



FRIENDS of MADAGASCAR MISSION

FEBRUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER Vol 1:2

Dear Friends of Global Mission,

GREETINGS FOR A MEANINGFUL LENTEN JOURNEY from Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM).

The season of Lent provides us the opportunity for greater growth in our Christian Faith. As we focus upon the personal meaning of the suffering and death of Jesus, we grow in our faith, trust and commitment to Jesus as our Savior and Lord! We do not want to keep our faith and its expression to ourselves. We want to share our faith in our relationships at home, at work, and in our social contacts. We want to reach out beyond our community into our state, nation and to “the ends of the world” to witness to the power of the Lenten message.

Friends of Madagascar Mission is an organization that may help you with your Lenten mission outreach. We work with evangelism projects in Madagascar: 1) Prison Ministry, 2) Nutrition Ministry, and 3) Training of evangelists and support of individual evangelists.

If you are looking for a place where you may “invest” your special Lenten offerings, we are able to assist you. You will be amazed at what your offering gifts will accomplish through Friends of Madagascar Mission. You will receive progress update reports throughout the year about the project you support. Also, later in this newsletter you will learn about our “100% Guarantee!”

Please go our web site to discover more about our projects. Our web address: www.MadagascarMission.org

Blessings upon your Lenten Journey!

In Christ’s Mission Together!

The Rev. David P. Lerseth, President

Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM)

P. S. If you would like to receive this newsletter via E-mail, please email us at

FriendsOfMadagascarMission@gmail.com

GETTING TO KNOW FOMM

We are a new mission organization, founded in December 2009, to support mission work of the Malagasy (Madagascar) Lutheran Church (FLM). We are incorporated as nonprofit organization and are a 501 (c)3 organization with the IRS. We are governed by a seven member board of directors, of Lutheran laypersons and clergy.

While we are new, mission work in Madagascar is not new! In 1866 the Norwegian Mission Society arrived to share the Gospel with the people of Madagascar, and in 1888 Lutherans from the USA joined the mission work.

Today, the Malagasy Lutheran Church has a membership of 3 million members. This church is all about EVANGELISM in a country that consistently ranks as one of the 10 poorest nations in the world.

WE REACH OUT IN FAITH

At our Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM) Board meeting in January, a goal was set to support 25 evangelists by the end of 2012. The Malagasy Lutheran Church has numerous Bible Schools to train evangelists through a two year program of study. When the students graduate they are ready to go out into the villages of Madagascar and witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In many villages the Word of God has never been heard. The evangelists move into the villages with their families and work to develop a community of believers. The evangelists receive an annual salary of \$600.00.

We are inviting congregations and individuals in the USA to support one of the evangelists. You will receive 1) the name of an evangelist, 2) the name of the village where the evangelist serves, 3) photos of the evangelist you support, and 4) update reports on the evangelist's work.

To support an evangelist or any other project, please contact us. Our address, phone number, web page and E-mail addresses are printed at the bottom of the front page.

MISSION TRIP IN PLANNING STAGE

We are planning a Mission Trip to Madagascar within the next year. In the next couple of months we intend to do the following:

- + Acquire the names of individuals who are interested in a mission trip (no commitment at this time, just an expression of interest).
- + Work with Thrivent Builds Project (through Habitat International) about the requirements and costs for such a trip.
- + Work with the Malagasy Lutheran Church to extend the trip and visit several ministry sites of the church and determine the cost for this part of the trip.
- + Notify all interested persons about the dates, cost and requirements for such a mission trip.

Please **contact us now** to place you on this list!

WE ARE UNIQUE

“Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM)” is on the FRONT LINES OF MISSION

This means: **1) 100% of your gift goes towards the mission project you choose to support.** Nothing is taken out of your gift to pay for our administrative costs. This is our guarantee!



2) We do not ship anything to Madagascar. Freight costs are very expensive. The funds raised by us are transferred to the church and they purchase the products in Madagascar. This also helps the local economy in Madagascar.

3) We do not own any property and we do not have a paid staff.

4) We transfer your gift quickly to the mission project site in Madagascar. There is great financial need in Madagascar for support of mission projects. We work to shorten the distance between the time a donor’s gift is received and the gift is transferred to the mission project.

These are our commitments!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- + Join Our Mailing List (Go to www.MadagascarMission.org to sign up for our newsletter)
- + Contact us now if you or anyone from your congregation is interested in a mission trip to Madagascar.
- + Mission Speaker --- We are available to share the story of God’s call to global mission with your congregation. Please contact us.
- + Reading recommendation: “When Helping Hurts” --- How to alleviate poverty without hurting the poor...and yourself (by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert)