

# The Fond-des-Blancs Update

**Haiti Christian Development Fund**

Post Office Box 490127—Fort Lauderdale, FL 33349

## Why Uzziah Must Die

Uzziah, also known as Ozias, was a great king. He followed in the footsteps of his father and 'did what was right in the sight of the Lord' (2 Chr. 26:4). He was a military genius who won numerous victories for the armies of Judah and built a reputation for himself far beyond the borders of Judah and Israel. He was also a creative leader who used the expertise of his engineers to invent new weapons (2 Chr. 26:15).

It is understandable how such a powerful presence could overshadow and even stifle all other potential leaders within his sphere of influence. At the height of his political and military power he wanted some religious power as well and ventured into the temple to offer incense to the Lord, a

function reserved exclusively for the priests. As a result he was stricken with leprosy. Even this did not seem to have dimmed his light.

While Isaiah was already a prophet in his own right during the reign of Uzziah, he too fell under the spell of this magnificent leader.

The very structure of the book of Isaiah seems to indicate how Uzziah affected his ministry. You cannot be a true leader, a fervent servant of the Lord if your standard of measurement is another man; no matter how great that man may be.

The moment of authentication came to Isaiah after the death of Uzziah. Of

that experience Isaiah wrote, "in the year that king Uzziah died, I saw the Lord high and lifted up." This is the place where every Christian leader must come, a vision of the Lord for who He is and just as Isaiah we will immediately recognize that we are 'undone' and in need of a filling of God's Spirit to cleanse and empower us for His service.

In our travails, we have all needed the mentoring and guidance of those whom God has placed in our path. But we must never make the mistake of allowing these shepherds to become our Uzziah and obstruct our view of God and consequently never becoming who God wanted us to be, or of encouraging the Uzziah factor in those we are called to lead.

## A New Generation of Leaders at HCDF

Stories on page 2



Mario Clerjeune



Naomie Regis



Maxon Thelusca

December 2001

Volume 15, Issue 4

We at HCDF  
Wish You  
A  
Merry Christmas  
And  
Happy New Year!



### Special Bulletin

The times are changing and we must also adjust ourselves to that reality. We would like to go as virtual as we can in our communication without neglecting anyone. To do this we need your email address. Please send us an email at

[fdbupdate@hcdf.org](mailto:fdbupdate@hcdf.org).

Your communication with us will dramatically improve as a result.

Thank You!

## Continuing Leadership at the Church

Mario is the one person of whom I can say without any reservation that I have found a Timothy; a man who is totally committed to ministering to others. And he has done so here in Fond-des-Blancs under the auspices of the Haiti Christian Development Fund for the past fifteen years. Throughout this period, Mario has steadfastly led our Church from a small congregation of less than fifty to the largest protestant Church in the area.

Mario came to us while he was still in Bible school. He would travel here every weekend, never complaining of

the numerous difficulties he would encounter just trying to get here over treacherous Fond-des-Blancs roads.

Mario is the only son of a family of seven. He is also the only Christian. His religious influence came for an aunt who worked fervently for a missionary hospital in Central Haiti. Mario attended a Bible school where my brother-in-law was the dean. When he recommended Mario to our ministry he described him as a young man in whom he had total confidence and that his primary concern would be the ministry entrusted to him.

Though not a native of Fond-des-Blancs, Mario has become one of the pillars of the community; well spoken of both in the protestant and general community, a man of vision and integrity. In addition to his shepherding the Church, over the next few years Mario will be assuming more responsibilities at the ministry in terms of direction and management. The ministry has much to gain



## New Leadership at L'Exode Preschool

Naomie began teaching at L'Exode in 1995, the same year Joy became its principal. During the ensuing years Naomie remained uncommonly cooperative and loyal to the objectives of the school. She showed an enormous love for children and, in her own quiet way of gaining her student's respect, her class was always the most orderly in manners and academic skill. For these reasons and more we chose her to become the new principal at the preschool.

She came to HCDF at the age of 24 straight out of teacher's training school. She taught first grade for two years, second grade for three years and, at Joy's request, fifth grade for one year. She is the first of six children, most of whom have spent time with her in Fond-des-Blancs. She grew up attending a Baptist church in the southern city of Cayes. She enjoys singing, drawing, and doing arts and crafts activities.

These extra skills along with her obvious dedication to the education of young children have gained her the respect of the parents of the community.

Also, we are happy to announce her recent marriage to Andromarc Regis on July 28, 2001.



## New Leadership at L'Exode Primary School

We are usually overjoyed when one of the young people who came into maturity within our ministry return. We have had several but note have demonstrated the level of commitment and leadership that *Maxon Thelusca* has.

Maxon grew up in one of our satellite churches and was the recipient of one of our teacher's training scholarships. He returned to our ministry at a tumultuous

time and initially demonstrated his commitment to the education and welfare of the children under his care. He was the first to see the necessity of holding after school classes for the sixth grade students in order to better prepare them for the national exam that they would be facing that year. His efforts paid off in the percentage of the children who completed the exams successfully.

Maxon is the seventh child in a family of eight. Until he became the recipient of one of our scholarships, his parents provided for his education.

As the new principal of L'Exode Primary School, Maxon becomes a resource for the



## Let us hear from you



Dear Jean,

As the Lord provides, I do hope to continue my support of your ministry to the people of Fond-des-Blancs. Below is my estimated pledge for this coming year.

Designations	*Staff Members	°Sponsorship	Pledge	When
<input type="checkbox"/> General <input type="checkbox"/> °Education/Sponsorship <input type="checkbox"/> Church Activities <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Projects <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Union <input type="checkbox"/> *Staff Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Jean & Joy Thomas <input type="checkbox"/> Mario & Velouse Clerjeune <input type="checkbox"/> Naomie Regis <input type="checkbox"/> Maxon Thelusca <input type="checkbox"/> Jean Francois Thalon <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Boy <input type="checkbox"/> Girl  <input type="checkbox"/> Age ----- Between 4-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 5,000.00 <input type="checkbox"/> 1,000.00 <input type="checkbox"/> 500.00 <input type="checkbox"/> 100.00 <input type="checkbox"/> 25.00 <input type="checkbox"/> -----	<input type="checkbox"/> Yearly <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly  We would love for you to come visit our ministry in Fond-des-Blancs. Just drop us a note and let us know when you can come!

## Thomas Family News

I am going to jump ahead so I can let you know that we will be celebrating 20 years of service in Haiti during the month of January 2002. This past week I met a young lady and her husband who have just arrived in Haiti as missionaries to a community not too far from here. While we were visiting she asked me how long we'd been in Haiti. I jokingly responded, "Since before you were born." I wasn't far from wrong. It turns out she is 21. I remember being in a situation like that with the tables turned when I first arrived in Haiti. Like my new young friend, 20 years sounded like a life-time. It's not. While Jean is happily talking about leadership changes because growth and continuity are the result of the ability of a government, organization, church or a community to successfully make those changes, it does not mean we feel all used up. The twenty years have been full of surprises and challenges that keep life interesting. We are looking forward to our next twenty years here. During the first twenty years we had the ecstatic joy of welcoming our three sons into our family. Nothing has given us greater contentment and happiness than watching our boys grow into the wonderful young men they are becoming. The next twenty will see us having to let them go out into the larger world. This will be done with great personal sadness, but also with the knowledge that God will continue blessing and

directing them as they go and make choices for their adult lives.

Forgive me if I am jumping a little ahead of myself for their leaving is already a heavy burden on me. Lémeç is completing his junior year of high school in a home schooling program. He will do his senior year in a school in the states. Jacques and Josiah still have a few years left to enjoy life in Fond-des-Blancs. We do not have a scheduled

**Merry Christmas**

**And**

**Happy New year**

list of activities and honors we can share with you about them. Most activities are spontaneous. They enjoy basketball, pickle ball, soccer, dominoes, playing board games and card games, bike riding, rollerblading and they are able to do a lot of reading.

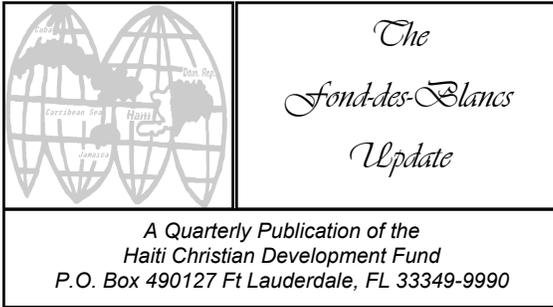
Life has changed a great deal for me this year as I am no longer the principal of L'Exode. I still have responsibilities with all the schools, but not the kind that keeps me busy on a daily basis. This change was necessary so I could have more time to home school our own boys. I am enjoying the change.

All of our changes have been good, but we realize there have been a lot of changes taking place in the world that are not good. Our hearts and prayers go out to all the families who are forced to celebrate this holiday season while enduring the grief of the recent loss of a loved family member and to those who have family in harm's way while they fight for the lives we all wish to live.

**This coming January will mark our 20th year in Haiti. For the occasion, we would like to do a special pictorial issue of the Fond-des-Blancs Update.**

**Some of the best pictures I've seen were taken by visiting groups to Fond-des-Blancs. You can help us with the production of that issue by mailing or emailing me some of those pictures.**

**If you would like to add a comment or two, we will insert as many of them in the final issue as we can. You have been a part of this journey just as much as us. And for that we THANK YOU!**



Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL.  
Permit No. 791

## We Need Your Help and Support

Back in 1982 we started a tree-farming project. This project had two main objectives. The first was ecological; we needed to restore as much of the tree cover over this part of Haiti as we could. Over a period of ten years we planted close to five million trees. The second objective was the harvesting and marketing of some of the trees and thus perpetuate the cycle of harvesting and replanting. The very trees we chose to plan were selected because of their ability to grow again after they had been harvested. It would take a deliberate effort at removing the very stump of the tree to destroy its ecological value.

Some farmers have independently harvest some of their trees and have been amazed at their coppicing capabilities. An even larger number is waiting for the cooperative to implement the second phase of the project.

Charcoal remains the primary source of cooking fuel throughout the country. The majority of the wood used in construction is imported from south America. There is an undeniable need for both the charcoal and the wood our harvesting and marketing phase of

this project would bring.

We want to start with a simple lumber mill in a central location. The logs would be transported the mill and the branches would be turned into charcoal at the remote location.

I've search far every corner of the Internet for information on portable sawmills and have identified the



LumberMate 2000

Lumbermate 2000 as the best value for the price. Purchase, transportation, custom and installation would cost an estimated \$10,000.00. This is

the ministry's Christmas wish for this year.