



FRIENDS of  
**MADAGASCAR  
MISSION**

## **2014 Annual Report**

Dear Friends of Madagascar Mission,

The year of 2014 was a year of challenges --- a year of growth --- a year of God Surprises! We ended 2013 having met our financial commitments to mission and ministry in Madagascar. We were thankful and pleased! We give God thanks for providing us with faithful and generous donors who have provided the financial resources to make this all possible.

Two mission organizations asked FOMM to assume their projects in Madagascar: Renewal International and Sharing Hope International.

After much discussion and prayer, we assumed 4 new projects from them: 3 Bible Schools, support of Steve Lellelid, printing of the Bible into the Tandroy dialect (a recent translation done by Steve Lellelid), and a S. W. Madagascar Drip Irrigation Project.

This purpose of this report is to share with our donors what we, together, have been able to accomplish in 2014. It is also intended to encourage you to continue your support, to invite others: family, friends and congregations to join us in this adventure of faithfulness to support God's Global Mission. Even though we met our goal in 2014, it does not mean that the work is completed. As page 12 of this report shows, we have much more that God is challenging us to do together.

Our guarantee to our donors is that 100% of your gift goes towards the mission project you choose to support! Thanks so very much!

PEACE IN CHRIST!

Rev. David P. Lerseth, President

(This Annual Report has a total of 12 pages, scroll down to view the other pages.)

(Page 2)

## **Prison Ministry Program**

**TOTAL 2014 Financial Support:           \$41,692.81**

The Prison Ministry Program has had another fruitful year in providing spiritual care to the prisoners with their Biblical mandate from John 8:36: **“If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed...”**

The program continues to provide worship services in six prisons, provide holy communion services once a month, baptize and confirm prisoners, distribute rice/dry beans, medications, Luther’s Small Catechism, notebooks, pens and Bibles. In addition they have served special holiday meals.

In 2014, the Prison Ministry expanded from 6 to 7 prisons. The new addition was at the Fianarantsoa Prison. Pastor Theodoric and his wife Voaly who are studying at the Graduate School Seminary in Fianarantsoa under the support of FOMM are also coordinating and providing this new prison ministry.



(Distributing rice to the prisoners. The government does not provide food for the prisoners. The families are responsible, but often they don’t bring food, so the FOMM Prison Ministry provides rice and beans for the prisoners.)

(Page 3)

Here is their description of what they are doing: *“Greeting in the name of Jesus! Our work at the Fianarantsoa Prison is constantly increasing. Every Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. we lead worship.*

*On the 1st and 3rd Sundays we also celebrate the Lord’s Support.*

*On the second Sundays we share rice for all prisoners (about 700)*

*and on the fourth Sunday we celebrate what we call a Shepherd Service, which is a serve of confession and forgiveness with the*

*laying on of hands. Every Sunday we have 200 prisoners worship with us.”*



(Pastor Theo leading the prisoners during a worship service.)

**Plans, Hopes, and Dreams for the future of Prison Ministry!**

The government has asked us to continue to expand the outreach ministry of the Prison Ministry Program. This is a very good endorsement of this outreach ministry. We ask for your prayers and financial support so this ministry may continue to expand!

**2015 Budget Support Needed: \$40,000.00**

## Ejeda Hospital

**TOTAL 2014 Financial Support:** **\$8,400.00**  
(Additional Support for Medical Emergency \$ 3,425.00)

**“God has given each of you some special abilities, be sure to use them to help each other...” (I Peter 4:10a)**

**1. Introduction:** Ejeda is in the remote S.W. part of Madagascar that is very poor. Its mission is to provide medical and nutrition care. We are very thankful for the support FOMM provides. It is indeed a gift of love to these people. (This report is provided by Dr. Elson and Hanitra, who manage the Ejeda Programs.)

### **2. Activity Report:**

#### **A. Ejeda Nutrition Program**

In Africa, a patient’s family must provide them food while in the hospital. In this arid area, families often suffer from not having enough food. How will a patient get well without adequate food? FOMM’s Nutrition Program provides food for these patients. The family must prepare the food. Each needy patient receives:

Tuberculosis patients: 14 cups of rice and 7 packets of 15gm of milk powder per week

Hospital Patients: 4 cups of rice and two packets of 15gm of milk powder every other day.

#### The 2014 report of persons served in 2014 by this program:

Number of hospital patients served:	1,314
Number of T.B. patients and handicapped kids:	1,146
Number of malnourished patients:	19

(Page 5)



(Patient families receiving a distribution of rice and milk powder)

### **B. Medical Emergency Fund**

In 2014 FOMM donors contributed \$3,425.00 to this fund.  
FOMM does not budget for this account but depends upon the generosity of donors to provide funds. These gifts provided medical care for 17 patients, with a small balance left for 2015.



(Families caring for their patient at Ejeda Hospital)

**2015 Budget Support Needed: \$8,400.00 (Medical Emergency Fund –  
Not in FOMM’s Budget: \$5,000.00)**

## Evangelists

**Total 2014 Financial Support:                      \$21,000.00**

**“Give thanks to the Lord, proclaim His greatness; tell the nations what He has done.” (I Chronicles 16:8)**

- 1. Introduction:** We are thankful to our Lord Jesus for giving us FOMM. Without their financial and prayer support the exciting news in this report would not be possible. We pray for your continuing support in 2015. (This report is provided by Dr. Elson and Hanitra, you manage the Evangelist and Ejeda Programs.)
- 2. Activity Report:** FOMM supports 35 evangelists in 2 Synods of the Malagasy Lutheran Church, the Betioky and the Betroka Synods. We have been invited to support an additional 15 evangelists in the Ambovombe – Androy Synod (See “2015 New Opportunities”, on page 12 of this Annual Report for further details.)

### **A. Betioky Synod**

I Corinthians 12:6, “God works through different men in different ways, but it is the same God who achieves his purposes through them all.” God is at work in the world, He wants us to fulfill his mission.

Looking back over 2014, we praise God for who He is, and we thank God for what He has done. The Lord is doing wonderful and powerful work through the evangelists that FOMM supports.

In 2014 the 15 evangelists supported by FOMM have baptized 538 children, 451 adults, and confirmed 658 persons.

The evangelists are working in 24 rural villages. The need is so great. The evangelists are challenged with so many needs. They have a very difficult task. Please pray for them.

(Page 7)

### A. Betroka Synod

The work in this Synod is very difficult. The evangelist must first teach the people how to read and write. This area is full of much robbery and idolatry. The power of evil is strong. As a result the people and evangelists are fearful to travel alone. The people try to find ways to hear the message of the Gospel from the evangelists to find peace and hope. Yet there is progress and success. 441 villages have been visited this year, 153 children and 42 adults have been baptized, 76 confirmed, and 1,229 children and 58 adults have learned to read and write.



(An evangelist and his family, supported by FOMM.)

## **1,184 Baptisms in 2014**

NOTE: Detailed reports will be sent to those supporting evangelists.)

**Budget Needs for 2015: \$21,000.00**

(Additional \$9,000 if we support the request for 15 evangelists from the Ambovombe-Androy Synod, see page 12 for details)

## **Bible Schools**

**TOTAL 2014 Financial Support:                      \$8,000.00**

(FOMM assumed support for the Bible Schools in the last quarter of 2014)

In the Malagasy Lutheran Church (FLM) there are three kinds of schools to train persons for service in ministry:

1) Bible Schools: A student attends for 2 years. After graduation a student is assigned to a Synod. The Synod then selects a village where an evangelist will live among the people who have not heard the Gospel, and work to develop a community of believers.

2) Regional Seminaries: There are 7 regional seminaries that offer a Bachelor's Degree for ordination to serve a congregation.

3) Graduate School Seminary: There is 1 seminary that offers a Bachelor of Divinity degree in theology for teaching.

Friends of Madagascar Mission supports 3 Bible Schools: Manasoa Fanjahira, Betroka and Manatantely Bible Schools.



(Twenty-one students from the Manasoa Bible School)



## **Bible Schools**



(The families of the students live on the Bible School campus. A photo of some of the student's children.)

The buildings, housing and educational resources are very minimal, but the faculty and students are committed to serving their Lord and Savior by preparing to become an evangelist. Our calling is to support them with our prayers and our gifts to provide this Bible School training.

**2015 Budget Support Needed:**  
**\$36,000.00**

(A photo of students in a class room at the Bible School.)

Friends of Madagascar Mission has assumed support of these Bible Schools because they are essential for the evangelical outreach of the Malagasy Lutheran Church. FOMM currently supports 35 evangelists who were educated at one of these Bible Schools. Our hope and prayer is that we will continue to support more evangelists as funds become available from FOMM's generous donors.



## **Missionary Steve Lellelid**

**TOTAL 2014 Financial Support:           \$12,000.00**

**“How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? (Romans 10:14)**

Steve is supported by Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM) through the gifts from many donors. Steve works in the southern part of Madagascar in the Ambovombe-Androy Synod of the Malagasy Lutheran Church within the Evangelism Department.



For the past 14 years he has been working to translate the Bible into the dialect of the Tandroy people. The literacy rate is below 5%. So, if the Bible is being translated into their dialect, they also must be taught to read.

Even before Steve began to translate the Bible into the Tandroy dialect he began building a dictionary of Tandroy dialect words. Working with other organizations they created a literacy training programs to teach people how to read. In the literacy programs they often used the portions of the Bible, Steve had already translated. Steve recalls how men and women were weeping when they heard the Word of God, which they had never heard before in their own dialect.

*Steve says, “Often the temptation has arisen for me to hide in a quiet place to finish translating the Bible. But then I remind myself how foolish that would be; because it is living among the people, hearing the language spoken, that I am able to make the Word of God come alive for the Tandroy people.”*

In the Joy of Serving Christ! Steve, Tafisoa and Linofie John

**2015 Budget Support Needed:           \$12,500.00**



## **2015 New Opportunities**

Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM) Board of Directors establishes a budget each year. This becomes our goal for raising funds for mission and ministry in Madagascar for the New Year. Each year of FOMM's existence we have met the goals set by the Board.

Also, each year, there are other projects which we are asked to support. The list is extensive, because the need is so great. The Board can not approve every request for funding that we receive, even though we would love to support all of these mission and ministry evangelism projects.

So, we are posting some of these projects that are not included in FOMM's budget, in hopes that a donor (congregation or individual/family) would want a special mission project to support in commemoration of an anniversary, in memory of, in honor of someone or just want to give to mission!

Below are three such projects;

1. 15 new evangelists for the Ambovombe – Androy Regional Synod

The Synod is located at the southern tip of Madagascar. It is a large Synod geographically. They describe their evangelism goal in this way: "There will be no end to evangelical outreach until our Lord Jesus Christ appears in the heavens." In 2011 they had 433 baptisms, 427 in 2012 and 230 in 2013.

The Norwegian Mission Society supported this work, but have terminated this program. FOMM has been asked to provide support for 15 evangelists or a total of \$9,000.00 a year.

2. Rural Church Building

We are waiting for the proposal for helping a Lutheran congregation in a rural region to build a church building. This would be a project for a congregation, an individual or a combination of both.

3. Satellite for better communication with our partners in rural areas

It is difficult to communicate with our partners in mission in Madagascar because of poor or lacking email connections. This project would provide quick communication.

(Additional information on FOMM's web site [www.MadagascarMission.org](http://www.MadagascarMission.org) or call 847-445-8177 for more information.)