loved soccer. During a soccer game I injured a leg. Also, my father beat me because I prioritized playing more than doing my tasks. Afterwards, I became a hard worker. I would not play or do anything else before finishing my work. Because of that I changed completely. What was my greatest challenge? I couldn't spend a day without going to school. Not only would my parents not accept that, but I loved going to school. My parents were very strict for my education.

I want to talk more about the foundation. As a young pastor who works in the Fond-Doux community, I think we have a nursing school that we are working on. I (we) think this will be profitable for the community. We didn't create the school to exclude anybody. Everyone can come to the school. However, we live in a community where most everyone is miserable, and the young people in the community don't have support. I meet a lot of young girls who want to come to the school to learn nursing. Despite the fact that the school is not expensive, they cannot afford it. In that case all that we can do is to give scholarships, but we cannot give them all scholarships. Only two to three students can receive a scholarship. Even when the students come to the school and try to pay the school, they cannot afford to buy furniture and the tools and equipment for this profession.

If we are able to talk about education in the society that we want to assist, we need to look at it in another way. We need educated people in the community. But to achieve that goal we need to think about creating jobs for the people in the community in order for people to have enough money to pay for their studies. Many people in the community would love to learn, but they cannot afford it. It is for this reason we want to search and put our knowledge at the community's disposition in order to help them grow.

To create that change we need a place that meets professional standards for the students to learn nursing, a place that can respond to all legal norms and where they can find a laboratory to do research. We have a great dream for this community. It's for this reason we are praying God to grant, to respond to our prayers.

Emile: Thanks, Pastor Wakel, it was a pleasure to have this interview with you.

Jowasky Saint Surin Graduates SES



Jowasky Saint Surin with Brother and Father

Jowasky Saint Surin is 17 years old and a student in the 12th grade at College Mixte Capois la Mort, the local high school. He has been attending the Simple English School in Miragoâne on an English language scholarship from the Foundation, traveling on weekends to Miragoâne to attend the English school in addition to his regular school. He has been attending for three years advancing from the beginner to the intermediate to the advanced level of English. He graduated from SES June 20th. A multi-talented youth, he is also interested in making videos.

Jowasky explains his reasons for studying English: "In Haiti, English is very important. English is the big key that can open doors, and I am frequently in contact with some Americans."

He went on to say, however, "Learning English in Haiti is not easy. This is a very difficult thing for me, but I desire to speak English. My parents believe in me -- that I will speak English. . . Now I speak English!!!"

"I will use it to benefit the community of Fond Doux. When there's something to do, I will do it. If there's something that is very important to do, I'm on the ground to do it. My plan is to start teaching others, especially in the (English) club. I also want to translate."

He is the third member of the remarkable Saint Surin family to study English. His oldest brother Kender was the first, financed by his father when he was in better health. Kender organized and led an English club for primary school children until he emigrated to Chile to find a job. Later Schneider Saint Surin took up the English language. He is now in the Dominican Republic studying Spanish in preparation for his studies in computer science on a Foundation university scholarship.

The Fond Doux Flyer July 2021

Jowasky is one of the six children and the third son of Fritzmann and Carole (Therrentiel) Saint Surin. Fritzmann, better known as FonFon, is a member of the Haitian Fond Doux Foundation Committee and is the chairman of its soccer field committee overseeing the improvement and maintenance of the soccer field.

Both of his parents have been recently ill. Both were able to be present, but we ask for your prayers and support for Jowasky's parents even as we celebrate Jowasky's achievement.

Who is my Neighbor?

The biblical command in both the Old and New Testament is to love God wholeheartedly and to love our neighbor as ourselves. For a Christian the definition of neighbor is contained in the story of the Good Samaritan. Jesus asked, "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise." [Luke 10:36-37]

The Fond Doux Foundation takes seriously the admonition to show mercy (steadfast love) to both the "near neighbor" and the "far neighbor." Those who are most in need require love equally with ourselves, our kin and our near neighbors. Can we do that? We can try! That is our goal as a Christian Foundation. Haiti is the poorest country in the Americas. That is not just a statistic. These are people, our neighbors and to some of us, our friends. Thanks to all of you who have contributed to our mutual work. May we all "Go and do likewise."



https://stock.adobe.com/free_clip, Shared By: [LEX](#) 08-29-2013

Epworth Women Sponsor Nurse

The Epworth United Methodist Women agreed to sponsor the Fond Doux Community Nurse for the rest of the year. Myrdred Kaminski Delva who has served in this capacity for the last year on a month-to-month basis recently signed a continuing contract with the FDF that insures her of \$150 salary per month. She is now concentrating on preparation for the opening of the clinic which she is to run. She has recently been concentrating on teaching hygiene to students in the Fond Doux schools and has treated a few patients without a clinic. She also oversees the Public Health initiatives of the community. We are extremely grateful for this commitment by the UMW. All activity of the Foundation is completely dependent on our donors.



Myrdred Kaminski Delva

This project coincides with the priorities of the UMW emphasis on women and children and at the same time enables the Foundation to guarantee the salary for the rest of the year. The women will evaluate at that time. The Foundation has been seeking increased funding as the clinic is a major increase in the scope of the Foundation's activities. Health care is problematic at best for most Haitians, who are chronically faced with malnutrition and health care beyond their ability to pay. The new clinic will be a partial answer. In the past and even now, some individuals turn to fetish remedies, which often are very poor substitutes for genuine health care.

The Fond Doux Flyer July 2021

Meet Jorking Innocent



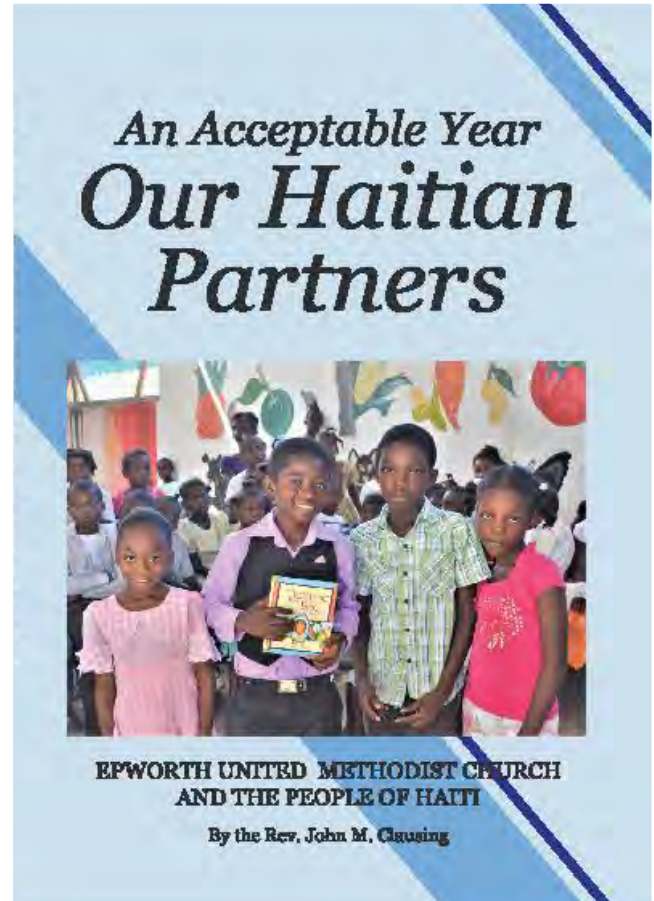
Jorking Innocent, age 18, is the oldest son of the Antoinette George Innocent Family. Recently we sent one of our Fond Doux correspondents to talk with him about how life is going in their new home. He told us that he presently is going to school, although he doesn't study a lot and that he is in the eleventh grade. He has a scholarship from Mission to Haiti that covers much of his schooling. He likes going to school.

To obtain food for the family, he works in his mother's garden. He said, "I grow corn, cassava and cherry, even if it does not provide sufficient food because we have a large family. But anyways it fills some otherwise empty stomachs. To tell you the truth, I don't have a job, but I am used to working. Sometimes I get money by working a day at a time. I usually have done mason work."

He likes the new house built by the FDF. Previously he didn't feel comfortable; but now since they are in the new house, he does feel comfortable. He sleeps well, etc. He said, "But the thing that remains unchanged for me is when it rains. I can't sleep. . ." It appears that after needing to stay alert and stand when it rains because the canvas roof was continuously leaking, he has not found an easy adjustment – even when the roof no longer leaks!

He further said that one thing that he would like to do in the future is to be able help some people financially in the same way that he has been helped. We also hope that this may be in his future. In the meantime, we wish him well in his school work and in finding day jobs to help his mother find food for the family.

Order your Book Now



This book about our Haitian partners is hot off the press. Told mostly by Haitians, it shows the life of the Haitian people and the work of the Foundation. The cost is \$20.00. Postage and handling are \$2.00 if the book needs to be mailed. We will be holding a book signing event when COVID restrictions permit. You may purchase a book at the Epworth UMC office.

Or, to order a book, to receive more information on any project, or to provide support, you may contact us in the following ways:

Website: www.fonddouxfoundation.org

Email: John@fonddouxfoundation.org



Address: Fond Doux Foundation
PO Box 51443
Durham, NC 27717

Website manager: Brent Engel
Newsletter editor: John Clausing

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.