



FRIENDS of MADAGASCAR MISSION

Vol 2:2

May 2013



Cyclone, Locusts, Hunger– Describes the Crisis in Madagascar: How May I Help?

Cyclone: In February 2013 Madagascar experienced destruction from Cyclone Haruna, especially in S. W. Madagascar. The flooding from the cyclone destroyed the rice crops, homes churches and human life. In addition, the cyclone created ideal breeding conditions for a locust infestation.

Locusts: In March a locust infestation (picture above) threatened all replanted crops and livestock grazing lands. The United Nations has described the locust infestation in Biblical proportions. The locust plague is threatening the livelihoods of 13 million people who earn a living from agriculture.

Hunger: A farmer described his situation, "Cyclone Haruna destroyed my crops. I sold two of my cattle to purchase seeds to replant my crops. Now the locusts are destroying those plants and I have to sell my remaining cattle to provide food for my family." In this poor region of S. W. Madagascar where most of the people live on less than \$1.00 per day, 70% of the people are now suffering from a lack of enough food.

How May I Help? We welcome your financial gifts to provide food for people in this region of Madagascar. The funds will be distributed through the Ejeda Nutrition Program which is located in S. W. Madagascar at Ejeda Hospital.

Gifts may be sent to: **Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM)**
Attn: Emergency Food Relief Program
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

FRIENDS OF MADAGASCAR MISSION UPDATES

Ministry, Mission, Madagascar: A Pilgrimage of Hope!

This is the theme of our mission trip from June 4 through the 19th. In our individual and congregation's ministry we reach out in mission to the people of Madagascar! We will visit the mission programs that FOMM supports: Prison Ministry (visiting several prisons), Evangelist Program (participate in the annual evangelist training conference sponsored by FOMM), and consulting with the personnel from Ejeda Hospital who supervise the Nutrition Program (where the results of Cyclone Haruna and the locust infestation are causing food shortages).

We encourage you to remember us in your prayers during our Pilgrimage of Hope. We will send out a daily blog report. You may access the blog at <http://ministrymissionmadagascar.wordpress.com>.

VBS Offerings

If your congregation is looking for a place to send your VBS offerings or Sunday School offerings, FOMM has set up a VBS – Sunday School Fund to support an evangelist in Madagascar. The annual cost for an evangelist is \$600.00. We will send everyone who supports this fund information on the evangelist, photos of him and his family, and updates as they are provided to us.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Individuals or congregations who have qualifying Thrivent financial investment products accumulate Choice Dollars. These Choice Dollars may be assigned by qualifying members to an approved participating organization. Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM) is an approved organization that qualifies for receiving these funds. If you are a qualifying Thrivent member, please consider designating them to Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM). Visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice or phone 1-800-847-4836 to designate your Choice Dollars.

Receive FOMM'S Emergency Updates and Prayer Requests

We occasionally send out alerts on the mission and ministry in Madagascar. We would like to include your email to our list. Please send us your church or individual email address by sending us an email at FriendsOfMadagascarMission@gmail.com

ODDS AND ENDS

- Link your congregation's web site to the Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM) web site (www.MadagascarMission.org).
- If you have an interest in serving as a missionary in Madagascar, either for a few weeks, several months or longer, please contact us about your interest. We will assist you in finding the appropriate mission agencies in Madagascar and in the United States that can make your prayerful dreams become a reality.
- The 2013 Friends of Madagascar Mission audit report is now posted on our web site.

PROJECT UPDATES

Prison Ministry

Financial Need: \$30,000 a year (\$2,500 a month)

Each week the Prison Ministry Team visits five prisons (men, woman, and youth prisons). The theme of their ministry is from John 8:36 *"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."* and from John 10:10 *"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have [it] more abundantly."* The team leads worship, baptizes teaches confirmation classes, provides counseling and distributes Bibles, food and medicine.



The Prison Ministry results in many prisoners requesting to be baptized.

Ejeda Hospital Nutrition Program

Financial Need: \$8,400.00 a year (\$700.00 a month)

Ejeda Hospital is located in the midst of the destruction from Cyclone Haruna in February and the current locust infestation. The need for distribution of food to the hungry has risen dramatically as a result of these two natural disasters. Besides the \$700 a month FOMM seeks to provide for the Nutrition Program during normal times, FOMM is also receiving extra gifts to support the increased demand for food. These are very difficult times and our prayer is that congregations and individuals will provide extra support so the suffering people of Madagascar may have food.



Devastation is the only word to describe the destruction to homes, churches, crops and loss of human lives in S.W. Madagascar .

Evangelists

Financial Need: \$600 per evangelist (\$50 a month)

Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM) currently provides financial support for 19 Malagasy evangelists. Our goal is to support 25 evangelists. An evangelist has a two year degree from a Bible School and is then assigned to move into a community without a church. They serve on the frontlines of reaching out to those who have not heard the message of God's love through Jesus Christ. They are supervised by neighboring pastors.



The evangelists at the 2012 training event.

Each year in June, FOMM pays for an Evangelist Training Retreat. This year the FOMM mission trip participants will attend the training event. It will be a wonderful time to celebrate our mission and ministry together with the evangelists, supervising pastors and Malagasy Lutheran Church leaders.



Our Guarantee

Friends of Madagascar Mission has a unique, fresh, approach to being a mission organization. We are on the FRONT LINES OF MISSION, with a fresh approach to making sure your financial gifts are used as the donor intended.

- 1) **100% of your gift goes towards the mission project you choose to support.**
- 2) **We do not ship anything to 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.**

Who Are We?

We are a Christian mission organization, incorporated as a nonprofit with approval by the IRS as a 501(c)3 organization managed by a seven-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.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM)
PO Box 46381 • Eden Prairie, MN 55344
Phone: 847-445-8177
FriendsOfMadagascarMission@gmail.
com • www.MadagascarMission.org

Welcome to our mission!

The Rev. David P. Lerseth, President

Friends of Madagascar Mission

P. O. Box 46381

Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Non-Profit Org
US Postage Paid
Libertyville, IL
Permit No. 1