

Meet Madam Antoinette

The 2010 earthquake still has significant after affects. Madam Antoinette George's husband, Innocent, was killed in the earthquake. He left behind a wife and four small children. For the last ten years this family has been living in a make shift one room shack of plastic, tin and canvas that is very little shelter.



Widow Antoinette and her children

The family consists of Madam Antoinette, age 50 and four children: Jorking (blue shirt), age 17, is in the 9th grade; Jameson (back), age 15, often cuts school to look for food; Duinica (the girl), age 12 is in the 4th grade and Jamesley, approximately 10 is in the 3rd grade. Jorking and Duinica are sponsored by Mission to Haiti to attend school. Antoinette scrounges together whatever she can to feed and to clothe her children by taking in laundry whenever she can – but often not.

A person like Madam Antoinette is a prime reason that the Fond Doux Foundation exists. In 2013 the Foundation had the dream of building one house a year to shelter families such as hers -- to have at least a dry room in which to live. Unfortunately, only one house was ever built. Ed Cerne arranged for the building of a home for the Albert Merjule family, who at the time were living in a leaking UNICEF tent. Emile Maceus oversaw its construction. The 2013 ambitions of the Foundation never took root because the Foundation never acquired the finances that they then envisioned. Emile Maceus of Fond Doux recently talked with Antoinette about her desperate situation. He asks us, "Do you think that in the future we could do something for her as we did for Mr. Merjule?" A simple one room would probably cost about \$4000. A two-room home with an outdoor toilette could probably be built for \$6000. The innkeeper said there was no room in the inn, but he did what he could. What will the Lord say of us? Time will tell. So many needs! So few resources!



Community Health Education

Our new community nurse Myrdred Kaminskie has been engaged in an active program for education on diseases and their prevention. Naturally, COVID-19 has been at the focal point of her activities. Our May issue reported on her class at the village of Platon on April 11. On April 29th she conducted another class in Fond Doux. This class was conducted in the open air in order to diminish the possibility of spreading the virus through the assemblage.

The outdoor setting allowed for social distancing, but also required the use of a megaphone. The number of people coming to the event exceeded the Haitian Committee’s expectation. It even included a person from the 7th region of Petit-Goâve, high in the mountains, the same group that came to hear Dr. Libby Engel teach about goat care. The committee gave him an outline of the class and 50 masks to take to his village. The masks for those in the mountains may have been an abundance of caution, but created enormous good will among people who seldom see foreigners.

In preparation for this class the board authorized the purchase of 500 face masks at a cost of \$612 made possible by donors to the Foundation. The masks were made by two tailors secured by the Haitian FDFC. While social distancing is easy on the Fond Doux soccer field, it is much more difficult in the marketplace and Haitian public transportation.



Nurse Myrdred, Emile Maceus, CHW Cristela



Making the Masks – No Electricity

provided 250 nets. The FDFC estimated the need for another 150 nets. As a result, 128 nets were provided by the FDF from a designated gift and distributed at the class. They were 17 nets short.



Malaria Class

Demonstrating use of Mosquito Net

Nurse Myrdred also conducted a class on malaria and Pink Eye on May 17th. This was a result of the high number of cases of Pink Eye found in the community and the result of the survey indicating more mosquito nets were required to combat malaria. Previously the FDF had

An open-air clinic to hold check-ups for non-MTH-sponsored children is in the planning. Children sponsored by MISSION TO HAITI receive regular health check-ups but other children do not. We expect to be able to report on this clinic in next month's Flyer.



Schneider Saint Surin

New Scholarship Recipient

The Haitian Fond Doux Committee announced the recipient of the new scholarship made possible by an anonymous member of Epworth United Methodist Church. He is Schneider Saint Surin, the son of Fritzmann Saint Surin and his wife Carole Therrentiel. He is 19 years old and a 2019 graduate of College Mixte Capois La Mort, the secondary school in Fond Doux.

Despite his youth he has been a valuable contributor to the Foundation. He has served as one of the chief translators for our mission teams for about 5 years, having started learning English when he was 10 years old. He is also a member of the Haitian Fond Doux Committee, its youngest member, and serves as the publicity chair. Additionally, he has served as a correspondent for the Flyer reporting to us on the various activities of the committee and community.

He is a computer whiz and founded his own company, “New Age Productions”, which makes videos. He is interested in computer technology.

The arrangements for his schooling have not yet been determined. He has explored two schools in the Dominican Republic for which he would still need to demonstrate Spanish proficiency. The Foundation would prefer that he study in Haiti, if an appropriate course can be found. Unfortunately, there may be safety concerns with the universities in Port-au-Prince.

A condition of his scholarship is a commitment to give back to the Fond Doux community. One obvious possibility is to participate in the teaching of use of computers; perhaps at the proposed Fond Doux Library. Another might be to use his computer expertise to improve computer networking or to help local farmers and merchants find markets for their wares. He has promised to continue to be serve as a translator as able.

Continuing Gifts

We are grateful to all those that continue to make contributions to the Foundation – especially during this time of social isolation when we cannot make in-person presentations. Larger gifts allow the Foundation to undertake new commitments such as the scholarship announced this month or to provide emergency funding for mosquito nets, but smaller continued gifts help underwrite the medications needed for the clinic that we hope to open soon and/or to pay our employees. We welcome all contributions, large and small. Through your partnership we can make dreams come true, whether it is a house for Madam Antoinette, a clinic for Fond Doux, the eradication of malaria in the village, improvements in agriculture, or the education of new young leaders through scholarships and/or the school in Platon. You our readers hold the future in your hands. We thank you for your continued support. For more information, you may contact us through the website or address below.

Website: www.fonddouxfoundation.org



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.