



# FRIENDS of MADAGASCAR MISSION

Vol 6:1

Fall 2017

## 123 Baptized at Pentecost Event!

*"...I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to save those who believe."*  
(Romans 1:16)

From the small village of Ambatomanga comes a story of PENTECOST. A story of the grace and love of God towards the lost. This village is in the south central part of Madagascar among the Bara tribe who hold strongly to their costumes and culture, including demon possession and witchcraft. Two FOMM supported evangelists visited this village. There were no believers but they taught about a God who loved them so much that he gave his life to save them.

The evangelists knew there is not a heart so hard that the Gospel cannot break it down. The end result was that the people of Ambatomanga repented and wanted to be baptized. In the next day they saw a great miracle and harvest. The seeds produced fruits. One hundred and twenty three Barra tribe people surrendered to Christ and were baptized.

The church in this village continues to grow. They are worshiping, sharing the Gospel and being the light among the darkness. An evangelist is now living full time in their village and ministering to the needs of the people. (Read the full story about the village of Ambatomanga on FOMM's website: [www.madagascarmission.org](http://www.madagascarmission.org) under the "Update and Prayer Items," May 19, 2017, entry.



*One hundred and twenty-three men, women and children were baptized November 19, 2016.*

## FRIENDS OF MADAGASCAR MISSION (FOMM): A GROWING MISSION

Dear Friends of Madagascar Mission:

We are growing because individuals and congregations experience our goals about global mission:

1. We are all about supporting a spirit-led, Christ-centered mission that reaches out with the love of Christ by ministering to the spiritual and physical needs of people.
2. 100% of the donations go to the mission work of FOMM. Nothing is taken out of a donor's gift to pay for our administrative costs.
3. Donors receive regular updates on the programs they support.

The articles in this newsletter share with you the story of FOMM's growth. We encourage you to continue supporting FOMM's mission or become a supporter. Peace in Christ! The Rev. David P. Lerseth, President.



*Prisoners receiving Bibles at their confirmation.*

## PRISON MINISTRY ADDS MORE SITES FOR MINISTRY

There are 80 prisons in Madagascar. That is a large number of prisons for a country of 24 million people. Various prison ministries have been working throughout Madagascar in the Malagasy Lutheran Church. In 2011 FOMM became involved in supporting a prison ministry that had roots through Hope Lutheran Church in Antananarivo. Today we have expanded to support 10 prison ministry programs in the capital city and throughout the country. Our goal is to add at least three prison ministries each year as funds are available. Each prison ministry site reaches out to involve the congregations located in the prison city. The congregations provide pastoral services and also the laity help with the worship, teaching and humanitarian services to the prisoners. The Malagasy Department of Justice enthusiastically supports the prison ministry program and encourages beginning additional prison ministry sites. In 2017 FOMM began to support a Vocational Training Program in the prisons, as the Department of Justice does not provide such a program in any prison.

**Cost: The average cost to open a new prison ministry is \$3,000. Ongoing support for additional years to maintain the ministry is also needed.**

## EVANGELISTS NOW SERVING IN THREE SYNODS

In 2011, Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM) began supporting 3 evangelists in the Betroka Synod. In 2013 we began supporting evangelists in the Betroka Synod and in August of 2017 we began support evangelists in the Ambovombe Androy Synod. God has blessed this program as today we are supporting 44 evangelists. The impact of this program is included in the story on the front page of this newsletter.

**Cost: \$600.00 for one year's salary to support an evangelist and family. An extra \$100 may be given to provide funds for an evangelist's continuing education.**

## TANDROY BIBLE PROJECT Bringing the Gospel to a New Region of Madagascar

Steve Lellelid has spent 16 years translating the Bible into the Tandroy dialect. The Tandroy tribe members do not accept the official Malagasy language and so they have not been able to hear the Word of God and come to faith in Jesus Christ. While we wait to have the Bibles printed, Steve has established a series of educational learning centers to teach people how to read the Tandroy dialect. When the Bibles and hymn books are printed, they will be available for the Tandroy people so they can read and hear God's Word.

**Cost: Estimate of printing, shipping and distribution of the Bibles is \$100,000.00. To date we have received \$80,000.00.**

## ADDITIONAL BIBLE SCHOOL SUPPORTED BY FOMM

The Malagasy Lutheran Church has numerous Bible Schools throughout 24 synods. In 2015 FOMM began to support the Manasoa and Betroka Synod Bible Schools. In 2017 we added the Manantely Bible School. The Bible Schools train evangelists through a two year program of Biblical, historical and practical studies. Following graduation, the students will be assigned to live in a village and reach out with the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (See the story on page one as an example of their work.)

**Cost: \$12,000.00 a year**





## DRIP IRRIGATION PROGRAM

### Bringing Hope—Feeding One Family at a Time

The southern part of Madagascar is the poorest part of the country, with 90% of the population earning less than \$2 per day. In addition they face the constant threat of a drought.

Here are some alarming statistics about the region: 1) 80% of the crops are expected to fail, 2) In desperation they eat the seeds intended for the next planting, 3) 47% of the people in this region face food shortage crisis 4) children under five suffer from acute malnutrition and the rate is expected to worsen every year and 5) 60% of the population lives in extreme poverty with the vast majority living in rural areas, like the dry, drought-affected south.

FOMM has been working for two years to begin a Drip Irrigation Program to help teach a new technique for raising food to sustain a family with enough vegetables to have a healthy diet through the periods of drought. We will begin this program in the fall.

**Cost: \$5,000.00 for the first year**

## WAYS TO BECOME INVOLVED WITH FOMM

**Serve as a FOMM Ambassador** Help to raise awareness of FOMM in churches, family and friendships. You will receive regular FOMM updates and materials.

**Serve as a Grant Writer** (As a volunteer or paid) There are many grants that FOMM may apply for to strengthen our work.

### Learn First Hand About FOMM's Mission

- 1) Invite FOMM to visit your congregation and
- 2) A mission trip is being planned for early 2018.

**If interested in any of the above "Become Involved" items, please contact FOMM.**

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM)

Phone: 847-445-8177

FriendsOfMadagascarMission@gmail.com

www.MadagascarMission.org

## EJEDA HOSPITAL, NUTRITION & MEDICAL PROGRAMS

### Responding to Growing Hunger Needs

Ejeda Hospital is located in south west Madagascar. "Since 2013, Madagascar has been experiencing a prolonged and deepening drought, particularly in the south. This crisis has left over one million people without enough food to eat, forcing them into increasingly desperate actions to survive." (USAID report)

In Africa, hospital patient families are responsible to provide the food for those hospitalized. When a family suffers food shortages they do not bring a sick family member to Ejeda. FOMM's Nutrition Program provides food to those families, an encouragement to bring a sick family member for medical help.

When the number of families requiring food assistance increases, FOMM has a Nutrition Emergency Program to provide food for the increased need. Also, these same families do not have enough money to pay for the medical care. Again, FOMM has a Medical Emergency Program to assist paying for their medical care.

**Cost: Our budget seeks to raise \$8,400 for the Ejeda Nutrition Program annually. The Emergency Nutrition and Medical Programs will use as much funds as are given.**

**There is no limit to the need.**

### SPECIAL GIVING – January through August 2017

**1) Thrivent Choice Gifts (10 donors) \$ 970.00**

**2) Remembrance Gifts \$3,195.00**

In Memory of	Given by
Charlotte Rimmereid	Carl and Ruth Vaagenes
	Morris and Bonnie Vaagenes
Hazel Tweit	Sadie Engelstad
	James and Caroline Peterson
Sonja Halverson	David and Lois Halverson
	Morris and Bonnie Vaagnes
Rev. Ted Berkas	Arlene Lellelid
	Diana and John Hetzler
	Carl and Ruth Vaagenes
	Annette Baker
	Phyllis and Joseph Soosa
	Peter and Judith Dyrud
	Robert and Suzanne Zapolski
	Memorials given through the
	Berkas Family
	David and Diane Lerseth

Ruth Engelstad	
Mick Hogan	
Lanny Marlenee	
Bill Thorndal	Arlene Lellelid
Sigurd & Sylvia Bjelde	James and Marc Bjelde Trust

### In Honor of

David & Diane Alvin & Phoebe Bergh  
Lerseth's Birthdays

**3) Easter Appeal (21 gifts) \$2,075.00**



FRIENDS of  
**MADAGASCAR  
MISSION**

P. O. Box 46381  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

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**WHO ARE WE?**

We are a Christian mission organization, incorporated as a nonprofit with approval by the IRS, with a nine-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!**  
**The Rev. David P. Lerseth, President**

**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](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice) on how to designate these gifts to FOMM.
- **FOMM's Endowment Fund:** The total in our endowment fund as of June 30, 2017 is \$100,022.97. 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) \$6.00    \$26.00    \$101.00    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 to receive information about making a gift from my IRA, will or estate.

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

**Phone:** 847-44508177 • **Email:** [FriendsOfMadagascarMission@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfMadagascarMission@gmail.com) • **Website:** [FriendsOfMadagascarMission.org](http://FriendsOfMadagascarMission.org)