



2013 Annual Report

Dear Friends of Madagascar Mission,

As we close the records and reports on the activities and fund raising for FOMM in 2013, we can only say: "Thanks be to God!"

We have been richly blessed as a new mission organization by the donors who have been led to support FOMM's mission projects. We have been in existence for three years and our giving has doubled each of those three years.

One hundred percent of your gifts to FOMM have gone to support projects in Madagascar. We have the "100% Guarantee" and we have been faithful to that commitment. We also have an "Administrative Fund" to pay the costs for newsletters, stationary/envelopes, postage and wire transfers; but that fund only receives money if a donor tells us to do so. God has been good to us and we seem to always have a donor step forward with a gift that pays our Administrative Fund bills.

As we begin another year, 2014, we pray that God will continue to provide needed resources to fund mission projects in Madagascar. You will note in each section of this report, the amount of funds raised in 2013, and the amount of funds needed for the same projects in 2014.

PEACE IN CHRIST!

The Rev. David P. Lerseth, President
Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM)



Shepherds, lay trained ministers, pray with prisoners at a female prison.



Photo of new Christians in a village served by an evangelist, sponsored by FOMM. Thanks be to God!

Prison Ministry Program

(Friends of Madagascar 2013 support: **\$33,175.00**)

“If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed..” (John 8:36)

This Scripture verse is the theme of the Prison Ministry Program of the Malagasy Lutheran Church. It is the church’s mission to reach out to people with the Gospel to bring freedom, hope and new life to all.

I. Prison Visitations

In 2013 they visited 6 prisons each week:

- + Wednesday: 8 to 10 a.m. at Tsiroanomandidy Prison located 150 Km from Antananarivo (90 miles)
- + Wednesday: 10 a.m. to noon at Amntanimora Prison (for juveniles)
- + Saturday: 8 to 10:30 a.m. at Antanimora Prison (male)
- + Sunday: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Antanimora Prison (female)
- + Tuesday: 3 to 5 p.m. at Tsiafahy Prison (The maximum security prison located 20 Km from Antananarivo (12 miles)

II. Mission Work (How FOMM’s support dollars are spent)

- + We regularly worshipped and preached the Gospel followed by placing hands on the prisoner’s head for those who requested.
- + The pastors conducted communion services once a month.
- + The pastors baptize and confirm prisoners.
- + The catechists lead confirmation classes.
- + Rice and dry beans, medicines were distributed regularly.
- + Luther’s Small Catechism, notebooks, pens and Bibles are regularly distributed to the prisoners.
- + Bibles that are damaged are repaired
- + Special holiday meals: At the maximum security prison a holiday meal was served on Malagasy Independence Day (June 24) and on Christmas Day.

III. Commentary

During 2013 we were able to expand our ministry significantly due to the significant increase in support from Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM)

The Prison Ministry Committee of the Malagasy Lutheran Church would like to express our gratitude to you, the donors, and the board of directors for Friends of Madagascar Mission for your prayer and financial support in 2013.

Praise be to the Lord God and praise be to His Glorious Name forever.

Yours in Christ’s service

Catechist Denise

(Friends of Madagascar 2014 proposed budget: **\$40,028.70**)



Pastor Lerseth preaching at a worship service at the Antanimora Men’s Prison, in June of 2013.

EVANGELIST PROGRAM

(Friends of Madagascar 2013 support: **\$18,442.00**)

Jesus said, "...go and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:19)

In the Malagasy Lutheran Church this verse of Scripture is well and alive in the activities of all that they do. The Lutheran Church began mission work in Madagascar in 1866. Today 42% of the population of Madagascar is Christian. They want to continue to bring the Gospel to their people. Through this Evangelist Program the church sends an evangelist into a community where the Gospel has not been heard or there is not a church. The evangelist normally have a two year degree from one of the church's Bible Schools. They receive a salary of \$600 per year. Through Friends of Madagascar Mission congregations and individuals provide the support. Though difficult because of difficulties in communication, we seek to send several update reports on the work of each evangelist to the donors.

I. Activity Report

There are two areas of support for evangelists through the Friends of Madagascar Evangelist Program:

A. The Betioky Atsimo Synod

- + The first evangelists supported by Friends of Madagascar Mission in the Betioky Atsimo Synod began in February 2011.
- + There are currently 16 evangelists serving in this synod.
- + "In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Luke 15:10)
- + In 2013 in this synod the evangelists reported:
 - 494 children baptisms
 - 327 adult baptisms
 - 433 were confirmed in the Christian Faith



Each year Friends of Madagascar Mission has provided financial support for an Evangelist Training Event. In 2013 Pastor Lerseth and 5 other visitors from the USA attended the training event in June. Pictured above are the 16 evangelists serving in the Betioky Atsimo Synod and two pastor trainers and supervisors of these evangelists.

Report on Support of Evangelists --- Support provided by:

14 congregations: The congregations represent 3 Lutheran Church bodies, 9 different states, 3 congregations support 2 evangelist and 1 congregation support 3 evangelists.

14 individuals: The individuals represent 8 different states and 1 donor supports 5 evangelists.

1 endowment: An evangelist is supported annually by an endowment gift funded through the Lutheran Community Foundation.

Thank you to all donors who support currently, the 35 FOMM evangelists!!

B. Andriy Betroka Synod

- + The first evangelists supported by Friends of Madagascar Mission in the Andriy Betroka Synod began in July of 2013.
- + In the words of the Malagasy people, this Synod is "...really still in the darkness."
- + The leadership of the Andriy Betroka Synod requested that Friends of Madagascar Mission provide evangelist support.
- + The request for evangelists came with the words of Isaiah 6:8: "Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'"
- + There are currently 19 evangelists serving in the Andriy Betroka Synod!
- + Because the work has just begun in this synod, there is not a report of the number of baptisms and confirmands, but we have received some verbal reports of the activity and progress of the evangelists
 - "I began my work by going door to door and getting to know the people."
 - "She preaches and teaches 47 children and 18 adults. Every evening she has a Bible study and teaches them songs."
 - "They have had a busy time with over 60 asking for baptism, but we need to teach them the faith before baptizing them."
 - "I visit villages every day. There are many people suffering from demonic possession. Every evening I lead an exorcism (this is kind of like a service of repentance and forgiveness)

II. Conclusion

In general our work has become more difficult and even dangerous. Due to the political situation in Madagascar -- a lack of central control throughout the country and the declining economic situation; violence in villages and dangers in traveling on the road has become more common. But we do our work trusting God will protect and guide us. Humanly speaking, it is easy to lose courage and hope, but we have a great God who is always faithful! God bless you all!

PRAISE THE LORD, MY SOUL, AND DO NOT FORGET HOW KIND HE IS!

(This report was written by Hanitra Randrianantenaina on behalf of herself and her husband Dr. Elson.)

Friends of Madagascar 2014 proposed budget:

Evangelist Salary Support: **\$21,000.00**

Evangelist Training Support: **\$ 2,000.00**

Total: **\$23,000.00**



Pictured above are 13 of the 19 new evangelists who began work in the Andriy Betroka Synod in late 2013.

EJEDA NUTRITION PROGRAM

(Friends of Madagascar 2013 support: **\$15,000.00**. Cyclone Haruna Special Fund: **\$1,930.00** and Locust Relief Special Fund: **\$3,612.34**)

We believe that the God who created all things also sustains all things. “The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.” Psalm 145:15-16

In south west Madagascar famine is always just around the corner. The lands are arid and often the crops do not provide enough food. In 2013, in addition to drought, we experienced Cyclone Haruna and locust infestation. It was a difficult year, but thanks be to God for the support of Friends of Madagascar Mission to provide food during these crisis.

I. Activity Report

A. Ejeda Hospital Nutrition/Feeding Program

The report below details the number of hospital patients who received 4 cups of rice and 2 packets of milk powder every other day; and the TB/handicapped patients who receive 14 cups of rice and 7 packets of milk powder every week.



Distribution of food to families of the patients at Ejeda Hospital

Period	Inpatient	TB patient and Handicap kids	Quantity of rice 1unit=1cup	Quantity of milk powder 1Unit =15g	
January	143	46	1216	154	
February	142	52	1296	506	
March	198	74	1828	512	
April	117	67	1406	586	
May	148	74	1628	666	
June	67	114	1864	865	
July	90	115	1970	895	
August	240	114	2556	514	
September	109	76	1500	641	
October	98	50	1092	448	
November	158	78	1724	599	
December	124	61	1350	409	
TOTAL	1634	921	19,430	6795	

B. Emergency Food Relief Funding: During Cyclone Haruna, the Locust Infestation, and during the Political Crisis in Madagascar.

During these times of crisis, the most vulnerable usually suffer the most. In 2013 Friends of Madagascar Mission helped to provide food for each of these groups.

1) Sharing food with Toby(s) A *Toby* literally means “a camp” or “a place of rest on a journey.” It consists generally of a church building, surrounded by homes of Christians (trained and called *Shepherds*) living communally and caring for the spiritually and mentally ill, and needy people. In some of the *Tobys* medical treatment accompanies the preaching, pastoral care, prayer, anointing with oil, exorcism and Christian education. It is uniquely a Malagasy system that developed out of a need to connect with Malagasy cultural practices.

Friends of Madagascar Mission’s Emergency Food Relief Funding provided 32 bags of rice (one bag is fifty kilos) or 3,520 lbs for 40 patients at the *Toby Ampanihy*, 67 patients at the *Toby Farezy* and 23 patients at the *Toby Beteza*.



The photo above shows the distribution of emergency food to one of the *Tobys*.



The photo above shows the distribution of emergency food to the prison.

2) Sharing food with Prisoners at the *Ampanihy* Prison in Antananarivo

During the political crisis in Madagascar (due to a coup of the presidency in 2009) the number of prisoners has increased dramatically. This has caused overcrowding of prisons and as a result the health and nutrition conditions are terrible. Also, in Madagascar, families must bring food to the prisoners. If they don’t have enough food themselves, they have nothing to bring to prisoners.

Friends of Madagascar Mission’s Emergency Food Relief Funding provided 1,200 kgs or 1,323 lbs of rice in 2013.

Friends of Madagascar 2014 proposed budget: **\$8,400.00**
(Plus requested funds for the Ejeda Hospital Medical Emergency Fund)