



Meet Emile Maceus



Emile Maceus may be a familiar name to the readers of the Fond Doux Flyer. You may have heard of him as a senior student in education at Quisqueya University in Port-au-Prince. But he is much more. Officially he is also the Vice-President of the Haitian Fond Doux Foundation Committee which administers all the Foundation's projects in Fond Doux. Pastor Brucely Delma, the founder of the Primitive Church, is the President, the titular head. However, Emile is more than vice-president. He is actually the chief operating officer of the Haitian committee, the chief translator and go-between between the Foundation and the committee. Further, he also is the go-between with Pastor Jonas Pierre, the administrator of the Good Samaritan School of Platon, which the Foundation also sponsors. Thus, he is an incredibly important man to the work of the Foundation. His knowledge of English is an important asset to the Foundation and to the Fond Doux community. His ability to translate and his administrative talent are essential to our joint work.

His introduction to English began when Judy Daymont, a member of Epworth Church visited Fond Doux on one of the earlier mission teams of the Foundation. She gave him an English dictionary. Karen Thorsen of Unity Church Cary, another early mission team member, recognized his potential and enabled him to go to "Wonderful Institute", a school to learn English. His English skill is thus, in part, the result of some of the early work of the Foundation. We see that just as he is important to the Foundation, the Foundation has been and is important to him.

Emile was not born in Fond Doux, but spent his early years and most of his teens in a village west of Fond Doux called Lamadleine.

His father died when he was 9 years old. His mother was unable to support the family and he needed to find work in order to eat and attend school. Here is what he said about that time [Quotation taken from the forthcoming book *Our Haitian Partners*, by the Rev. John Clausing]:

"After the passing away of my father in 2001, things turned out so terrible. I had almost no one to watch over me. I had to do the best for me to stay alive. I got a job in a bakery where the work was very difficult, but as you know the fight for survival is never easy. I had to work in the morning and then go to school in the afternoon. I did not hesitate to do any kind of job where I could gain something in return -- working as a laborer in masonry, working in the garden too. I made most of my classical school without having even a book. I had to borrow books from my friends, which was not always easy. Even though I sometimes cut some classes, I knew that having an education could get me out of what I was going through . . .

"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 10th 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".

From extraordinarily humble beginnings, he has become an important and influential member of the

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community. He is now the administrator of the Sunday School at the Primitive Church of Fond Doux and also serves as an assistant pastor of the church as well as the chief conduit for the work of the Fond Doux Foundation, while still attending a university. Hats off to Emile Maceus!



Emile Maceus Leading Worship

It has been a long road, but he is now a senior in the university. He is preparing to write his thesis, a requirement for him to obtain his degree. He can see “light at the end of the tunnel”. All this, while doing incredible work in the community! He also has a serious girl-friend, Nadine Tousaint. She is a laboratory technician. He hopes to get married after he graduates in December.

Platon School Has New Teacher

Pastor Jonas Pierre, administrator of the Good Samaritan School of Platon, announced that the new teacher for grades three and four for the school year 2020-2021 is Avena Belabe. This is her first year as a school teacher, although she previously taught in the children clubs of the Church of Christ of Trou-Chouchou, Petit-Goave, Haiti. She began teaching when the school commenced the Fall semester in November 2020. The late school start was necessitated by the closing of the school during the Spring semester due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Spring semester resumed in August.

She attended primary school at John Wesley School of Cocoyer, 3rd section of Petit-Goâve (2003-2011). She obtained her secondary education at Collège La Bonté Silfane Antoine, Petit-Goâve (2012-2016) and Collège Philip Guerier de Petit-Goave (2016-2018).



Teacher Avena Belabe

Finding someone with the ability to teach 3rd and 4th grades in the remote village of Platon has not been easy. The other three teachers at the school live in the area or have family with which to stay. During the summer of 2019 the then 3rd and 4th grade teacher quit because of poor pay and working conditions -- prior to the Foundation’s decision to subsidize the school. At the beginning of the school year (2019-2020), Pastor Jonas recruited a new teacher for grades three and four. However, several days into the school year the newly hired teacher also quit.

Guifaude Meunier, an accountant, with some post high school education was then hired to teach grades three and four. Except for a brief stint at teaching in 2011, this was also his first-year teaching. Because of difficult travel (travel to and from the village is by boat), he needed to remain in the village during the school week and was home only during the weekend. His wife did not like his weeklong absences. He resigned in April when the school suspended classes for the pandemic.

Pastor Jonas Pierre, administrator of the school, assumed the duties for 3rd and 4th grades temporarily while searching for a new teacher. He taught for 3 months -- August, September and October of 2020.

Pastor Jonas believes that Miss Belabe has the capacity to become a good teacher for these grades. He has been arranging in-service training for all the teachers.

Seeking Collaboration

On Saturday February 6th, representatives of the Caribbean Mission Partnership, sponsors of the Methodist Primary School in Fond Doux, and the Fond Doux Foundation met by Zoom to become acquainted and to explore common interests -- to see where we

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might collaborate. This is part of the effort of the Foundation to seek common ground and cooperation with others working in the same geographical area and to interest others to share work in the village of Fond Doux.

The Caribbean Mission Partnership is an organization growing out of work in Haiti, Antigua and Jamaica of both the Upper New York Conference and the New York Conference of the United Methodist Church. The CMP sponsors a Methodist School located in a Methodist Church located about two kilometers west of the Primitive Church of Fond Doux with which the Foundation has been in partnership for nearly 10 years. The Methodist school is about seven years old and has grown to about 100 students, K-6. Madam Sonise Colidor Paulo, a member of our Haitian committee (FDPC) is a teacher at the school.



Pastor Patrick G. Perrin

Pastor Patrick G Perrin, a retired United Methodist pastor is the chairperson of the Caribbean Mission Partnership. He is a native of Spanish Town, Jamaica, West Indies and previously served as a pastor in Trinidad, Tobago, Jamaica and Brooklyn, New York before retiring in Queens, New York in 2019.

The two organizations found common ground in a number of areas including but not limited to a possible trade school, a goat project (and chicken project), a clinic, charging stations, hygiene kits (Days for Girls), land purchase, solar projects and an English language project. The two organizations plan to meet again in March after consulting with their Haiti partners to see “where we go from here.”

Soccer Field

The major work on the soccer field extension at Fond Doux has been completed. The expansion actually cost \$6000 instead of the \$4500 originally planned, because of a breakdown in the power shovel. We have received about \$1000 and had \$550 on hand. We still need \$4450 to complete payment. We appreciate those that have already responded and those contemplating doing so now. The field is once again playable.



Soccer Field Enlargement



Children Playing

Clinic Update

We are pursuing several upgrades to the building before opening the clinic. The most immediate of these is a toilet and solar power to prepare the clinic building for occupancy. The roof also needs some repair. It was decided by the Haitians that certain areas also needed painting. Because of a very generous gift from an Ohio couple, Ben and Amy Parker, we can make a significant down payment on these improvements.

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Gathering Information



During the month of February, the Haitian FDFC has been gathering information on the prevalence of typhoid and malaria in the community, what treatment people took (if any) after contracting the diseases and what are the possible environmental sources that are contributing to the spread of these diseases, such as standing stagnant water and contaminated water sources. Having such information is an important first step in taking effective steps toward combating the diseases. Preventing disease is always better than treating a disease after its contraction. Swift action after contraction can also help to prevent its spread.

Irrigation Study

On Saturday February 27th, Anchelot DELMA and several members of his engineering firm from Leogane, Haiti visited Fond Doux to inspect some properties, evaluate what needs to be done to make irrigation possible and prepare preliminary plans so that the cost and feasibility of such a proposal can be determined. The Foundation is paying a modest fee to these engineers for this study. The study was arranged by Emile Maceus. Improving nutrition and food supply has been a goal of the Foundation since its beginning, but this is a new way to look at possible solutions. Food supply is particularly acute in the dry months, when gardens cannot produce and the grass dries up as well.

Sustaining Gifts

Small gifts make an incredible difference in the lives of our Haitian Partners – hygiene kits, first aid supplies, books, a solar lamp, a phone, or even a computer. Yet, in order to sustain and expand a clinic in Fond Doux and the school in Platon as well as our scholarship programs, we will need additional people that give on a sustained basis. We believe there are those whose hearts have been touched, but have not yet chosen to commit in this way. We have about 10 to 12 people that do so now. They are the life blood of the Foundation's finances. They are incredibly generous. The Foundation would like to expand this donor base. Each one counts.

Our goal is for the Haitians to be able to sustain their own institutions, but the truth is that the poverty is so great that education and health care need some regular subsidy, modest as it is, until the Haitians can develop a more robust economy. Are you, or a group of which you are a part, ready to support one of our projects on a sustained basis? We already have a group of people that are sustaining the school in Platon. To do an adequate job, we need to expand this group. For now, we have supplemented it with one-time gifts. We would also very much like to see some other group or set of individuals assume the clinic or perhaps a laboratory for it as their responsibility. We invite you and your group (men's group, women's circle, Sunday School class, just a group of friends) to seriously think of this possibility. Even small sustained gifts go a long way. Can you, will you become a sustaining partner?

To learn about this opportunity or more information on any project, you can 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