

Construction News

The Good News: Construction Begins



Clearing the Land

The long-awaited construction of our classroom building has finally begun. The very first step was clearing the land. The construction site had some trees and shrubs that needed to be cleared out before construction could begin. This was done by hand. Afterwards the workers continued the clearing with fire, burning the stumps and the remaining debris to get the land ready for evacuation for the foundation. We chose not to clear the entire campus but leave the growth of trees and shrubs on the east side intact until further construction in that area might be done. There is also a mango tree that the Foundation wishes to preserve as a source for food.



Clearing by Fire

After clearing the next step is landscaping. We are renting some equipment to create a modest slope of the grounds for drainage and an appropriate area for building. This will be followed by creating a solid foundation before the construction of the building itself.

Disturbing Financial News

We received disturbing financial news this month. The difference between our planning estimates and the final estimates for the classroom building is far greater than what we had anticipated. We already knew that some additions must be made to the builder's original estimate. Those known additional expenses include an electrical system, a restroom, painting, and some furnishings. Nevertheless, the board believed it had sufficient funds for construction; and over the next year, we could raise the money for the portion still unfunded, namely the restroom and furnishings. This was estimated to be approximately \$40,000 USD – a genuine challenge, but doable!

The disturbing news arose when we discovered the builder had omitted a very significant expense of which we were NOT aware – waterproofing the walls with a cement plastering. This unanticipated expense is approximately \$20,000 USD. Further, the recent improvement to the electrical system at the clinic significantly lowered the fund designated for solar power and must be replenished perhaps up to \$10,000. This was also not anticipated. Altogether these unanticipated costs create a far more difficult fundraising challenge – We already were aware the restroom would need to be delayed (approximately \$30,000); but we believed that funding for the electrical system was mostly on hand. Now we do not. This is very regrettable.

We still hope that we can buy the furnishings on time. We have secured a significant pledge to cover much of these costs. We have some of the money for the waterproofing, but not all. Some designated gifts for this purpose would be greatly appreciated.

An August Wedding



Methodist teachers, Fedline Pierre and Adanis Louis, were wed on August 13th. Congratulations!

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Emergency Food Distribution



Guerlanne Pierre Family

My name is Guerlanne Pierre. I live at Ravine Parc. I am 45 years old, and I have seven children. Life has been very difficult for me. Although I have seven children, some of them are old enough to help me, but unfortunately, I am still the one who has to support them. Many times, we have nothing to eat because I do not have a stable source of income. When the situation becomes very difficult, I wash clothes for other people just to earn a little money. Sometimes they pay me with cash, and other times they give me food so I can take it home to feed my family. That is how I have been struggling to raise my children.

I would like to sincerely thank the Fond-Doux Foundation (FDF) for this wonderful support. Your assistance means more to me than words can express. I pray that God will continue to provide for this Foundation, bless each one of you abundantly, and enable you to keep helping families like mine. Thank you so much.

The Response of Ketlyne Jean Marie: A special greeting to the Fond-Doux Foundation (FDF) and all of its staff. My name is Ketlyne Jean Marie. I live in the Fond-Doux community. I am 59 years old, and I have three children. I am a widow. By God's grace, I do not have any major health problems, although I do have some difficulty with my eyesight.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the FDF for the incredible work it is doing in the Fond-Doux community. You are helping to build a better future and giving hope to many families. I was always hopeful that one day the FDF would visit my home, so I kept believing

that you would bring positive change. Honestly, the FDF has made every effort to help meet some of our greatest needs. That is why I sincerely pray that FDF will continue to grow and become even stronger than it is today.



Ketlyne Jean Marie Family

Thank you very, very much, FDF, for everything you are doing. May God continue to bless you abundantly and give you the resources to keep helping families in need.



Taina Paulette Family

Good afternoon, FDF, I am very happy to be one of the food beneficiaries. My name is Taina Pallette. I am 32 years old, and I live in Mango Marion. I am a Christian and the mother of four children. Three of them are older, and I recently gave birth to my fourth child.

The elderly woman with me is my mother-in-law. She is 65 years old and is blind. I would like to let you know that what you have done for us at this time means so

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much to me. I am truly grateful and happy that, even where I live, this assistance reached my home. All glory belongs to God. Thank you, FDF, for your kindness and support. May God continue to bless you and provide the resources you need to keep helping families in need.

Clinic News from Our Director

Dr. Dieuseul Istache



Lab Technician Sheeder Fanya Ernest

I wanted to share some very encouraging news with you about our laboratory. We were recently contacted by École Technique Lumière, the largest laboratory technician training school in Petit-Goâve. They told us that they consider our laboratory to be one of the best laboratories in the city and would like to partner with us by bringing their students to observe and learn from our work.

They have asked if their students could spend one to two months with us as part of their practical training. During this time, they would observe how we perform laboratory tests, learn proper laboratory procedures, and gain hands-on experience in a real clinical setting. After careful consideration, I accepted their request because I believe this is an excellent opportunity for our clinic. It is a strong recognition of the quality of our work and will increase the visibility and reputation of our laboratory within the region.

I also believe this partnership could bring important benefits to our patients. By working closely with École Technique Lumière, we may be able to gain access to additional laboratory services that we do not yet offer, including HIV testing, which is currently very expensive for many of our patients, as well as several biochemistry tests. This collaboration could help us

expand our diagnostic capabilities and improve the care we provide to our community.

I see this as the beginning of a valuable long-term partnership that will benefit the students, our laboratory, and, most importantly, the people we serve.

I wanted to share this exciting development with you and to thank you for your continued encouragement and support. Your confidence in our work has helped make opportunities like this possible.

With gratitude,
Dr. Dieuseul Istache

Solar System Expansion at the Clinic

The electrical system at the Fond Doux Community Clinic has been underperforming its expectations. The batteries have been consistently drawing down too low, even though the refrigerator is often unplugged to save electrical power. Something needed to be done. When Brent Engel and Jim Johnson were recently in Haiti, Jim Johnson, the board member liaison for property maintenance and construction, met at the clinic building with a solar technician Gilbert, General Manager Junior Merjuste and Clinic Director Dr. Dieuseul Istache to discuss the problem.



Junior, Gilbert, Dr. Dieuseul, Jim

The problem arose primarily because the trees near the clinic caused more problems than originally anticipated. The original design was for the restroom to be freestanding in an open space near but not immediately next to the clinic. However, when the then Haitian staff decided they wanted the restroom, upon which the solar panels are mounted, next to the clinic building, they assumed that the shade from nearby trees would not be a major problem. It would only be for a short time in the morning. However, the

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short period of time in the shade along with cloudy days, actually caused the system to underperform.

The solar technician recommended that the existing acid batteries be replaced with lithium batteries and that we mount additional solar panels. The board agreed and so authorized.



Lithium Batteries



New Solar Panels



Installing Solar Panels

Invitation to Give:

- \$35 Provides seeds and tools to start 1 family garden.
- \$50 Supplies food supplement for 1 student for 1 year.
- \$50 Provides emergency food for 1 family for 1 month.
- \$100 Pays 1 teacher for 1 month.

- \$250 Provides a scholarship to 1 HS student for 1 year.
- \$400 Restocks our pharmacy for 1 month.
- \$500 Provides medical check-ups for 100 children.
- \$2,000 Per year provides 1 university scholarship.
- \$12,000 Provides a small house for a homeless family.
- Donations of any amount are welcomed and needed.
- Thank you for thinking of us.

Teacher Training



Eustache, Celestin, Merjuste

This year's teacher training took place August 26–28, 2026 at the Methodist School of Fond Doux. They met for seven hours each day from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The theme of this year's training was "Strengthening Teachers' Capacity to Improve the Quality of Teaching and Learning in the Classroom." This Year's trainers were Gasthony Eustache for the grades 1-6 and Nadine Celestin for the pre-school (3 levels of kindergarten).

There were 62 teachers in attendance. All teacher's in the three schools that we support (the Good Samaritan School at Platon, the Methodist School of Fond Doux and the School for Tomorrow at Ravine Parc) were expected to attend. The three administrators met together to plan the retreat and our General Manager, Junior Merjuste, made the arrangements. A follow-up for grades 1-6 with practical steps for lesson plans is planned Sept 3-4.

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 managers: Brent Engel & Junior Merjuste

Newsletter editor: Rev. John Clausung

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