



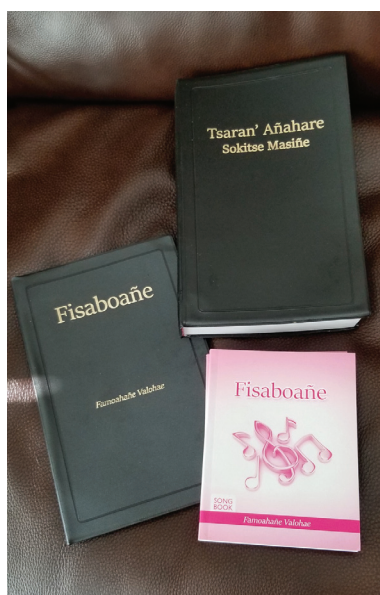
FRIENDS of MADAGASCAR MISSION

Vol 7:2

Fall 2018

THE EXPANSION OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN SOUTHERN MADAGASCAR

This past July during a Mission Education Trip to Madagascar we heard stories about the expansion of the Christian Faith in areas where Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM) supports programs. They are powerful stories because they tell how the Gospel of Jesus Christ brings hope and salvation to the people.



STORY 1: Translating the Bible into the Language of the People

Steve Lellelid has committed the past 16 years to translate the Bible into the Tandroy dialect. This group of people have not heard the Word of God because they did not have the Bible in their own language. Currently 20,000 Bibles and 82,000 hymnals have been printed at the Ebenezer Printing Company in Kerala, India at a cost of \$92,000.00 and are now being shipped to Madagascar for distribution among the Tandroy people. In addition, Steve and his wife, Tafisoa, have been teaching people how to read. Soon a program will begin to distribute the Bibles and hymnals to the Tandroy people, and we will then hear stories of people coming to the Christian faith.

A CELEBRATION OF GLOBAL MISSION: MADAGASCAR

Honoring Steve Lellelid's work in translating the Bible into the Tandroy dialect.

Saturday, October 6, 2018 from 5:00 to 8:30 p. m.

at Calvary Lutheran Church

7520 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley Minnesota 55427

Cost: \$25.00

Malagasy Meal • Music • The Story of Madagascar Mission & FOMM's Mission

For tickets call 847-445-8177 or email: FriendsOfMadagascarMission@gmail.com



Story 2: 151 Baptized at the Village of Marolima

We have received marvelous stories of the work of FOMM supported evangelists where groups of 43, 120 and other numbers have been baptized into the Christian faith. While in Madagascar we heard of the village of Marolima where 151 (49 adults and 102 children) were baptized into the Christian Faith through the ministry of evangelist BENINDRAINY Albert, supported by New Life Lutheran Church in Duluth, Minnesota.

The reports we heard explained that the people are open to the Gospel and more evangelists are needed. For only \$700 a year (\$600 salary and \$100 for continuing education) an evangelist may be sponsored. We currently are supporting evangelists in 3 synods of the Malagasy Lutheran Church: 16 evangelists in the Betioky Synod, 21 evangelists in the Betroka Synod and 6 evangelists in the Ambovombe Androy Synod. Each of these synods have asked FOMM to support additional evangelists. In addition the Ft Dauphin Synod has submitted a proposal for support of evangelists in their synod. Please consider supporting an evangelist.

This growth in the Christian faith requires that the Malagasy Lutheran Church (FLM) establish a congregation to continue nurturing the faith of these new converts. The FLM has asked FOMM if we would assist these new congregations in providing corrugated steel for the roofs of these new churches. Currently we have requests from 13 new churches and FOMM is considering if we are able to provide these funds.

Story 3: Testimony of the Value of the Prison Ministry

FOMM supports prison ministry in 12 prisons. We visited 3 of these prisons in July. The theme of "We are prisoners, but we are free in Christ" was shared with us by the prisoners. One of the prisoners serving a 33 year sentence shared his testimony during a worship service: "We cannot manage to find the right words to express our thanks for your generosity. In a place that some call a second grave or hell, you (the Lutheran Church) come to us with words that give us hope spiritually, morally as well as physically. We hope you will be able to expand your ministry to more prisons in Madagascar. We need this ministry because you bring us hope, a purpose to life and the promise of a future with God. Thank you for your commitment to the prisoners in Madagascar."

We also experienced the excitement of the musical groups formed in each prison. FOMM provided funds to record their music. While they are not professional groups, the joy of singing about their freedom in Christ is evident. We call them the "Freedom Singers". A DVD of these groups will be given to everyone who makes a donation to the Prison Ministry Program. We hope, with an increase in gifts to FOMM, we will be able to expand this evangelism ministry to more prisons each year. The Madagascar Ministry of Justice continually asks us to begin this ministry in additional prisons. The cost for each prison per year averages \$3,000.00.

Story 4: Bringing Water to the Dry Soil to Grow Food

The Drip Irrigation Program is the newest FOMM mission project. The people of the south west part of Madagascar suffer from the lack of food, some estimate this happens four out of five years. FOMM has started two teaching centers, Ejeda Hospital and Manasoa Bible School, to teach people how to manage a drip irrigation system. This will provide enough quality food for a family even during severe periods of drought. After a person is trained they will be given a system. While we were not able to visit either of these sites, we visited the Patrakala Company in Antananarivo to see how the system works. We have hired this company to train the leaders of the program at Ejeda and Manasoa. We also purchase from them the drip irrigation kits that we use and give to the people.

Special Giving

1) Remembrance Gifts

(May through August, 2018)

In Honor Of: \$ 875.00

Morris and Bonnie Vaagenes

Dale and Andy Arnold's 50th Anniversary
David and Diane Lerseth's 50th Anniversary

In Memory of: \$9,250.00

Nordis Christenson
Rev. Roger Ose

Joanne Negstad
Richard Biehl
Robert Vaughn
Major Karl Bakke

2) Garage Sale for FOMM: \$866.00

Given By

Les and Val Ellingson
(Carrington, ND)
Ted and Catherine Marks
(Eden Prairie, MN)

3) Sale of Items Made in the Prison Ministry Program at 4 Events: \$1,313.50

Given By

Robert and Suzanne Zapolski
Nancy Godfrey
Dan and Carol Schlevensky
Lowell and Ellen Satre
Al and Phoebe Bergh
Morris and Bonnie Vaagenes
Jan and Lynne Gasterland
Chloe Ashley
Ted and Catherine Marks
Del and Florence Smallfield

Given by

Morris and Bonnie Vaagenes
Claudia Forsberg
John and Diane Hetzler
David and Diane Lerseth
Pyllis Soosai
Carl and Ruth Vaagenes
Mark Walters
Marian Vaughn
Gladys Biehl
Marian Vaughn
Morris and Bonnie Vaagenes



Pastor David Lerseth stands by a water reservoir plastic bag that stores water for a large drip irrigation system. Smaller bags or buckets are used for single family systems."

Seeking Volunteers

Contact FOMM if you are interested.

- 1. AMBASSADORS:** Individuals to represent FOMM by telling the story to family, friends, congregations. You will receive quarterly news updates and publicity information.
- 2. GRANT WRITER:** An individual who will help FOMM receive grant money. This person could be a volunteer or paid.
- 3. DONATIONS OF COMPUTERS/PRINTERS:** We will receive used equipment or a gift of money to purchase new equipment for use in Madagascar.
- 4. PLAN A FUND RISER:** Raise awareness of FOMM's mission and ministry through a mission night/meal, a garage sale, a walk or bike ride to raise funds, sell items made in the Prison Ministry Program, etc.

Mission Education Trip(s) 2019

Our trips are different than the normal mission trips. We do not go to Madagascar to do projects. We go there to learn about the faith life of the Malagasy Lutheran Church. We visit with them, we worship with them, we pray with them, we eat with them, we learn about their mission and ministry and needs. We hear stories of their Christian faith that challenge us to come back home and ask, "What may I do in my church and community that will bring people to a dynamic faith of believing and serving." If you would like to experience this life changing Mission Education Trip, please contact us.



If you shop on Amazon, The Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers. **FOMM's unique Amazon Smile link is <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/27-2312947>**



FRIENDS of
**MADAGASCAR
MISSION**

P. O. Box 46381
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Non-Profit Org
US Postage
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Permit No. 1

WHO ARE WE?

We are a Christian mission organization, incorporated as a nonprofit with approval by the IRS, with a eight-member board of directors consisting of Lutheran pastors and laypersons. All financial gifts are tax deductible, and donors will receive regular reports on the progress of the project you support.

Welcome to our mission!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rev. Tim P. Larson, President
Rev. David P. Lerseth, Vice President
Catherine Marks, Secretary
Kirsten Schlicht, Treasurer
Loren Morshen
Rev. Paul L. Knudson
Craig T. Norenberg
Rev. Morris Vaagenes

WAYS TO SUPPORT FRIENDS OF MADAGASCAR MISSION (FOMM)

- **Charitable IRA Distributions:** If you have an IRA and you like the idea of saving taxes and supporting FOMM, you may give an IRA rollover gift that does not count as taxable income. Contact your financial adviser for details on how you may make this gift.
- **Thrivent Choice Dollars: Dollars** If you have qualifying Thrivent annuities and/or insurance products, you will accumulate Choice Dollars to designate to FOMM. Call 1-800-847-4836 or visit www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice on how to designate these gifts to FOMM.
- **FOMM's Endowment Fund:** The total in our endowment fund as of March 31, 2018, is \$110,021.33. Gifts of any size will help support and strengthen our mission and ministry.

YOUR GIFT MEANS WE CAN CONTINUE TO EXPAND GOD'S MISSION IN MADAGASCAR.

YES, I WISH TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH A GIFT OF (Circle one) \$25.00 \$50.00 \$100.00 OTHER AMOUNT \$ _____

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

☐ I have enclosed a check

☐ I have made a gift on FOMM's website

☐ I would like to make a gift to FOMM's Endowment Fund

☐ I would like receive information about making a gift from my IRA, will or estate.

Friends of Madagascar Mission: PO Box 46381, Eden Prairie, MN 55344

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