

Danis Enters New English School



Danis Joseph, a member of the Haitian Fond Doux Foundation Committee and the Principal of College Mixte Capois la Mort Primary School is now studying English at Real Time Institute in Petit Goâve on a Foundation English scholarship. They advertise it as a place where English is spoken with an emphasis on conversation, speaking, listening, pronunciation, reading, writing and grammar comprehension. This is our first English language student to be enrolled at this institute. One English scholarship student, Orlmy Dorcé, a teacher at Good Samaritan School in Platon, is now at Morning Star Institute also in Petit Goâve and five others are at Simple English School in Miragoâne. They are Jowasky Saint Surin, Venelson Vitalis, Jean Guitho Pierre, Andy Merjuste and Ancitho Gene. Our hope and that of Danis is that this enrollment will enable future communication with Foundation personnel and mission team members in English.

Danis has been active in many aspects of the Haitian Committee and Foundation Projects. He is the head of the Micro Loan Project and he has participated in purchasing of many of the items distributed at our various health classes. This month he purchased soap for students in the hygiene classes taught to Fond Doux primary school children and secondary schools by our community nurse, Myrdred Kaminskie Delva.



Danis Joseph Purchasing Soap

Over 1200 bars of soap have been or will be distributed to the participants. Learning the habit of washing hands before eating and after rest room use is a very significant step toward improving health. It is difficult in Haiti because of lack of convenient facilities. Our school handwashing station was vandalized last year. Its repair has been delayed by the pandemic. Dr. Eugene Macklin, a Haitian physician well known by many people related to the Fond Doux Foundation and the founder of New Hope Hospital in Plaine-Du-Nord, Haiti said, "It's very hard sometimes to explain to people who have never been to any kind of school how to take care of themselves. They just don't understand preventive care." [*Unto the Least of These* p. 42] He continued, "'cholera (for example) is a matter of prevention – just apply the hygiene rules – very simple.' Yet many people die." [*Unto the Least of These* p. 43] Teaching this practice in school is thus very important. Classes for primary school children were held on Thursday May 13th. Multiple classes were held so that all school children could attend the classes and also be small enough that questions could be raised and answered. Secondary school classes are also planned, but have not yet been held.

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Turning Dreams into Realities?

By far the greatest needs of the Fond Doux Community are finding adequate food sources for the community and securing jobs that enable young people to access these food sources. The Fond Doux Foundation and the Haitian Fond Doux Foundation Committee have been exploring several possibilities including an irrigation project to increase food production during the dry season and a trade school to prepare the youth for productive work. However, neither of these projects is within the present financial capabilities of the Foundation. To pursue them requires expanding our financial base rather significantly.

The Foundation has contacted a person familiar with grant writing to advise us in searching for new partners. However, the most likely source for finding new partners is probably to be found among our present supporters. If you support the Foundation, your personal advocacy with your group, your church, denomination, university, trade group or place of employment could be a big help. We ask you to think about your connections. You may be the key to unlock the future. We would be glad to assist in your approach if you have an idea about where additional support can be secured. We are interested in pursuing projects which lead to self-sufficiency. Contact us and them.

A Proposed Irrigation Project

Haiti is located in the tropics. During the months of December, January and February, they have very little rainfall – averaging a little over an inch each month. The result is that the gardens dry up during this time and food becomes scarce.

Dieuseul Istache (medical scholarship student) speaks of his childhood experience in the forthcoming book, *Our Haitian Partners*: “My father was a farmer. He lived in the countryside, no watering at that place. To have enough to eat was so difficult. You had to wait until it rains to plant a few things. Very often you plant and you could not harvest because it was not raining. To survive was very often very difficult, but by the grace of God we are still alive.” [*Our Haitian Partners* p. 120]

Citho Julsaint (Toto) said, “With irrigation we would have a lot of fields watered and have a lot of food for our family. . . Everyone wants to work in order to feed their family. I think if we had irrigation in the community, I would not risk my life on a motorcycle trying to gain some money for daily bread.” [*Our Haitian Partners* p. 149.] Toto is presently a motorcycle taxi driver.

Anchelot Delma and two other civil engineers from Leogane, Haiti have priced the construction of a 50,000-gallon reservoir that could irrigate the vast majority of the gardens of the Fond Doux community. The cost would run to \$63,963. This includes a 10% contingency and 25 % engineering and supervisory fee. The cost is subject to change based on the conversion rate of the dollar which has been in fluctuation.



Anchelot Delma – Haitian Engineer

Exploring a Trade School

One of the dreams of the Foundation and of the Haitian FDF Committee is the establishing a trade school. Emile Maceus, Vice-President of the FDFC and Haitian Executive Director of the FDF, says, “I can openly say that one of the greatest needs of the community is having a trade school. Many young people drop out of school. They have no occupation. I believe if a trade school can be set up, it will be very helpful for the community.” [*Our Haitian Partners* p. 64]

On March 14, 2021, representatives of the Caribbean Mission Partnership, a Methodist mission organization in New York, and the Marco Depestre Foundation of Haiti discussed with the Fond Doux Foundation the possibility of trade school to be located on the campus of the former Christian Rural Life Center near Vialet, Haiti. This is about a 45-minute walk from Fond Doux. The campus is presently unused except for its garden. It has six usable buildings.

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The size of the campus is a little over six acres. It includes two dormitory buildings, a building used to store tractors, a 2-story building that once included a soil testing laboratory, a food storage facility, a carpentry workshop building and a poultry barn. One of the dormitory buildings was erected in 2007 with an addition in 2013. It has rooms in good repair useable for offices and a significant cafeteria. There is a diesel generator that can be used to provide electricity for the campus. Although some older buildings need some repair, this location has the distinct advantage of having buildings already erected with space for a variety of workshop possibilities. Its greatest

disadvantage for residents of Fond Doux is the 45-minute walk to the campus.



Cafeteria



Two Story Building



Tractor Shed



Garden

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Demonstrations Affect Fond Doux

Violent protests have again hit Haiti. Emile Maceus, our Haitian Executive Director said early in May, "The country is upside down."

The Latin American Advisor, a news organization devoted to Latin America reported on May 1, 2021:

"Haiti is wracked by deepening political unrest and economic misery, as well as a rash of kidnappings, which, according to the United Nations, tripled last year. President Jovenel Moïse acknowledged on April 14 that efforts to fight insecurity have been 'ineffective,' and the Roman Catholic archdiocese of Port-au-Prince recently said the country's society is suffering a 'descent into hell.'"

On May 7, 2021 the Fond Doux schools were closed as a result of nearby demonstrations that made people fear travel outside their homes. The demonstrators were protesting kidnappings and perceived governmental inaction. The hygiene classes to be taught that day by our Community Nurse to primary school students needed to be postponed. They were later held on May 13th. Your prayers for more stability are much sought.

Nurse Treats Medical Problems



Our community nurse, Myrdred Delva, not only conducts health classes for adults and children, but also treats health problems as they arise. She was asked to exam and treat some open ugly sores for a young man in the Fond Doux community recently. She did so on May 22, 2021. Prognosis was not available at press time. The Foundation and the community are grateful for the donors that make this program possible. It is thanks to you!

Order your Book Now



The book is about the Haitians of Fond Doux and Platon and is mostly told by the Haitians themselves. The cost of the book is \$20.00. The postage and handling fee is an additional \$2.00 if it needs to be mailed. The printing date is scheduled for June 1, 2021. Books can now be ordered.

To order your book, to receive more information on any project, or to provide support, you may contact us in 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.