

Haitians and Americans - Partners in Helping



Food Purchased for the Hungry

The desire to help others is deeply grained in the human spirit – at least in the Christian Community. Last month we reported on the desire of the Haitian FDF Committee to launch a mission to Les Cayes to help the victims of the earthquake. The Foundation Board did not fund the effort because of the travel risk from gangs (a decision later concurred in by the FDFC) although the government did later secure the road. A group of medical students including our own scholarship student Dieuseul Istache were ready to launch a different emergency visit to Las Cayes. But they found the medications they planned to take were expired. By the time new arrangements could be made, time changed the nature of the help to be given. A group from Fond Doux known as the Happy Kids associated with a different mission did make it to Les Cayes and delivered some supplies. We applaud their efforts. Forty-three other people were able to receive help in Dame-Marie through the efforts of our translator William Burke. Thank you.

On Monday August 30th the Haitian Fond Doux Committee purchased food for the hungry of Fond Doux and Platon. They then divided it into family portions, so that they could help 150 different families in Fond Doux and Platon. The Fond Doux distribution took place on September 1st. They distributed beans, rice, oil and spaghetti. They also distributed some tarps. People were and perhaps still are afraid to sleep in their homes.



Preparing to Divide the Food

They told the people that they should come at 2:00 PM. They started to arrive at 11 o'clock prepared to wait for the three hours.

Eventually, the committee started the distribution early. Before they began, however, Pastor Wakel led the group in prayer. Then Emile Maceus talked about the Foundation, the source of the food, and other projects being considered, including the clinic, the irrigation project and chicken farm. The people applauded. We are hoping that the expectations do not run too high, especially for the irrigation project. It requires a sponsor yet to be found in order for it to happen and we have not yet examined the details to approve it, but it is difficult to contain even the possibility of good news when people are already talking about it and beginning to plan.



Prayer Before Distribution of Food

These relief efforts were a part of the Foundation's emergency response to the August 14th earthquake.

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Kidnapped, Released

Specters of the violence afflicting Haiti reverberated through Fond Doux on Thursday September 16, when the villagers heard of the kidnapping of a group of workers for Mission to Haiti, a non-profit organization operating from Miami, Florida. According to Emile Maceus, the Haitian Executive Director of the Fond Doux Foundation, in a message to our board, the MTH group had just delivered supplies of food to children sponsored by that organization in the Fond Doux Schools when they were kidnapped on their return to Port-au-Prince.

Bill Nealey, Jr., the Executive Director of a Mission to Haiti, shortly thereafter confirmed the report and gave us more details: Junior Hyppolite, the work crew chief, was driving the vehicle. They had already dropped off one member of the group when “four armed men approached their vehicle and made them stop in the road. . . . When Junior stepped out of the vehicle, he began to run. Some of the men chased him through the traffic, but they were not able to catch him. At that point the kidnappers took the vehicle with Hancher, Charlie and young Junior inside.”¹The details of the kidnapping were reported by Junior Hyppolite, the one that escaped.

The next day we received a report from our scholarship student Dieuseul Istache that the group had been released. The person referred to as young junior is Junior Merjuste, Dieuseul’s nephew. He is to be differentiated from Junior Hyppolite, who is a staff member of MTH, the one who escaped by fleeing. Junior Merjuste (the one kidnapped) grew up in Fond Doux and is now living in Port-au-Prince and is a volunteer worker for Mission to Haiti. Dieuseul reported that “young junior” was now with him at his apartment and was safe.

Bill Nealey, Jr. attributed the release to divine intervention, the result of the many prayers on their behalf. Junior Hyppolite through the efforts of some friends identified what gang had kidnapped them and arranged communication with them and “appealed to their mercy.” The gang brought them to the Presidential Palace and released them unharmed!²

This event makes the earlier FDF board’s decision to use the Paulos Group to distribute aid following the quake and advise the Haitian FDFC not to make the trip to Les Cayes appear to be providential.

¹ Quotation from an email from Bill Nealey to MTH supporters requesting Prayer.

Micro Loan Project



One of the more successful and popular projects of the Foundation is the micro loan project. A group of women, who were very carefully screened, were each given a small loan to start their own tiny business. They meet regularly together for moral support. Most or all of them were invited to share in the food distribution. They appeared in matching tee-shirts with the name “Foundation Fond-Doux” blazoned on their tee-shirts, proud of their association with the Foundation.



The Micro Loan Group

During explanation time at the food distribution time, they sat in a group. The young women sell their wares mostly at the market in Violet. It is a lot of work for the little they get out of the program. Every little bit helps.

² Information shared by Bill Nealey in a second email to their supporters praising God for the victims’ release..

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Meet Laudanie Ferus



Laudanie Ferus

An interview with Laudanie Ferus, a representative of the Wesleyenne Church of Fond Doux to the Clinic Committee was conducted at the Wesleyenne Church in mid-September and translated by Emile Maceus, Executive Director of the Foundation. Here is how she introduced herself:

Laudanie Ferus: Good afternoon, Mr. Emile. I'm Laudanie Ferus. It is an honor for me to talk with you today and share a little bit of myself. I think it is very important to learn about one another.

I was born and have lived in Fond-Doux all my life. I am married and I have two children, a girl and a boy. My son is called Saint-Louis Georgiderau³ and my daughter is Saint-Louis Loudiana. I have four brothers and two sisters. Sadly, I just recently lost one of my brothers. I have created a little business for myself and also, I work as bursar at the Wesleyenne Church de Fond-Doux.

I was not a member of this church (The Wesleyenne Church) at the time it was founded. That is to say, for the early portion of my life I did not know well the Wesleyenne Church. I attended primary school at another school called Ecole Chretienne de Deuxième Plaine⁴ (Second Plain Christian School) supported by the Lifeline Christian Mission. I used to go to church there in my childhood.

When I was fourteen, I started to go to the Wesleyenne Church and when I was fifteen I was baptized here. And now, I seek to serve and glorify the Lord at the Wesleyenne Church. The Wesleyenne Church has been in the community of Fond-Doux for a long time. Needless to say, I do not remember the exact year of its founding, but I think, it has been more than 50 years since this church was started.

The Wesleyenne Church building was not like this at the very beginning. I think that in the beginning, the members of this church, here in the community, put hands together and built a church – a real community effort. But during the earthquake on January 12, 2010, the church building was damaged -- cracked due to the earthquake. Afterwards, we, the members of the church, decided to demolish the building. After Its demolition, there were some people in the Wesleyan mission that wanted to be with us, to help us as much as they could. You can see our actual building here now. The Wesleyan missionaries did decide to help us, but actually only with the basement of the church building. Then, we, the local members of the church took charge to get the church building done on our own. They did the basement of the building and we, the local members, put our hands together to finish the construction of the church!

How did it happen that the Wesleyenne Church acquired the clinic building? To start, I think it was thanks to Samaritan Purse. They were in the community visiting and had a meeting with the people here (after the earthquake). They had a club for the kids too. One day, Pastor Demerau, the pastor of the Wesleyenne Church, and some members of the church were in conversation with Samaritan Purse's staff. Because of this relationship of the pastor with Samaritan Purse, they decided to give the community a clinic. [Editor's note: Then, when Samaritan Purse left the area, they gave the clinic building to the Wesleyenne Church.]



Pastor Demerau

³ Remember the Haitians place the family name first.

⁴ Deuxième Plaine is the part of the greater Petit-Goave region in which Fond Doux is located.

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For me, the reopening of the clinic will be a such a benefit for the people in the community. I am looking forward to seeing the clinic reopen. Because when you live in a community where medical aid is needed, we have to have a clinic to respond to the needs of the people living here – so there's no need to go far away to find first aid, a first care! I think this will help the people in this community. We deserve it.

Would I be interested in seeing the Wesleyenne Church cooperate with the Foundation in other areas beyond the clinic?

Yes, I have heard some good things about the Fond-Doux Foundation. And I am interested in seeing the Wesleyenne Church cooperate with the Foundation in other areas beyond the clinic. Since we live in a community where we need assistance, I think it would be great if the Wesleyenne church and the Fond-Doux Foundation gathered their forces together to touch more people, to create more opportunities for the people in the community. They always say, two hands are better than one. If we both put our hands together I am sure we will develop the community.

The greatest needs of the people of Fond-Doux are: First, electricity. Most of all, the people that live here live in darkness; they don't have access to electricity. So, we need electricity. Secondly, we need toilets -- public toilets. We are living in a modern world where people create, invent a lot of things to ameliorate their lives. But we in Haiti, we in the community of Fond-Doux, still do not have access to a good, comfortable toilet. And thirdly, we need professional schools in order to improve the lives of our youth.

There is a political crisis in the nation and when there is political crisis in the country, that affects all activities. The schools don't work. Teachers cannot come to teach due to road blocks, violent demonstrations! And due to all that, people cannot go out to seek their daily bread. Each time there is a political crisis, we become poorer!

Together with Fond Doux Foundation I would like to see the community evolve, develop -- to see other people come to invest, to rent, even stay here.

Emile Maceus. On behalf of Fond-Doux Foundation and its partners, we thank you for answering our questions. I hope this interview will help other people learn more about our community and help bring needed assistance for the people living here.

Clinic Building Repair



Ceiling in the Pharmacy

Repairs should soon be under way on the clinic building now that the clinic committee in Fond Doux is working. The damage to the roof and ceiling were more significant than we had realized. Water had come in over a considerable period of time and had gotten to the plywood ceiling tile. Four sheet metal roofing panels at the very least need to be replaced. A carpenter has been secured.



Porch Roof Damage

For information on this or any project or to contribute, 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.