

The Fond Doux Flyer May 2021

Sharing the Story



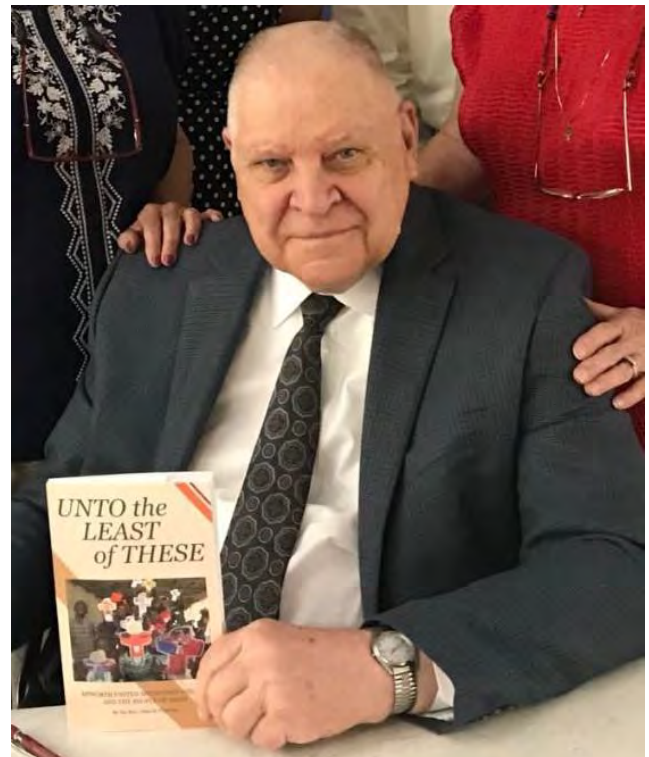
Makendy Lazard

Radio Interview: On Saturday March 27, 2021 Makendy Lazard, owner-operator of the Simple English School and also a radio talk show host, interviewed the Rev. John Clausing, Secretary of the Fond Doux Foundation on a live Haitian radio show. The Foundation is delighted to share the work of the Foundation not only in the United States, but in Haiti as well. Rev. Clausing told of the frequent trips of Linda Mitchel and of Brent and Libby Engel. The host was interested in knowing not only our work in Fond Doux, but our interactions and reactions to the Haitian people. He was delighted to hear a hopeful and positive response to the Haitian people. Rev. Clausing was also able to tell of the broad range of community activity in Fond Doux and of the progress of the community over the last 20 years.

Facebook Page: For the last half-year, the Foundation has hosted a Facebook page, first created by Schneider Saint Surin of Fond Doux, featuring the work of the Foundation. It has used the page to advertise the work of the Foundation, including almost daily updates while building the Antoinette Innocent family home. Updates have been fewer recently. The Foundation had hoped that the page might open up American support for the work of the Foundation. However, by far the most frequent visitors to the page are Haitians. We are pleased Haitians have come to understand our work. They have often expressed support and a number have written to Pastor Clausing to initiate conversations.

Forthcoming New Book: *Our Haitian Partners:*

This book is about Haitians and for the most part told by Haitians. It is a story of young Christians desiring to bring change to the poorest country in the Americas. In 2010 the pastor of the Primitive Church of Fond Doux invited an American teacher and an American nurse to visit Fond Doux, Haiti. They returned in 2011 and brought with them a few friends. They had no plan and no goal except to offer their presence, their heart and to do what they could to help. These American Christians kept coming back a week at a time. They met some teenagers and children. They inspired these teenagers with hope. In 2018 these young people now in their 20's became the nucleus and driving force for a new committee that desires to change the realities of this small rural community. This book is about how these young Christians in partnership with a few American Christians are charting a new future in Fond Doux and Platon. We invite you to meet them, their families, their community, their strivings and their dreams.



Rev John Clausing with Previous Book

The new book has been submitted to the publishers, but the date of publication has not yet been set. We will keep you posted on when and how to obtain a copy. The Foundation wants you to learn to know our Haitian partners.

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Chicken Farm Update



Last month we reported that plans for a chicken farm needed more refinement to ensure solvency. The Haitian Fond Doux Foundation Committee have sharpened their pencils and explored some different options. They believe that by mixing their own feed grain they will be able to provide cheaper feed costs without compromising quality. They believe that they have also found a way to sell their eggs at a higher price to be offered at a nearby market. They believe they have found a way both to improve income and to decrease costs. While there are still questions to be answered, the possibility of an egg farm for Fond Doux is looking more promising than it did at the March Foundation Board of Directors meeting.

If this can become a profitable venture, the Foundation intends to use its profits to supplement the diet of school children with eggs. This would make a substantial impact on the protein intake of children. There are still details to decide and plans to double check. The plan will be reviewed at this month's board of directors meeting. If the plan is approved, the board will provide the "seed money" to purchase the chickens. A Haitian solution to a Haitian need!

2021 University Scholarship?

We would like to offer a graduating student in the Fond Doux high school a scholarship to gain a skill to improve the community. But we do not yet have a donor or donors to make this come true for 2021. Are you that person? By American standards the cost is a great bargain -- about one tenth the cost of an equivalent education in the US. When we have a donor or donors that agree to provide \$2500 per year for four years, we will offer another scholarship. Our present donors are very generous, but it will require additional money for this to happen! It will take someone to see this as their personal mission. Will it be you? Your church-group? Or, perhaps your extended family? Think and pray about it. Thanks.

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Emile Maceus at Quisqueya University

Of the four active university scholarship students at the present time two are in education, one is in medicine and the last is studying computer science. One of the goals of the Foundation is help to develop Haitian self-sufficiency – the day when Haitians have the means to help themselves without outside aid. University scholarships are one way to move in this direction.

Solar Lamp project

Are you looking for a very modest investment in the Haitian future? For just \$100, you can provide three students the ability to study after dark by providing them with a low cost, long lasting solar lamp. There are probably 100 to 150 homes in Fond Doux with students that could benefit from a solar lamp. What a blessing for so little cost! How do you study without electricity? A solar lamp!



Haitian Student Studies at Night

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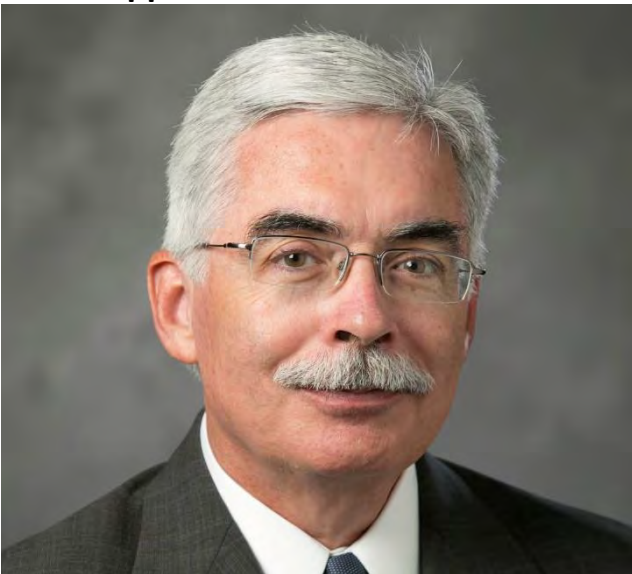
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Soccer Field Fund Progresses



The enlargement of the soccer field has been among the highest priorities of the Haitian committee. The project was completed this January, although some drainage issues may yet need to be addressed. The total cost of the project was \$6000. We have made some progress toward paying for the project. Still required is \$3,450. Thanks to those that have already contributed!

Appreciation to Wes Brown



At the March meeting of the Board of Directors of the Fond Doux Foundation, the board accepted the resignation of the Rev. Wes Brown and expressed their deep appreciation for both his past service and his continuing support. Wes's wisdom, fundraising experience, connections and positive outlook cannot be replaced. Pandemic imposed restrictions on in-person meetings was a considerable factor in his resignation. When expressing his regret about not attending a meeting his letter said in part:

"I apologize for not providing more service and input, and I believe I should now step off the Board though remaining a supporter, friend, and an occasional consultant.

You all do remarkable service as the Fond Doux Foundation, and there is so much that is being accomplished in the face of formidable challenges. Progress with the strong relationships developed over the years in Haiti, shared responsibilities, joys, and frustrations have touched so many for good. God bless all you are doing!

Thank you for your leadership and friendship,

Wes"

Priority Measurements

Why does not the Foundation do just one thing and stick to it? A good question. We do try to maintain and concentrate on anything that we start (very important), but the Foundation's overall goal is to improve (enhance) the lives and empower those that are living in poverty – a poverty that is unimaginable to most of us, even those involved in anti-poverty programs in the USA. The needs are multiple and diverse as we work to better a community. There are several ways to prioritize: 1) look at what the Haitians of Fond Doux most desire, 2) look at what things we can find the money for (short term and long term), 3) look at those things which will make the greatest long-term difference for the money spent, and 4) look at such acute needs that we simply cannot ignore.

These measures often conflict -- Haitian desires, fundability, efficiency, acute need. Thus, we often look at multiple things at once and decide which comes next according to which priority measure comes into play at a given moment. Not only the Haitians and the board, but also you, our donors, help shape our responses through your decisions in what you are willing to support as well as what funding sources we can find. Among the more costly project proposals in various stages of development are:

- 1) a clinic,
- 2) an irrigation project,
- 3) the Platon School,
- 4) scholarships,
- 5) a trade school, and
- 6) a library.

Which will be developed first, etc. is at least partially determined by donor readiness to support them as well as the board and Haitian need analyses. They are all important. We do what we can as we are able.

Water Test Results

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TESTS	RÉSULTATS		UNITÉS	VALEURS NORMALES	
	NORMAL	ANORMAL			
BACTERIOLOGIE					
SOURCE	EAU				
RESULTAT FINAL	5.000 COL /ML				

The long-awaited water test of the well in Fond Doux, authorized and paid for by the Foundation, showed some bacteriological contamination – a count of 5 per milliliter. While this was listed as normal by the laboratory in Port-au-Prince, it is high by American standards which allows no bacteria in its public water supply. The test was performed because of concern that arose from the outbreak of typhoid earlier this year. The chemical analysis showed no major concerns although the iron content considerably exceeds the recommended limits (0.55mg/l versus the 0.2mg/l recommended limit). The Foundation is examining both the physical-chemical report and the bacteriological report to determine if some action should or can be taken and if so, what. Clean water is among the highest priorities and is a first consideration from a public health perspective. There is also a problem of water discoloration. The source has not been determined. The villagers pump the water for a half hour every morning until the water clears. Although the problems do not seem to be acute, they warrant further consideration.

Schneider Changes Spanish School



Our scholarship student Schneider Saint Surin has been working on his Spanish language skills at Boca

Chica. He will now continue his Spanish studies at the Universidad APEC in preparation for beginning his university studies in computer science.

This month he completed his formal application to the University UTESA. Formal acceptance into the university will clear up a visa problem which requires monthly travel to the border to renew a tourist visa (maximum time 29 days – a terrible imposition). The student visa will eliminate the problem.

To contact us or to offer support for 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 began in 2011.

