

## **Jesus Wept – We Are Weeping Also**

Just as we were getting this issue to the press, we received the following letter from William Burk, one of our Haitian translators. The board met May first to try to see what possible alternatives exist. They expect to transport some seeds and food – a small step.

April 24, 2022 Dame-Marie, Haiti

To: John Clausing

Copy: Libby Engel. Linda Mitchell

Brethren, who have been called by Jesus Christ to serve the Haitian people in Fond Doux (Petit-Goâve) and other places around the country, and all in America who are beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

As Martin Luther King said, a dream is never too big. There is only one alternative. It is to start, because what one conceives as failure, tells a wise man, that is nothing other than an "invitation to a new attempt more wisely undertaken." Today after church I decided to write you this letter in behalf of me and also the people you have helped in the south to explain to you the horrible situation in the southeast of Haiti with victims of the gangs. As Haitian gangs grow in influence, the humanitarian space for NGOs is shrinking. As the influence of gangs grows, the risks of NGOs and international staff being targeted increase. "We have lost our pride." How to survive this? With the rising cost of living, 24.7% inflation last year. Sometimes we don't eat in the morning; it's only at noon that we'll be able to afford something. In the evening, if you have eaten lunch, all that remains is to sleep until the next day. More than a third of the 11 million Haitians suffer from malnutrition. We have eaten bread and drink well water only for the past few days. Food becomes a luxury. My family becomes malnourished. Some people among us have the privilege of something from their family. Unfortunately, gangs have kidnaped their relatives which cut off their aids. It is now difficult for NGO's to afford the south. There are no jobs; I did touch a bill in the last translations (Fond Doux Foundation).

We are now doing the Fast, multiply times and forced, because we have no food, and are starving, The Great South is besieged, and famine is in full swing in this part of Haiti. We didn't eat anything this morning. Imagine after leaving church we have no hope of eating; the children will sleep like that. The old people, the young

people who accompany us no longer have hope. For the cultivation of the land, there are no more seeds. The peasants can no longer supply them. Medicines are blocked. Hospitals refuse patients for lack of medicines. Many children no longer go to school. The big south of Haiti is the Ethiopia of the 80s. We have dedicated ourselves to God, but also to you. Otherwise we will all perish if nothing is done immediately, because the state is on its knees.

Pray for us; for we believe we have a good conscience, wishing to conduct ourselves well in all things. It is with insistence that I ask you to help us. May the God of peace, who raised the great Shepherd of the sheep from the dead by the blood of an everlasting covenant, our Lord Jesus, enable you to do every good work for the accomplishment of his will, and do in you that which is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever! Salute all your leaders, and all the saints. Grace be with you all!

William BURK

### **Clinic Opening Set May 25th**

The hoped for opening of the Fond Doux Clinic has been delayed – some diagnostic equipment from our Port-au-Prince supplier did not arrive. But all of the other preparatory work for the clinic -- benches, door reinforcement, etc. has now been completed.



**The Haitian Clinic Committee**

**Left to right: Jeanol Vertus, Emile Maceus, Laudanie Saint Louis. Jean Gaston Ovide and Danis Joseph.**

May 25<sup>th</sup> is the new date. A meeting with the villagers took place to announce the opening of the clinic. The overall feeling was excitement. The clinic committee discussed how the clinic would open, the services available and the costs. In general, the costs for those who do not receive free appointments is about \$0.50 USD equivalent, which is less than half of what they might expect to pay at a public hospital so they were happy about that. Some did note that even 50 cents would be too expensive. The clinic committee will make special arrangements to handle that issue. It is understood that we do not wish to deny any Fond Doux resident care to the extent possible.

## A Prison Ministry



**Jowasky Saint Surin**

Recently, Jowasky Saint Surin and his parents visited the young peoples' jail in Petit-Goâve to fulfil Jesus' instructions to visit those that are in prison. In preparation Jowasky asked the Foundation for assistance and purchased some clothing, some food and perfume to give to the prisoners. Jowasky said, "Before I went to the jail, I needed to go to a judge so that he could write a letter for me. I needed to bring it to the police station because it is the police that would give us the authorization (to give out our gifts). When I arrived at the police station they took the letter from me and asked me some questions and then they gave me the permission."



**Police Station -- Prison Entrance**

There were thirty-five young women, in the women's group including some in their middle to late twenties. There were 31 men seeming to be all in their early 20's. Fritzmann Saint Surin, Jowasky's father, spoke to each group and then introduced Jowasky who told how they (Christians in Fond Doux) knew they were in great need and had come to offer some assistance. He told them,

"This aid comes from a mission that believes in helping people and development, the Fond Doux Foundation."



**Gifts Distributed at the Prison**

Then he proceeded to distribute his gifts and converse with them. "They were really happy," he said. "They showed their happiness; they showed that they were really in need. Happiness came to me and my parents so much. We could give because we had the courage to ask for help for others . . . We were really happy!"

## A Trade School Education



**Anderson Fidelus Signs Loan Agreement**

Fond Doux young people have difficulty finding jobs. Jobs are not only scarce, but most have not learned or developed employable skills, nor have the money to learn one. A dream of the Foundation is to develop a trade school. For now, this is just a dream and appears a long way off! Nevertheless, the need is now! What can be done with limited finances? The Foundation recently approved a loan for Anderson Fidelus to attend a trade school in Petit-Goave. One small step!

# The Fond Doux Flyer May 2022

## Teaching of English



**Makendy Lazard of the Simple English School**

From the inception of the Fond Doux Foundation, one of its goals has been to improve English language skills of Fond Doux residents. The reasons are manifold: 1. The leaders of the community desired and requested it. 2. It greatly improves communication with the Foundation, 3. Residents with English skill enhance their employment possibilities, and 4. English opens up numerous opportunities in learning, cultural knowledge and scientific endeavors.

The Foundation desires not only to reduce poverty in Fond Doux, but to actually help create a sustainable middle class. Citizens that speak English can go a long way toward achieving that goal. The earliest efforts were directed toward introducing the language to children. This was first by members of the mission teams and then a Haitian young man was employed to run an English Club for children. Then a few teenagers received scholarships to attend some local language schools. At one time we had as many as 8 youth or young men on English language scholarships. Unfortunately, only two women have ever been in the scholarship program. Neither completed it.

The Foundation recently decided to explore a new strategy. The schools in Fond Doux have teachers of English. However, like many foreign language departments in US schools, the students do not actually learn to speak and use the language through their academic classes. Can we change that outcome? The

Foundation in connection with the Simple English school in Miragoane and teachers from 3 Fond Doux Schools are experimenting on whether we can change that. Ten teachers from three schools in Fond Doux are going to be meeting with Makendy Lazard of the Simple English School to explore ways to teach youth how to actually learn to speak and understand spoken English as well as to read and to write. The procedure reduces translation and moves toward direct use of thinking in English. It includes the use of videos and tapes of actual native English and American speakers to improve pronunciation and immediate comprehension. It tries to help students learn the language the way a child learns a language – by listening and speaking. The grammar comes later.

The ten teachers to enroll in this program are:

- 1- Marcathur JOSEPH (La Bonne Semence<sup>1</sup>)
- 2- Jean Meny DAMUS (La Bonne Semence)
- 3- Clismith Junior POUSSIN (La Bonne Semence)
- 4- Steveny DORZEN (La Bonne Semence)
- 5- Pierre-Chardsen DORZEN (Wesleyenne<sup>2</sup>)
- 6- Eluard LOUIS (Wesleyenne)
- 7-- Johnson DERISIER (Wesleyenne)
- 8- Deronnet PIERRE (Capois La Mort<sup>3</sup>)
- 9- Joachim ESTIMÉ (Capois La Mort)
- 10- A teacher not yet publicly identified.

They will be gathering together May 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

The program is funded by the Foundation through special contributions to the program. If this program proves successful, it will produce an explosion of young people with useable English skills. A companion program could be the establishment of a forum or place for young people and adults to practice and maintain their English skills. The nature of that program depends upon the success of this experiment.

At the same time Mr. Lazard is working with our English teachers in the Saturday Club that meets at the Methodist Church of Fond Doux, Jowasky Saint Surin, Venelson Vitelus and Ancitho Gene to provide interesting and fun ways to introduce the language to children. We hope this may entice more youth to desire to learn the language while at the same time we are trying to make it easier to learn the language.

Change requires experimentation. We are not guaranteed success, but we certainly hope for it. And it might actually be a cheaper way to try to improve

<sup>1</sup> Translation = The Good Seed. It is a local Christian School.

<sup>2</sup> Part of the Wesleyan Church Denomination.

<sup>3</sup> Named after Francois Capois, a slave who became Haitian liberator. The school was founded by Pastor Brucely Delma.

## The Fond Doux Flyer May 2022

English language skills of the residents of Fond Doux. The strategy is very simple: 1. Begin young. 2. Teach well. 3. Provide a way to practice and use. Additional support for the program is always welcome.



### Jowasky Saint Surin teaching English

The leader at the above session of English at the Methodist Church was wrongly identified as Venelson Vitelus in last month's Flyer. It is actually Jowasky Saint Surin. The Flyer apologies for this error! We wish Jowasky to receive due credit for his work. We appreciate all those involved in the Saturday Club.

### Vita Mamba



Vita is a life-giving food. Mamba is the name of an African language spoken in the Congo region of Africa. Together they are the name of a life-giving snack for school children of Haiti. Last month we reported that the Foundation was exploring the use of a Haitian made snack called Vita Mamba to combat hunger and malnutrition at the Platon School. It is based on peanuts, soy and dairy products, all from Haitian sources. This month we can report that the experiment

has begun. Emile Maceus picked up the first batch on April 8th. The children began their new snacks April 25<sup>th</sup> after delivery to Platon. We have located a group that is considering funding the program, at least in part. The program needs at least \$150 per month. We may need additional donors. We also have other schools to which we could easily expand the program, if there are other donors willing to help, including the Methodist School and Ravine Parc School -- both of which have numerous hungry children. We plan to evaluate the program after a trial run.

### Easter Festival



After a week of daytime Bible studies on the life of Jesus and nightly worship services, the Primitive Church of Fond Doux and some mountain Churches nearby held a combined Easter Festival after which the community participated in food provided by the Fond Doux Foundation. We take an Easter meal for granted, the residents of Fond Doux do not! How can we eat our plenty, if the residents of Fond Doux starve? We cannot! Thanks for your support. You may contact the Foundation in a number of ways:

Website: [www.fonddouxfoundation.org](http://www.fonddouxfoundation.org)

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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.