

Thank You Readers!

The Fond Doux Foundation wishes to express our sincere gratitude to all those who responded to our request for funds to build a house for Madam Antoinette Innocent and her family. The drive was completely successful (\$6560). We gathered enough money not only to build the house, but to include the electricity. We will keep you advised as the house progresses. The local contractors have been contacted and the house will be built.

New Member of Foundation Board

The Board of Directors of the Fond Doux Foundation is proud to announce that it has asked Jim Johnson, a retired engineer and a member of Epworth United Methodist Church to join the Board of Directors. He has accepted the invitation and has already been offering his expertise to the board. He and his wife have been regular contributors to the Foundation and have shown considerable interest in our Mission in Haiti.



Jim Johnson

Jim and his wife Laurie have two sons. They usually attend the contemporary service of Epworth Church at 9:00 AM. He was born in Virginia, but at age 2 moved to Spokane, Washington. He was raised in the Baptist Church and attended Eastern Washington State College studying biological and physical sciences. He received his BS in Chemistry there and later his MS in Chemistry from Portland State University. Always curious about things he was actively involved with various researchers in air and water environmental studies. After graduating he

was involved with research in environmental links to birth, eye and dental defects. Finally, he focused on electronic materials and integrated circuit manufacturing, working for American, Italian and German companies and had the great opportunity to travel internationally. He moved to Durham in 1985.

A hiking and backpacking enthusiast, he volunteered for parental duty with the Boy Scouts and helped lead the Methodist Appalachian Trail Youth hike for 13 years. He also pursued Korean martial arts for 24 years and holds the rank of 4th Degree Black belt. After trying to retire twice, he is now working with the Durham Police department helping in the training of new recruits; he is involved with commercial construction as an estimator and also with Epworth Methodist Church serving on various committees and as a go to person for ‘brick and mortar’ maintenance.

Medical Records

Good medical records are a necessity, if we are to develop good health care for the village. One of our needs is a computer to maintain these records. So far, the records have been placed in a paper file. One of the clinic team members is then placing them on his personal computer on a temporary basis until a computer can be supplied. The Foundation expects to provide a computer for this purpose soon.

Haiti Visit Planned

For the first time in over a year a Foundation mission team member is expecting to visit Haiti. Brent Engel is planning a trip this month to deliver some very much needed supplies for our work in Fond Doux. He will be met in Port-au-Prince by a Fond Doux Foundation Committee member to receive the materials. The major reason is to provide computers for certain members of the community -- in particular, computers for Emile Maceus, Frantz Delma and Faédra Olivier, three of our university scholarship students and a computer for use of the clinic.

In addition to the computers, he also is transporting 36 Days for Girls kits and 36 birthing kits. Twenty-five of the birthing kits are earmarked for the village of Platon and the work of the midwife Madam Gabrielle. The birthing kits consist of a plastic sheet to provide a sanitary surface for home delivery, string to tie the umbilical cord, a one-sided razor blade for cutting it, a pair of medical gloves, soap and two receiving blankets for the child.

Scholarship Arrangements Announced



Midwife Madam Gabrielle of Platon

Madam Gabrielle has been the midwife in the village of Platon for the last 28 years, since she was an emergency midwife in 1992. In recent years, she has delivered approximately 22 babies a year, but does not know the exact number of babies that she has delivered in total. She has not lost a mother in child birth, but has referred some mothers to the hospital for follow-up care. She is self-taught and has not received any formal training, but has expressed interest in further in-service education. She has a tenth-grade education, but is an excellent student. She does not charge for her services, but does it as a community service to the Glory of God. She serves not just the village of Platon, but the surrounding region.

She lives with her husband, a farmer and a fisherman. Her children no longer live in Platon as they have gone to Petit-Goâve in order to go to school, apparently living with relatives or friends. This is the way parents in Platon arrange for their children’s high school education, if it is pursued, because Platon has no high school. Her oldest daughter has completed high school and is studying to become a nurse. She wants her mother eventually to teach her to become a mid-wife.



Schneider Saint -Surin

During August Schneider Saint Surin, the Fond Doux Foundation’s 2020 scholarship recipient, made plans to go to Santiago, in the Dominican Republic to begin four months of study of the Spanish language before enrolling in UTESA (Universidad Tecnologica de Santiago). He took Spanish in high school and has been studying Spanish with his computer in preparation. All who know him say that he is a very bright student. He was also near the top of his high school class academically. He has two siblings, a brother and a sister living in Chile. They have agreed to pay for his apartment in Santiago, within walking distance of the university. This represents considerable family commitment to his education. The scholarship has been made possible by a \$2500 a year donation from an anonymous donor in the Epworth United Methodist Church, Durham, NC.

Schneider is the third child of Fritzmann and Carole (Therrentiel) Saint-Surin. He also has two younger brothers and a younger sister. His father is a deacon in the Primitive Church of Fond Doux and was influential in its development. He was a sand miner, a frequent occupation for residents of Fond Doux, until a severe illness forced him to seek a less strenuous occupation. He now is a “warden” at the local school and arranges for tuition scholarships for students at College Mixte Capois La Mort, the local primary and secondary school. Parents need to pay tuition for schooling in Haiti, a huge drain on the poverty-stricken population.

UTESA is the second ranking university in the Dominican Republic. It was started in 1974 to provide a good education in medicine and engineering. Schneider will be studying computer science.

Sand Mines

A common occupation of the men in Fond Doux is that of a sand miner. It is a difficult and dangerous job. Albert Merjule, the recipient of the house that Ed Cerne arranged, is a sand miner. He said, "It's true that I am working in a sand mine; it is how I respond to my family's needs. Every morning after I wake up, I walk to work at the sand mine at Fond Doux.... It is not what I expected to do, but life is not easy here. I see that I can help my family by doing this job; so, I do it.... To extract the sand, we use shovels, hoes, pickaxes, and a big hammer to break the rocks. Then with the pickaxes, we dig the sand, and we take the shovels to gather the sand into piles. We fill trucks with the sand. Sometimes it takes us three days to five days to fill a truck. It's very difficult to fill a truck with sand in one day.



The Sand Mine

"I always tell my family, once I get up and go to the sand mine, I am to be considered as dead because at any time an accident can happen. For example, while you are digging the sand, the sand that is up over your head can fall and kill you. It's a very risky and difficult job. Even when my children come to see me at the mine, I always tell them to stay far away and not to enter where I am working. I would not like my children to do the same work; it's for this reason I am working hard to give them an education in order to better their life."

The number of sand miners is quite numerous. Albert Merjule continues, "They come from all over the city, because it's here that they are able to make some money in order to survive. In order to feed our family, to put our children to school, we save money so that together we can use it when we need it. We don't make a lot of money with the sand. For example, when we fill a truck, we earn 1500 Gourdes (about \$15 US). We have to give the owner of the sand his part and share with the other people that help us fill the truck. With the rest of money, we save

some and we use the other part for the needs of the family. I want to see my children become well educated in order for them to help me and for them to help themselves.

As difficult and dangerous as this job is, people are very glad to have it. But there are mixed emotions. Merjule illustrates this, "I am working in a place called 'Nan Louis'. There are many other places where people are extracting the sand in Fond Doux also. I can say that it is thanks to sand mines that we survive today! Those mines gather many people from all over. However, if you have an accident, the mine owners won't do anything for you. So, you should be ready for any eventuality."

Delivery of Masks and Shields



**Danis Joseph, Principal, Primary, School (standing)
Mafille Louis, Secretary, Secondary School**

On August 10th when school started in Fond Doux, the Foundation supplied 320 masks for students that may not have had masks and 32 shields for teachers and staff at the school College Mixte Capois La Mort. This was part of the community health initiative of the Haitian Fond Doux Foundation Committee to prevent the possible

spread of the coronavirus in Fond Doux and was provided at a cost of around \$560. They were delivered to Danis Joseph, principal of the primary school and Mafille Louis, secretary of the secondary school.

Student Faces Danger

Our Medical student in Port-au-Prince, Dieuseul Istache, sent this word to us in mid-August, "Since last week schools and universities have been reopening even though the covid-19 is still spreading in the country. But the biggest problem we now have is insecurity. The bandits are blocking the road almost every day with large heavy weapons. The situation is becoming worse day by day in Haiti. I am preparing now for my final exam and my internship at Fame Pereo Hospital.

"But bandits have shown some respect for those who are in medical school. Yesterday as I went to school, they blocked the road. To get back home I took a motorcycle because the tap-tap couldn't pass the blockade. If I didn't have my badge on me the situation would be terrible for me. I showed them my badge and said that I went to school. With that info they let me proceed."

The Second Open-Air Clinic

On August 8th Nurse Myrdred Kaminskie Delva conducted the second all Haitian open-air clinic. Many kinds of conditions were presented and treated. Among them were a child with one nasty looking arm, 27 people with rash or bad skin problems and 16 with urethral and vaginal infections. A class is planned for the last of these.



Girl with Rash

The staff in addition to Myrdred Kaminskie Delva (our community nurse) was Laura Valerie Delva (Myrdred's sister, also a nurse), Euard Louis, Fritzmman Saint-Surin, Emile Maceus and Cristela Julsaint.



Severely Infected Arm

Looking Forward

Next month we hope to be able to report progress on the house for the Innocent family, a class on vaginal diseases, and perhaps on the micro loan project in Fond Doux and the Good Samaritan School in Platon. For more information on these and other projects or to make donations, you may contact us at the following locations:

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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.