

Methodist School Teachers



Despite the exceptionally low pay, the teachers at the Methodist school have three teachers with a university education. Wilnor Charlemagne, fifth grade teacher (back row, second from right) is a graduate of the University of Cudi de Miragoâne with a degree in the science of education. Darlinda Georges, kindergarten 3 teacher (first row, second from right) is a graduate of Emile Durkheim Normal school in Miragoâne. Johnson Louis, sixth grade teacher (second row on the left) graduates from the same school in June, having attended on an FDF scholarship. Two others with a high school education are planning to go to a university this September to upgrade their teaching skills. They are Mona Felix, first grade teacher (first row on the right) and Herlandecy Ferrus, kindergarten 1 teacher (first row third from right).

The other four teachers: Fedline Pierre, Kindergarten 2 teacher (first row third from right), Venelson Vitelius second grade teacher, (second row on the right), Mauser Saint Surin, fourth grade teacher (second row second from left), and Adanis Louis, third grade teacher (first row third from left), have only a high school education. Most of them attended the teacher training sponsored by the Foundation for one or more years.

Lovely Felix, the school administrator (first row on the left), has been attending nursing school to be better able to care for the mishaps, accidents and other health problems that affect school children. She affirms that she is not looking for a full-time nursing position but desires to remain at her position. She has been with the school with various responsibilities since the school was founded fourteen years ago.

The Methodist School & The FDF

The Foundation (the FDF) became involved with the Methodist School in 2022 when the Methodist Church opened their doors and arms to welcomed the Foundation giving us a place to meet when we had no other place to go. At that time, Lovely Felix told us:

“The school was founded in 2012. The main reason for the creation of the school was that there were a lot of young people that did not go to school. When we talked to their parents, they told us they did not have money to put their kids in school.”

But to achieve this goal required money and money problems existed from the very beginning of the school. The school was first rescued by the Rev. Wesley Daniel, a New Rork Methodist pastor. Lovely Felix tells the story thus:

“A year after the founding of the school, teacher Édouard (the man that headed its founding) called me and told me that he would need to close the school because there was not enough money to finance it. After many conversations, I told him that I had a friend (the Rev. Wesley Daniel) from whom I was going to seek assistance for the school. I talked to my friend. He was one of the people that worked on the construction of the church (The Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church rebuilt the Church in 2011 as one of its rehabilitation projects after the 2010 earthquake. It no longer works in Haiti –unfortunately.) I explained the situation to him. Before that, my friend was sponsoring nineteen kids with another school. He used to send the money to me to pay for the kids.

When I talked to him about our project, he said that he was happy to hear such a perspective. Then and there, he decided to help sponsor the school! They (the Rev. Wesley Daniel and others from New York) bought materials for the school, decided to pay the teachers, and sent money to buy food. Once they bought clothes and uniforms for the students. I can only say they helped us with the school as much as they could.”

However, the money that the school received was never sufficient. Ms. Felix said, “The school is free, that is to say we don't really have any tuition income. We rely on sponsorships only. However, the sponsorship has not been as regular as it should be. By-the time that we receive money from the supporters, we have already become indebted.”

In fact, the teacher salaries were years behind in their payment. Teachers were leaving because they were

The Fond Doux Flyer May 2026

unpaid. This was the situation the FDF found in 2022 when the Foundation first became involved. At first, the support was several thousand dollars at a time. However, this past year we entered into a contract with them to guarantee the teachers' salaries.

The school now has 134 students in three levels of kindergarten (36 students) and grades one through six (98). All the classes are presently held in the sanctuary of the Church except the 5th and 6th grades which share a small room off the sanctuary. There are 11 employees at the school including the administrator and the custodian. They have a combined payroll of under \$1000 USD per month (ridiculously low), which they regularly had been unable to meet.

Nevertheless, Lovely Felix said:

“Our dream is to have a great school, responding to all the norms of any other school.. . . The school needs materials for the students -- like books, copy books, uniforms, etc. The school needs its own place – a building of its own. I think that we need electricity, public toilets, or latrines.”

Vision of the Future

Yes, to provide quality education will require all these things plus good teachers. The Foundation has gathered enough money (we believe) to build a community Center/school building.. Construction will begin as soon as we can ensure quality construction and our land title is secure. The building will have six classrooms and an office. Although the board of the FDF intends to work closely with leadership of the Methodist School, it has decided to maintain control of the new building. The exact arrangements with the Methodist School still need to be worked out. But our vision sees university-trained teachers in every classroom with sufficient supplies, resources, and books to create the best possible education. We desire to go beyond “bare bones” education. That probably means some teacher turnover. The Methodist School has three university-trained teachers – two in the grades and one in the kindergarten. Presumably, the university-trained teachers would be maintained if they really are good teachers. The other teachers must upgrade their skills or be replaced.

To fulfill our vision will require at least \$2,000 USD per classroom, more if students need more than school supplies. We would like to find individuals, groups, or churches to each sponsor a grade at \$2500 to \$3000 per grade. Can you help us find them? Will you be one? It is urgent that we find them.

Agricultural Day

May 1st is Agricultural Day in Haiti. Lovely Felix, the administrator of the Methodist School, would like to celebrate it by having each student plant something and watch it grow. At first, she thought it would be a tree; but after consultation with our agricultural agent Mackenson Hillaire and the FDF board, it was changed to a food bearing plant.



A Pepper from a Home Garden

Each student will be provided a plant to be planted in our garden spot. The students will be asked to take care of it (perhaps water and weed) and hopefully, eventually to have some food to take home. Plants that might be planted include tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, and cabbage. Imagine the joy of a young child when he or she is able to contribute to the family's food, if only for one day! We commend Lovely Felix and Mackenson Hillaire in working out this program for an Agricultural Day celebration.



Garden Seeds for Home Gardens

The Fond Doux Flyer May 2026

The Nursery Has Problems



Mackenson Hillaire’s Nursery Washout

A snag in the plans has developed. The above picture was taken after a big rain in early April caused a big run-off from the neighbor’s land that washed out a newly seeded portion of the nursery. Then some wild animals destroyed the rest of the plants. Plans to fence and ditch the property to protect the garden from heavy rain and the animals are in progress. However, as we are getting ready for press, it is still not clear whether the new measures will be done in time to keep from delaying the project to a new date.

New Gardener



Ruth-shama Louis Plants a Home Nursery

Ruth-shama saw the garden of Herlandecy Ferrus, a teacher at the Methodist School, begun under the tutelage of our agriculture agent. She then asked to be included in the program. We hope many others also see the benefit and begin growing some of their own food! Because the campus nursery has had some problems, she is planting seeds (her own nursery), not seedlings.

Platon School



Good Samaritan School at Platon

The Platon School consists of two buildings. The original building, on the right, holds classes one through six. The kindergarten building, on the left, holds the three levels of kindergarten. It was built with Foundation funds, and the original building added its metal walls with Foundation funds. Recently the Foundation approved the construction of a retention wall to divert water runoff that sometimes has entered into the school buildings and a porch for the kindergarten building (Note teacher picture in the porch). William and Mary Jo Devorick from Lititz, Pennsylvania and a woman’s group from Swansboro United Methodist Church have provided the basic funding for the school. Without their generous support, the school would need to close its doors, and the children of Platon would have no school to attend.



Platon Teachers

Platon is a remote location where it is difficult to persuade a teacher to teach unless the teacher lives in the community. There are now six teachers at the Platon School including a children’s helper that was added this

The Fond Doux Flyer May 2026

school year. They are 1st and 2nd level of Kindergarten, Mrs. Avena Belabe (first woman on the left); 3rd level of Kindergarten, Mrs. Lisemene Dorce (3rd from right); 1st and 2nd Grade, Mrs. Stephania Dorce (3rd from left); 3rd and 4th Grade, Mr. Eugene Belizaire (on the right); 5th and 6th Grade, Mr. Orlmy Dorce (on the left); and finally, the new children's assistant, Ms. Guilene Romain (first woman on the right).

Teachers Orlmy Dorce and Eugene Belizaire have been with the school ever since the Foundation began its affiliation with school in 2019. Teacher Belizaire completed education only through the 12th grade. However, he has been teaching school since 1990 and has 36 years of teaching experience and attended teacher training courses sponsored by the Haitian Ministry of Education in 2004, 2005, and 2006.

Teacher Orlmy Dorce is the only teacher who attended school beyond high school. He attended Morning Star Professional School in Petit Goave after finishing high school and served one year as a sixth-grade tutor at another school before beginning teaching at Platon in 2018. He did additional work in English for two years on an FDF scholarship while teaching in Platon.

Teacher Lisemene Dorce has a high school education and had three years of teaching experience at Ovide Belima National School before she began teaching at Platon in October 2021.

Teacher Avena Belabe has a high school education. She began teaching at Platon in November 2021 and now has almost 5 years' experience teaching.

Teacher Stephania Dorce began teaching at Platon in September 2025. She attended high school through grade 12. She took a course on the Psychology of children and adolescence in August 2025 before she began teaching.

Children's assistant Guilene Romain joined the staff in in October of 2025.

Because the teachers in Platon have had such little professional teacher training, to improve the quality of education, the Foundation has provided In-service Teacher Training for the teachers every year since 2021. Finding professionally trained teachers may be difficult, but with dedication we can improve the education. To improve outcomes, we have been working with them to try to design a system of student assessment, a work still in progress. When completed, it should enable the school to intervene and make adjustments for individual children.

Food Delivery



The Fanfan Family Rejoices

“As we can see in the image, the family is truly happy for the food that arrived at their home this morning. FDF is doing great work across Haiti. Currently, Haiti is facing a serious crisis of hunger. As an FDF employee living this reality, it is truly heartbreaking -- sometimes hunger causes people to take what is not theirs.

Every dollar that a donor gives to the FDF makes a big difference. It helps children go to school, supports hungry families, helps people build homes, provides school supplies, and gives access to healthcare. To every donor investing in FDF: the money you give is changing many lives. Please continue to support the FDF so it can keep transforming lives in Haiti. I am speaking on behalf of the Haitian community to say thank you to all supporters.”

Junior Merjuste (Haitian), General Manager Fond Doux Foundation

For more information on 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 Clausing

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.