

Malaria Strikes Fond Doux – Hits Our Students



Venelson Vitelus

One of our English language students, Venelson Vitelus was recently hospitalized in the city of Miragoâne after contracting malaria. He was desperately ill and was unconscious. He has recovered sufficiently to return home and is taking the appropriate medicines. We ask for your prayers for his continuing recovery. Unfortunately, he was not the only one to contract the disease. Ismaelo Polistin, our music club teacher and music scholarship recipient also contracted malaria. He was not hospitalized but is receiving treatment. But there are others. In early February we received this report from Emile Maceus, Venelson’s brother:

“Yesterday I got to be in the hospital in Miragoâne to be with my mother in order to comfort her. I also was able to talk to some of the doctors at that hospital. One of them told me that they have lots of people who are from Fond Doux and some of the area near Fond Doux who have malaria. I then understood that something should be done in Fond Doux. I asked them what the people in Fond Doux must do in order to get rid of the disease. They gave me plenty of information, one of which is to have a “Fumigation”. I did not take too long to act. I rapidly called Gernite (the nurse) to get some information about how we could manage that... I also asked her if she can prepare a class on prevention against malaria...”

On February 20th, the malaria class was held including use of mosquito nets. The Foundation sent \$1236 for 150 nets from available funds and \$825 from an Epworth Outreach Committee emergency grant for 100 more. Additional donations are welcome [Address is on the last page]. The nets were purchased in Port-au-Prince.

The FDFC also contacted a Haitian government agency and requested a fumigation for mosquitoes. As we go to press this has not yet been done.

One apparent problem is an algae-filled pond previously used as a fish pond that needs to be cleaned up. The owner has agreed to do so. Word has been put out into the community to get rid of stagnant water.

English Club Reestablished

The FDFC has requested the English Language Scholarship students to restart the English club for younger children in Fond Doux. They have agreed. The club was first inspired by the Foundation and run by Kender Saint Surin. However, when he emigrated to Chile, no one took up leadership of the club. The club is designed to teach younger children the simple English phrases and greetings used in everyday conversation and to introduce the language to the younger students in a fun way. Perhaps a deeper level of English can be developed.

Micro Loan Program Explored

The Haitian Fond Doux Committee is very actively pursuing the possibility of a micro-loan program to enable families to start small businesses. It is in the exploratory phase. We hope to report more on this program in future issues.

New English Language Scholarship

Pierre Jean Guitho has been chosen by the FDFC to replace Frantz Delma as an English Language Scholarship recipient. Frantz was awarded a scholarship to finish his nursing education and cannot pursue both simultaneously because of the rigors of his nursing education.



Pierre Jean Guitho

Pierre is the oldest son of Madam Christela featured in a previous edition as the community health worker employed by the Foundation. He helps her with her record keeping. He is a high school student.

Clinic Proposal Progressing



Gernite Bonhomme

In August 2019 our Mission team met with the Haitian Fond Doux Foundation Committee (the FDFC). During that meeting the Haitians discussed their desires and dreams and what was at the top of their priorities. At that time the three top dreams were a clinic for the village of Fond Doux, expansion and improvement of the soccer field to make it regulation size, and the desire to proceed with the proposed 10th anniversary project of a library for the community.

Following this meeting the Foundation approved the hiring of a community nurse as a first step in developing a clinic as something that could be done even without a clinic building. Further the board created a draft proposal for a community nurse program for Fond Doux which was translated into Creole so that the proposal would be completely understood.

This Document was then also sent for review to Gernite Bonhomme, who has been employed from time to time as a nurse by and for the Foundation but not on a salary. The Haitian FDFC met with Gernite Bonhomme to study this document and then a second time to lay plans for her assumption of duties to become a community nurse in the village of Fond Doux.

The community nurse/clinic proposal is designed to be part of an overall comprehensive program to improve the health of the community both by establishing community health initiatives that would prevent disease as well as treating diseases when they occur.

The program would include reestablishment of the hand washing stations which were disrupted by vandalization, a series of health classes for adults and children, a program to improve nutrition especially for young children, and other areas of community programs to prevent disease. The importance of the last was revealed this last month by the outbreak of malaria as reported elsewhere in this issue.

The Foundation has obtained the pumps for reestablishing the handwashing stations through a generous donation by Scott Gregg and will be taken to Fond Doux on the next mission trip in April.



The immediate plans for Gernite are for her to be present four times a month in Fond Doux to hold both classes and a clinic. She already taught a class for malaria prevention this month. The schedules for the clinic and classes have not yet been determined nor the balance between them. This program will begin to fulfil one of the dreams of both the Committee and the Foundation.

The Haitian FDFC has been in negotiation with the Wesleyenne Church in Fond Doux to use a clinic building built by Samaritan’s Purse. It was used by Samaritan’s Purse for one year and then given to the Wesleyenne Church of Fond Doux to continue the operation of a clinic. However, The Wesleyenne Church was unable to continue operation for financial reasons. Now, the clinic building sits unused. The negotiation appears to have been successful. This will save the Foundation the considerable expense of providing a new or remodeled facility for the clinic.

This interchange has been shortened and also edited for punctuation and clarity.



Dieuseul Istache

John Clausing: Dieuseul, I am contacting you because you are a medical student from Fond Doux sponsored by the Foundation. We would like to learn more about you, your family, your studies, interests, etc.

You are pursuing a medical education in Port-au-Prince. Tell us about your school and course of study. What is the name of the school? How many years education is the course that you are pursuing? What year are you? Could you tell us some of the courses that you are studying? What is involved? Is there a laboratory? Is there a practical clinical component? Tell us where you live, while pursuing your education. If you need to travel to classes, how do you go. Just tell us what life is like as a medical student.

Dieuseul Istache: Today, I am so glad to talk to you, my dear pastor John Clausing, about myself and my studies. First of all, I want to thank God for His blessings in my life and I want to thank dear Brent Engel, my dear brother. Also, I want to thank you my dear pastor for your great questions. My name is Dieuseul Istache, I am 28, the youngest of my family. My father died 9 years ago. After the death of my father, the situation was complicated for me to continue learning at school due to financial difficulties, because I was born into a poor family.

I have 3 dreams in life. The first one is to be an evangelist, because I have a great job to do for Christ. It is to share the gospel to all (Mark 16:15).

The second one is to be a great doctor in Haiti. Many doctors in Haiti prefer money to saving lives. They forget that life is more important than money. They do not take care of sickness without money. Thus, a lot of people die.

For that reason, I want to be a model doctor to bring a change in the sanitary system. To enable my learning at a university my dear brother Brent Engel (through the Fond Doux Foundation) helped me to rent a single room, with food, books, transportation and a scholarship.

To become a doctor in Haiti is difficult due to the insecurity and life situations, but I do know nothing is easy in life. You have to fight for your dreams. I go to school at UDEI university. It's a great one. It has a lot of options, but it has no laboratory. That is a big problem for the medical students in Haiti. When you have clinical practice, you need to go to a hospital to do it. To get to school I pay a taxi every day.

What do I know about being a doctor in Haiti? When you study abroad you have no difficulty to get a job. For that reason, I would like to finish my studies in the Dominican Republic. When you study abroad to obtain a diploma, you could have more privileges than those who get their diploma in Haiti at my university. We have no good school to do specialties in Haiti. The student must go abroad to Cuba, the Dominican Republic, the USA, Mexico or elsewhere.

The courses that I study are medical terminology, urology, mycology, renal pathology, reproductive pathology, bacteriology, parasitology, endocrinology, and others. To become a doctor is 7 years in Haiti. I am in my fourth year. I spend almost all my time at school.

The student's life in medical school in Haiti is difficult. You cannot wear your uniform on the road due to robbers. You are so scared because they think you could have money. Medical school costs a lot. When you are a student at medical school, that means you are a rich person in Haiti. I keep my faith up, because I have to fight for my dreams. I do know I am not alone, because Jesus is with me.

My third dream is to have an orphanage to help the vulnerable people in Haiti. As Jesus put someone on my way to help me realize my dream, I have to do the same for others...

JAMESSEL DERISIER

Jamessel DERISIER is 17 years old and dwells with his two aunts and his father, a farmer. He also has 4 brothers and 3 sisters, who live with his mother. He is now in 7th grade. A swollen part of his face has afflicted him since birth. The swollen part is sometimes painful, sometimes causing trouble eating, fever, headache, toothache and recently losing weight. He used to often cut class, which accounts for his 7th grade level in school. He had been

bothered by some of the rude students who would often call him “woodpecker“. He also said that his biggest problem is when he looks at himself in a mirror.



Jamessel Derisier

The Foundation contacted Mercy Ships and Children’s Baptist Hospital of Miami, Florida who have previously successfully done surgery for similar cases. But Mercy Ship was recently in Haiti and will not be returning soon. The hospital has limited International charity cases to \$100,000. His would cost over \$100,000 in the USA.



Emile Maceus, Jamessel and Jamessel’s Aunt

On the advice of Bill Nealey, Jr. of Mission to Haiti, we contacted Calvin Babcock of Miami. He in turn contacted Jonathan Lamare, a Haitian doctor, who had cooperated

with PARTNERS IN HEALTH to provide such a surgery in Mirebalais, Haiti by an American surgeon, Dr. Roger Mixter. Dr. Mixter requested a CT scan and biopsy. On February 14th, 2020 Jamessel traveled to Port-au-Prince with his aunt and visited Dr. Joseph Barnard at the IHI Clinic as arranged by Emile Maceus of Fond Doux. Then on Tuesday February 18th Jamessel returned to Port-au-Prince for the CT scan at Bernard Mev Clinic and some blood tests ordered by Dr. Bernard. The CT & tests were paid for by the Foundation out of its Medical Fund for life-saving or life-changing surgeries. Thanks to all who have contributed! Jamessel appears to be going to receive the surgery that he needs.



For more information about this or any Foundation project or to make donations contact us through our website or at the address below.

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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.