

The Fond Doux Flyer July 2025

Wedding Bells



Faédra Olivier and Mackenson Hilaire

On June 14th Mackenson Hilaire, our agricultural agent, and Faédra Olivier, a former university scholar of the Foundation, were wed in the Church of Latter Day Saints near Fond Doux.

Mackenson was hired by the Foundation a year ago to improve the yield and nutritional value of farms and gardens in Fond Doux. Our original agricultural work was begun by the American veterinarian and now FDF President, Dr. Libby Engel, when she responded to the death of goats in the community with education on goat care and the deworming and vaccination of goats. The Haitians are now able to do these things themselves.

In another effort to increase the food supply and economic viability of the Fond Douc Community, the FDF turned to improving gardens. During the last year Mackenson helped 15 farmers dramatically increase their yield by leading them into a cooperative to irrigate their tomato and cabbage crops and in the use of insecticides (as much as possible organic).

More recently, he is attempting to teach people who have never had a garden and/or people with small family gardens improve them.

Faédra was the first university scholarship student to be chosen by the Haitian advisory committee. Previously, university scholars had been chosen by Americans. She attended Emile Durkheim Normal School in Petit-Goave and graduated several years ago. She taught in the Capois Lamort School in Fond Doux during her time as a student and one year thereafter. She is now teaching kindergarten in the village of Vialet, the nearest village east of Fond Doux.

She was the first person in her family to go to a university and the first to hold a paying job. After the death of her father the family existed with the help of their extended family. Faédra has turned it around now and is doing the same for a nephew whom she brought into her home to raise.



**Mackenson Hilaire and Faédra Olivier
Scholarship Students' Extra Care**



Dabens Pluiose and Dalens Silain

Scholarship students of the FDF often need help beyond tuition. These boys, who are also English students in the YHPH English Class of Junior Merjuste, are fatherless and desperately poor. They were recently taken by him to a dentist because of toothaches, a very serious problem when there is no public assistance of any kind to help poor families.

Books are the responsibility of the parents. But sometimes (often) parents cannot buy the books or pencils, or notebooks either; the FDF may provide some help. At certain grade levels, 6th, 9th and final year, there are national exams. A few times, the Foundation has provided assistance, especially in the final year for transportation. (Unfortunately, our resources are too small to help all.) In addition, all students are eligible for a yearly medical check-up at the clinic. Thanks for your support.

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Progress of Our Fund Drives

School/Center - goal \$100,000 -- \$87,450

Teacher Pay monthly minimum goal \$1900 - \$520

A big thank you! Please pray for this project.

Looking Toward the Future



Dalineda Georges

Dalineda Georges is graduate of the Emile Durkheim Normal School in Miragoâne. She was hired by the Methodist School of Fond Doux to improve Kindergarten Instruction. She accepted the job because her pay was guaranteed by the Fond Doux Foundation. Her pay is 3,000 Haitian dollars per month or approximately \$115 US dollars.

There is no tuition at the school, but parents are expected to provide the books, notebooks, pencils and uniform. Many parents have difficulty doing this. This past year the Foundation purchased shoes for 30 kids that could not attend school because of lack of shoes. In the past the Foundation helped with purchasing cloth to make uniforms.

Last month Dalineda told us about some of the problems which she experiences as a kindergarten teacher at the Methodist School. This month she continues her story and includes some of her hopes and dreams:

“Personally, I dream that I will see the school become one of the best schools in the region, and that the school can even add higher grades, like adding a secondary school, a trade school, and why not a university too. That is one of the reasons that I agreed to come and work here, even with all the difficulties that the school is experiencing. I am always told that dreams cannot be fulfilled without effort. So, seeing the school add grades would make me very happy. I mean the next step would be having 7th grade here .

Again, I am giving everything I can to lay a good base, a good foundation for the school by working with the kindergarten .

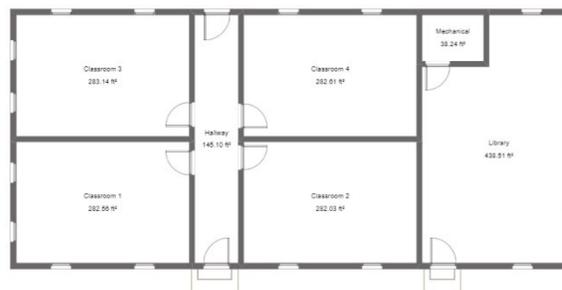
I have heard about the FDF many times. about the activities that they are undertaking. One thing was very interesting, I saw a booklet from a friend who is a teacher. He attended a training here. The part of the book talking about Docimology (the art of testing) was very good. I also heard about the clinic and the irrigation project. One of my friends is a beneficiary.



Proposed Community Center/ School

I thank God that the FDF is taking an important initiative to construct a school building. May God pour His blessings upon the FDF. That will be very helpful. The school really needs a new building. You can see how the school is now. It is just one big room, the church sanctuary, that is separated into many classes. This is something which makes it very difficult for the teachers as well as the students. It makes learning much more difficult.

What I am trying to say is a fact, not only for the kindergarten, but for the other classes as well. When one class is working on something which requires the students to repeat something, all of the other classes will be paralyzed! This is very frustrating for the teachers; and for the kids, it is worse, because it is almost impossible for them to memorize something that you just taught them. It was repeatedly said at the normal school, ‘There is no way to guarantee good learning if the kids can’t give their entire attention during the process of learning.’



Proposed Floor Plan with Library

A library would be more than helpful, not only for the school itself but for all the community, as we don’t

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have one nearby. That could encourage people to read more and encourage more research. As for the school, it would benefit the teachers as they would have a greater chance to enrich themselves. The kids would have a chance to dive themselves into the world of reading. Maybe in a few years, we can have great writers here in Fond Doux .

Last year, those responsible for the school were complaining about the kids who were coming from kindergarten three and arriving in the first grade. Those kids had difficulties to read and write. Do I think next year we are not going to see this again? That there will be improvement in that field? My first observation is that especially with the kids who are in kindergarten three, I am starting to be satisfied with their performance in writing and also reading. I am going to tell you this: if I had the necessary equipment and the kids had enough materials, the improvement would be greater.

As you know the birds make their nests step by step and this is how we are progressing with the kids. One thing that the school doesn't benefit from is, "most of the parents helping the kids when they are at home." We know that the school has its own difficulties to deal with, but no one can dare ignore that the parents have their own role to play also. Unfortunately, this does not play in our favor. This is one of the things that I suggested to Lovely (the chief educational officer at the school) to discuss with the parents at the next parents' meeting.

Let me give you an example: When we are working on reading , we try to reach every single student in the class with the few books that we have at the school; but when they kids go back to their home, the work can't continue because the students have no books. I gave a list of materials to Lovely, but for lack of funds she could not come up with even 50% of them. We hope that next year can be different.

I think we covered everything. I simply want to say one more thing. If there is anything that can be done to accelerate the building of the school, I just suggest that it goes faster. Maybe we can be there in the next school year. So, I thank the FDF for the crucial support that they are giving to the school. And I pray at the same time for the FDF and its sponsors to keep growing in love and prosperity while keeping their eyes on Haiti, more precisely on the Methodist school."

Freak Accident



Jamesly Pierre

Jamesly Pierre, the six-and-a-half-year-old son of Jonas Pierre, the administrator of the Good Samaritan School of Platon, was involved in a freak accident this month. When he was playing along the ocean, he fell and punctured his hand with some thin rebar. Fortunately, he was able to receive the medical assistance that was needed. This involved going by boat to Petit Goâve. He is recovering.



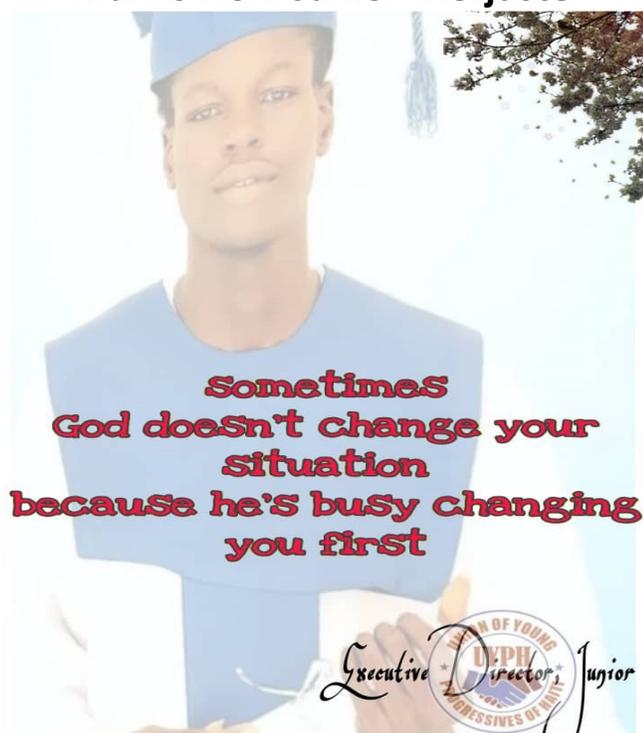
Hand with Rebar



Hand with Cast

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Thanks from Junior Merjuste



Dear FDF Board and Donors,

My name is Junior Merjuste, Executive Director of the UYPH FOUNDATION program. I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for your continued support of the UYPH Orphanage.

Every donation you make to FDF goes far beyond a simple contribution — it becomes a powerful force for change. Your generosity supports children's education, empowers young people with valuable skills, opens doors to university opportunities, improves access to healthcare, and provides food for those in urgent need.

FDF's decentralized approach ensures that help reaches those who need it most across Haiti. Your support is not only transforming individual lives — it is shaping brighter futures for entire communities.

To all FDF donors, I say this: trust in FDF because the impact of your support is real, far-reaching, and deeply meaningful.

Junior Merjuste

Junior was born and raised in Fond Doux and as a youth was deeply impacted by the FDF. His family was the recipient of the first house erected by the FDF nearly 12 years ago. They previously lived in a UNICEF tent which leaked when it rained. His mother is

presently employed by the FDF as a cleaning lady at the Fond Doux Community Clinic.

He and 6 others have organized the UYPH “to inspire, educate, and equip youths with practical and moral tools for leadership, service, and self-improvement.” They operate a youth club with English classes, choir practice, leadership and values education and community clean-up days as part of their work; It reaches 20 to 25 youth. They have more students that desire to enter their English Class.

The UYPH previously worked in Port-au-Prince helping youth and families displaced by gangs until he and Dr. Istache, co-founders and leaders of the organization returned to Fond Doux.

Junior Merjuste recently took in two young children into his home to raise: James, a child, under a year and a half; and Levinsky, age 5, who will start school this Fall. The FDF has provided food and clothing for the boys. The children are carried for by Cassandra Merjuste, a younger sister of Junior. This is the orphanage of which he speaks.

The UYPH has large aspirational dreams to do many things including creating a latrine in Toko, supporting some widows in need, operating an actual orphanage, establishing a trade school and a genuine English School. Like the FDF their dreams are greater than their resources (far greater). But new things do not take place unless you dream, plan and act. They are to be congratulated on their efforts. Small steps can lead to larger ones. As someone once said,, “Every building begins by driving a stake into the ground.” It is good to see Haitian initiative.

“SO LITTLE CAN DO SO MUCH”

To learn about our projects or to donate, you can reach the Foundation in a number of ways:

Website: www.fonddouxfoundation.org

Email: John@fonddouxfoundation.org

By US mail at: Fond Doux Foundation, PO Box 51443, Durham, NC 27717.

Or through Epworth UMC Church, Durham, NC

Website manager: Brent Engel

Newsletter editor: Rev. John Clousing

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.