



# The Fond-des-Blancs Update

**Haiti Christian Development Fund**

Post Office Box 490127—Fort Lauderdale, FL 33349 (954-727-3681)

## Leaning on God's everlasting arms

I am borderline claustrophobic. My worst case scenario is being a passenger in a car and not having control of one of the doors. I nearly went into hyperventilation once. We had a group visiting. I was walking home from the work site when my Isuzu Trooper came along with one of the volunteers at the wheel. They stopped to pick me up with only one spot available: all the way in the back through the back door without a latch from the inside. I thought I was going to die for that quarter mile ride! A long taxi in an airplane can be a little frustrating but the flight itself is fine. If I were to diagnose my particular case, I would possibly say it is a matter of trust or the lack of it in whomever is in control.

The last time I was totally at someone else's mercy was for surgery fifteen years ago; and then it was only with local anesthesia. In a little over a month I am going to undergo two invasive procedures that are sure to test my capacity to put myself totally into somebody's hands. Would I like to be the recipient of a miracle over the next few weeks that would make surgery unnecessary? You bet I would!

I am a strong believer in the limitation of God's miraculous interventions. They do happen though but He usually uses human agents to accomplish His missions. Thus having to

put my life into the complete care of another human being must be trusting in the order that God has set. In the meanwhile, I want to pray 'without ceasing' that 'this cup pass from me'. I am reminded of David, praying and fasting for God to save the life of his child. But when the child died, he got up, cleaned himself and started eating again. The time for a miracle had passed.

I want to be both optimistic and realistic, but most of all I want to trust that every step of my life is ordained by God and that I am constantly leaning on His everlasting arms; no matter who His agent may be at the moment.

## VisionNet Cyber Café of Fond-des-Blancs

I remember the days when I had to drive over an hour to make a phone call only to find out that the phone was out of service. Depending on the urgency, I would have to drive all the way to Port au Prince. Just this month we open the first Cyber Café in Fond-des-Blancs where the residents can come and call anywhere in the world. The Cyber Café is in some ways an extension of the computer center. Courses are offered at L'Exode Professional in computer literacy. But having a Cyber Café in the center of town makes it more convenient for most of the students to apply what they have learned.



In one week, the children of Fond-des-Blancs have had their visual senses stimulated as never before. Joey would bring a CD with soccer clips from their favorites athletes that they only knew by name. Now they have a face to associate with it! They would gather around the computer screen and just absorb everything. I often have to pry Joey away for us to go home.

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Volume 18, Issue 4

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



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Bulletin

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THE POOR



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## The Clerjeunes

For the past two years we have been planning for Mario to spend a couple of years studying in the States. Negotiating with the US consulate for a visa was the biggest hurdle. Finally this summer they granted him the visa for his entire family. He had very little time to say his goodbyes because the children's schooling was starting a few days after the news that he had gotten the visa.

They are currently in Atlanta, GA. Mario is studying at Carver Bible College. Elimelech and Judith are in seventh grade. Velouse is being the homemaker.

Mario may be facing the hardest transi-



Mario, Judith, Elimelech and Velouse

tional gap. The cultural shock is a part of it but having been a teacher in one culture and becoming a student in another, in a language that you do not understand must be overwhelming.

They have been guests of the McNeals, the pastor of the Atlanta Bible Baptist Church, who took them literally into

their home. Hopefully their campus housing will become available this January.

I am sure the Clerjeunes would love to hear from you. They may be reached by phone at 678-641-4421, by email at [marioclerjeune@yahoo.fr](mailto:marioclerjeune@yahoo.fr) or by snail mail at:

Mario Clerjeune  
Carver Bible College  
433 Nelson St  
Atlanta, GA 30302

## The Bernadels



Maxeau Bernadel was one of the first graduates of our three years Bible by Extension program. Even before completing the program he was working as one of Pastor Mario's assistant. He was responsible for the nurture of the Satellite Churches. In this capacity he traveled to a different Satellite Church every Sunday; preaching, serving communion, and guiding the lay leaders.

Unlike Mario and myself (Jean), Maxeau grew up in Fond-des-Blancs, completed his elementary education at the local public school then moved to Port au Prince for middle school and high school. He also studied electronics while in the city, but returned to Fond-des-Blancs to teach at the public school he had attended.

Maxeau has been a Christian since 1970. Immediately upon his return to the community he became an active member of our church. In 1991 he married Laurette, a young woman from his neighborhood. They have four children. Boaz-Kant is twelve. He graduated from L'Exode Christian School this past June and is attending middle school in Miragoane, an hour's drive away from Fond-des-Blancs. Berthine (10) and Jethro Pascal (8) are both current students at L'Exode. Prisca (5) attends L'Exode Preschool.

During Mario's study leave in the United States Maxeau has assumed the leadership of the Church along with a group of assistants who had worked with Pastor Mario.

## The Newlyweds



The Clemenceaux

from the Cayes area, a former first grade teacher at L'Exode, married a young man from our Church last spring. Unfortunately

We have had a wave of weddings within and among our staff this year. Jacqueline, originally

they just lost their first child last week. The baby was born prematurely and only survived a few days.

Augustin Clemenceau and Marlheine, both teachers at L'Exode, were married this past summer. Augustin grew up in our church, was sponsored by our church through Teacher's College and returned to teach. Marlheine is originally from the Cayes area. Unfortunately, they had a miscarriage last month.

Jean-Francois and Ruth have scheduled their wedding for Christmas Day! Jean-Francois grew up in one of our Satellite Churches (Platon) and had been director of the primary school there before the church

sponsored him to attend Teacher's College. Upon his graduation he returned and has been the supervisor of the seven Satellite Church schools. Ruth is from the Cayes area and has been with us for the past four years. From the day she arrived, she has been the musical director of our church. She teaches at L'Exode Preschool.

We want to encourage all three of these newlyweds as they endeavor to build a Christian home and establish their roots in the Fond-des-Blancs community.

**Our best wishes to them  
all!**

## 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

**W**e live in a country that has made sensational news over the past year, but there has not been much that was sensational in our personal lives. Lemec finished his first year of college and began his second. At the end of his first year we decided to leave him in California to look for a summer job. He made application all over Fresno at all kinds of places, but by August had not landed a job. We were missing him and did not want him to become too discouraged so we brought him home for the month of August. It was a great month for all of us and as soon as he got back to Fresno for school he landed a part-time late afternoon job so he could work after school. Both Jacques and Josiah are still being home schooled.

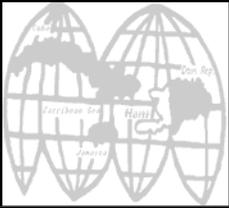
Jacques is 17 and a junior and an eighth grader. For spent a few days in the the country that shares Haiti. It was the boys' first ference between the two the moment who cross guage and the money are shocking thing is the superior road system to listen too closely we could the United States. It hap- UN soldiers from Brazil were on R&R leave for a as us. We did not speak became friends with our played pool, basketball them, but most impor- with them every afternoon.



All Haitians are huge fans of the Brazil soccer team. When the two teams play together it is a toss-up as which team the Haitians are cheering for. So every afternoon the soccer game at the hotel turned into a Brazil/Haiti game. The Haitian team made up of Jean and the boys had to recruit a couple of guests from England and other places to help fill out their team. At the end of our stay the Brazilian soldiers were kind enough to make Jean and the boys understand the greatest compliment they could give them. They told Jean and the boys they played soccer like Brazilians.

Instead of our annual summer trip to the US we waited until late October to attend the Christian Community Development Association's annual conference in Atlanta. We had planned to visit some educational and historical sights with the boys such as CNN and the Martin Luther King's memorial; but after a tumor was detected on the left side of Jean's neck most of our free time was spent visiting doctors. Our boys were sufficiently amused driving by some car dealership and seeing all the latest models.

Thanks to the generosity of a church in Fresno Lemec will be coming home for Christmas. We will not be making any exciting trips, but we appreciate any time we get to have to spend together as a family.



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## Thank you for your Support



Our only work group this year came from different parts of the country in January, glued together by Rev. John Lovelace, a former missionary to South America, pastor and personal friend of John Perkins. They were able to complete ninety-five percent of the roof of the Baltimore satellite church and school. A group of young people from our mother Church complete the project the

following month.

A number of groups had planned



their summer visit with us early in the year. But with all the political turmoil in February, they cancelled even though the country was stable enough by summer.

We want to give a special thanks to Tom & Eloise Cathcart who made a substantial contribution toward the construction of the church in Baltimore that John Lovelace and his crew were able to roof this past January turning the bare walls into a place of worship and a school.

Thank you to all of you for making this possible.

