



FRIENDS of MADAGASCAR MISSION

P.O. Box 46381

2019 Annual Report

Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Dear Friends of Madagascar Mission,

You helped us reach our 2019 mission support goals! I am proud to report that for all ten years of our existence we have met our budget promises to the mission and ministry programs we support in Madagascar. Thank you for your faithful support of FOMM. This 2019 Annual Report will report to you the marvelous work that you are doing in Madagascar through your support.

Thanks!

PEACE IN CHRIST!

The Rev. David P. Lerseth, Executive Director of FOMM

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FOMM's 10th Anniversary

Friends of Madagascar Mission was legally constituted as a nonprofit organization by the State of Minnesota on December 29, 2009. The first gift of support was received on March 31, 2010 in the amount of \$1,000.00. The first year we received total of \$7,439.00 (\$3,255.00 from individuals and \$4,184.00 from congregations). At the end of 2019 we received \$186,402.00 with a cumulative giving over the last ten years of \$1,253,415.00. The value of funds raised and given in these past ten year is what God has been able to accomplish through the programs of evangelism and improving people's quality of life. **May it all be to the glory of God!**

The FOMM Board of Directors has appointed a committee to plan a series of events around the country to celebrate FOMM's 10th anniversary. At these events we will show two videos: 1) A video that was produced by the Malagasy National TV. It tells the story of the work of the 50 FOMM supported evangelists in the south west of Madagascar. 2) Also, with the help of a media major at Crown College at Saint Bonifacius, we will be making a short video to commemorate Friends of Madagascar's 10th anniversary. The theme for the anniversary is: **"2020 VISION"**. Details will be made public in late winter, early spring through our Spring Newsletter and on our web page.



Pastor Lerseth and the leaders of the Malagasy Lutheran Church's synods that FOMM relates to: Pastor Lerseth, the three synod presidents and the 3 evangelist coordinators.

Content

Evangelist Program - page 2

Prison Ministry - page 3

Bible School Program - page 3 & 4

Ejeda Nutrition Program - page 4

Drip Irrigation - page 5

Tandroy Bible Program - page 5

Audit and Special Programs page 6

Special Giving - page 7 & 8

IN MADAGASCAR “EVANGELISM” IS NOT THE NAME OF A COMMITTEE!

It is refreshing to walk together with the Malagasy Lutheran Church and learn from them about how they live out mission and ministry in daily life. Everything is about EVANGELISM! It is not having a committee assigned to do something and to just talk about it month after month or year after year and never implementing or doing EVANGELISM.

What is the definition of EVANGELISM? It is the commitment to publicly share the message and teachings of Jesus Christ. Evangelism is not a Biblical word, but a word used to describe the biblically defined work of an evangelist! Also, it is not a method or a program.

How does one do EVANGELISM? Let's not make it difficult, let's not isolate it into a committee, let's just realize as they do in Madagascar that each person is called through the Gospel to share the Good News of Jesus Christ where ever, when ever and how ever one is able. American culture and even our laws work to place fear in us that we cannot share our Christian faith with others. The Bible tells us: *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes...* Romans 1:16 There are so many ways, places and times that we can share this precious gift of faith with others.

Lesson learned: We do not only give financial and prayer support to the Malagasy Lutheran Church, but we as donors learn from them. This is the joy of being in partnership with other Christians around the world. Thank you, the Malagasy Lutheran Church for sharing with us how to live out our faith in America!

Evangelism Programs Supported by FOMM

Evangelists:

The first FOMM evangelist, RAZAFIMANDIMBY Tody, was sponsored by Singsaas Lutheran Church, Hendricks, MN on January of 2011. Two additional evangelists also began sponsorship in 2011, Faith Lutheran Church of Monona, IA and Hosanna Lutheran Church of Watertown, SD. In 2012 two more evangelists were supported by David and Diane Lerseth of Victoria, MN and Trinity Lutheran Church in Carrington, ND. All 5 of these sponsors continue to support their evangelist each year. Sponsors continue to be added each year: In 2013 – 14 evangelists were added; in 2014 -- 2 evangelists; in 2015 -- 4 evangelists; in 2016 -- 7 evangelists; in 2017 – 8 evangelists; in 2018 – 5 evangelists; in 2019 – 5 evangelists; and in 2020 we pray and hope we will be able to add many more sponsors of an evangelist.

The cost per evangelist is \$700.00 (\$600 for an evangelist salary and \$100 for their continuing education budget). FOMM currently supports 50 evangelists in 3 Malagasy Lutheran Church's Synods. These synods request more evangelists and two additional synods have requested evangelists for their synods. Your support of evangelists is needed.

2020 Budget Need for evangelists: \$35,000.00

Additional need: in 2020 more evangelists are requested by the synods in Madagascar! A gift to support an evangelist may be paid annually, monthly, quarterly, etc. Support of an evangelist is a great gift!



RAZAFIMANDIMBY Toby, the first evangelist sponsored by FOMM is supported by Singsaas Lutheran Church, Hendricks, MN in 2011



The most recent evangelist is sponsored by Charles and Pamela Rein of Big Timber, Montana.

Prison Ministry:

The Prison Ministry Program grew out of a local Malagasy congregation's outreach. When one of their members was falsely accused of rape, members of the congregation visited him. Madagascar's judicial system claims a person to be guilty until proven innocent. He was imprisoned for over a year before he had an opportunity to face a judge and argue his defense. The congregation, his family and other Christian friends stood by him and he was acquitted. This man now free, experienced the terrible conditions in the prison: lack of food, lack of sanitation, lack of hope, and long days/weeks/months/years of being imprisoned with no hope of being released from prison soon. After being declared innocent he began this prison ministry. FOMM became connected with the Prison Ministry and has been a faithful sponsor for 10 years.

In 2012 FOMM's support was \$5,000.00 and included 5 prisons in the capital city area of Antananarivo. In 2019 the ministry has grown to 15 prisons, with most of the new ministries spread around the country. There are 83 prisons in Madagascar and the government's Ministry of Justice wants us to expand into more prisons. The average cost for beginning and maintaining a new prison is \$3,000.00 per year.



With the Ministry of Justice's permission FOMM provided seed money to begin a Vocational Program in each prison. The crosses pictured are one of the products that are made by the male prisoners. The baskets, place mats and trivets are made by the women prisoners. All of these items are sold in Madagascar and also FOMM has them for sale. All the proceeds from the sales goes back to the Prison Ministry to support the Prison Ministry. In 2019 \$1,423.00 was sent back to the Prison Ministry from sales here in the USA.



Pastor Theo leading worship services at one of the 15 active prison ministries supported by FOMM.

2020 Budget Need for Prison Ministry: \$48,000.00

Additional need: In 2020 we would like to begin 3-5 more prison ministries: \$9,000 to \$15,000.00 more is needed.

Bible Schools

In March of 2014 Friends of Madagascar was asked by Renewal International if we would assume responsibility to raise the funds for the support of 3 Bible Schools of the Malagasy Lutheran Church. This was a natural acquisition for FOMM as the Bible Schools train evangelists for the church. It has been a great program for FOMM and we support Mananovy, Manasoa and Manatantely Bible Schools.

Each school has a two year program with a total enrollment normally at each school of around 20 to 25 students. After graduation they are available to be called to serve as an evangelist in the church.



Bible schools continued on Page 4

In October of 2019 children of the Manasoa Bible School greet us during our visit.

(Bible Schools continued)



During our visit to the Manasoa Bible school in October of 2019, the Global Mission Education Trip participants gave the school \$1,250.00 for purchasing an oxen team and a cart, like the team and cart pictured. Riding an oxen cart is like going back in time. It is very slow, but with terrible roads and during the rainy season this mode of transportation is the only way to travel. We were there in the hot season of 113 degrees and we averaged 7 miles an hour for the 240 mile trip through this region traveling in a Toyota Land Rovers.

2020 Budget Need for the three Bible Schools: \$30,500.00

Additional need: In 2020 the schools have requested funds for upkeep and repairs on each of the schools. A family or congregation could become the sponsors of such improvements and even go there to visit and develop a relationship.

Ejeda Nutrition Program: Medical and Food Emergency Fund

Ejeda Hospital was begun as a mission hospital and it still has this role in south west Madagascar. It is a rural area that is located in a very arid region of the country with frequent crop failures due to no rain. The lack of sufficient food is a “forever, persistent and ever present reality”. Children suffer malnutrition that affects them forever. The hospital struggles because patients do not come when they do not have the money to pay for medical care. Also they do not have food to bring for the patient. In Africa the hospitals do not provide food. That is the responsibility of the patient’s family. FOMM’s Nutrition Program encourages patients to come to the hospital by providing food to those who do not have any and also assists with medical costs for patients with the Medical Emergency Fund Program.

It is inspiring to be at the hospital in the morning as patients are welcomed in for treatment. The first order of the day is a welcome and a sharing of the story of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Normally it is led by the doctor in charge of the hospital. The patients know that this is a different kind of place that not only care for the physical needs of the body but also the spiritual needs of the person.

2020 Budget Need for the Ejeda Hospital: \$8,400.00

Additional need: In 2020 we hope and pray to receive funds for supporting the Emergency Funds for additional food and for assisting to pay for the medical costs of patients: \$5,000.00.



On a hot day of 113 degrees, these children at Ejeda Hospital greeted us with smiles a mile wide that touched our hearts and we will never forget. They don’t have much! But they do have the love of God in their hearts!

Drip Irrigation Project

In March of 2014, FOMM agreed to assume responsibility for the Sharing Hope International drip irrigation program in south west Madagascar. It has taken several years to develop the program but we anticipate in 2020 to have the program fully operating. So, what exactly is a drip irrigation program? We have all seen huge irrigation projects in the USA with sprinklers shooting water hundreds of feet across the fields. In Madagascar the system is very simple. The system includes a water tank the size of a 5 gallon tank for a small family plot or maybe a couple hundred gallon tank for a larger system that feeds drip irrigation tubes for a large field. A water tank is approximately 5 feet above the ground and gravity feeding tubes with a small hole every 12 to 16 inches provides drips to the plant itself. Using this type of drip irrigation system can grow quality food, even in an arid environment.

FOMM's Drip Irrigation Program has two teaching locations. One at Manasoa Bible School and one at Ejeda Hospital. We were able to visit both of these places in October. The systems are not yet fully functioning, but they have been experimenting with the system to see how they can most effectively use the program. Following our October visit, they now have all of the equipment needed. At Ejeda they have dug 4 wells and at Manasoa they have laid pipes from a spring so they can pedal pump the water up a hill to a level piece of land where they will grow 2 or 3 vegetable crops each year.

The hope is that the individuals who work in these teaching centers will receive free of charge a family drip irrigation kit. They will be asked to set up their own gardens to raise vegetables. This will become a new way of providing enough food for a family; even during times of severer drought.



A field at the Manasoa Bible School where a drip irrigation project will be established. Water will be pumped up to this hill top from springs below using pedal pumps to fill reservoirs of water that will through gravity flow provide drips of water to the plants.

2020 Budget Need for the Drip Irrigation Project: \$5,000.00

Additional need: In 2020 we hope to purchase a tractor, a disc plow and a wagon for the Ejeda program.

Tandroy Bible Program

In 2019 The Tandroy Bible Program received 20,000 Bibles, printed at Ebenezer Printing Company in Kerala, India and 82,000 hymnals. The people flocked to pick up one of these Bibles so they could read the Word of God in their own dialect. The Bibles are now all distributed among the people in the Tandroy region of southern Madagascar. Currently we are seeking to raise additional funds to print an additional 20,000 Bibles. While we wait for the funding needed to print another 20,000 Bibles, Steve has been reviewing the Tandroy Bible text to correct any errors or grammatical issues. He will continue doing this until the funding is available for printing more Bibles.

Needs in 2020: Gifts of any amount to print 20,000 Bibles.

March 31, 2020 **DEADLINE** to designate your remaining **2019 Choice Dollars**. If you qualify, please consider designating them to FOMM. Visit www.thrivent.com/thriventchoide or call 1-800-847-4836 to designate your Choice Dollars.

Donors! Please send us your email address. We are beginning to send our thank you letters and even our newsletters via email. This will save FOMM hundreds of dollars in postage. We want to spend our funds on MISSION!

FOMM AUDITS FINANCIAL RECORDS

The financial gifts we receive each year from our donors are very much appreciated. To assure that the funds are used for the purposes given, we hire an independent accounting firm: Conway, Deuth and Schmiesing from Willmar, Minnesota to audit/review our financial records. Each year we post a letter stating "that the records are found to be in accordance with accounting principles" on the FOMM web page.



Pastor Lerseth leading a prayer at the beginning of the Book Keeper's Training Event, Toliara, Madagascar on October 22-23.

In 2018 we hired Delta Audit, a Malagasy accounting firm, to audit all of the mission programs that receive funds from FOMM from 2010 through 2017. Their audit report stated that most of the book keepers were not trained in good accounting practices. They also stated that there was no common standard to their reports. As a result FOMM has created a document called: FOMM'S FINANCIAL STANDARDS (A copy of this document is posted on FOMM's web site).

During FOMM's recent Mission Education Trip in October of 2019, during the Evangelist Training Event, we required all book keepers to attend a Book Keepers Training Event. All book keepers were in attendance and the course was taught by RAMANGAVOLOLONA Denise, the leader of the Prison Ministry Program and a person trained in accounting methods. Beginning on January 2020 all programs receiving funds from FOMM will be required to keep records according to these standards or else the funds will be terminated.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

1. Fanjahira --- Manasoa Cemetery

Between 1898 and 1919, twelve missionaries and two children were buried at this cemetery near the Manasoa Bible School. Two additional burials were added in 1937 and 1943. In 2018 Dr. Stanley and Mrs. Kathie



A photo of some of the 14 graves at the cemetery. The people of the village came to join us at the cemetery and we were able to share with them the importance of these graves to us American Christians.

Quanbeck visited the cemetery and reported that many grave markers were broken and the cemetery was not maintained. Relatives of those buried there were contacted and invited to provide funds to repair the cemetery and develop a Fanjahira – Manasoa Cemetery Endowment Fund for the annual maintenance of the cemetery. In October of 2019 we visited the cemetery and held a solemn memorial service in honor of these faithful missionaries who gave their lives in the process of bringing the Christian Faith to this region of Madagascar.

Needs: The repairs to the cemetery are complete and we continue to seek funds for the Fanjahira – Manasoa Cemetery Endowment Fund which FOMM will manage.

2. ROOFS FOR JESUS (The Gathering Place of Believers)

The evangelists who are supported by FOMM are doing an amazing job of witnessing to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Individuals, families and entire villages are coming to faith. When there are enough Christians in a village they want to build a church. They normally use bricks which they make for the walls. They also build a roof system/rafters and weave grass to keep the rain out of the building. They prefer to have a steel roof



A church building awaiting a new steel roof. The members provide the walls, windows, doors, inside furnishings and roof rafters.

but it is very expensive. FOMM has agreed to work to raise funds for roofs of these churches begun by the evangelists.

Needs: The cost of a roof is \$1,200.00. Every donor of a roof will be assigned a specific Malagasy congregation. The project is not just about steel roofs, but also about developing relationships with other Christians in Madagascar.

SPECIAL GIVING 2019

1. Thrivent Choice Dollars		\$ 2,625.00
2. Remembrance Gifts		\$ 12,616.00
<u>In Memory Of</u>	<u>Given By</u>	
Dagny Lerseth	Philip & Edna Lerseth, Al & Phoebe Bergh	
	David and Diane Lerseth	
Wesley Holter	Al & Phoebe Bergh	
Rev. Shelden Torgerson	Paul & Naomi Hanson, Morris & Bonnie Vaagenes	
	Mary Jan Tanghe, George & Lynn Fernstrom	
	Carl & Ruth Vaagenes	
Peter Darchuk	Joyce Lawrence, Al and Phoebe Bergh	
	Chuck and Penny Eidem, Del and Florence Smallfield	
	David and Diane Lerseth	
Dr. Jonathan Torgerson	Carl & Ruth Vaagenes	
Allen & Doris Anderson	Ann Southwick	
David Peterson	David & Diane Lerseth, Chuck & Penny Eidem	
	Barbara and John Wills, Kirsten and Jeff Schlicht	
	Geraldine Peterson, Betty Gieske	
Hazel Braaten	Evelyn Jacobsen	
Kathryn Hayter	Allen & Inga Erdahl	
Lyla Lerseth	Al and Phoebe Bergh	
Linda Jacobson	Luther & Jean Lerseth	
Dr. Merton Strommen	Carl & Ruth Vaagenes	
Vernice Engelstad	James and Carolyn Peterson	
Donna Robertson	Lewann Sotnak	
Deborah Bertinuson	Morris and Bonnie Vaagenes	
Art Rimmereid	Carl & Ruth Vaagenes	
Melvin Krumm	Peace Lutheran, Northwood, IA	
Pastor Richard Gilseth	James and Carolyn Peterson	
Claire Hestermann	David and Diane Lerseth	
Carol Reitz	Arlene Lellelid	
Dale Varberg	Arlene Lellelid	
Pastor Gary Bruns	Florence Bruns	
David Peterson	David & Joan Peterson, Geraldine Peterson	
David Larson	Bethania Lutheran, Rosholt, SD	
Linda Jacobsen	Al and Phoebe Bergh	
David Peterson		
Ruth Kasperson		
Melvin Krumm	Peace Lutheran, Northwood, IA	
Dagny Lerseth	Ken and Barbara Hand	
Helena Darchuk	David & Diane Lerseth	
Florence Brun		
Larry Pritts		
Helen Weum	Delores Berkas	
<u>In Honor Of</u>		
Florence Bruns' 100 th Birthday		
Arlene Lellelid's 90 th	Evelyn Jacobsen	
Glennys Thormodsgaard	Carl & Ruth Vaagenes	
Dr. J David Nelson	Carl & Ruth Vaagenes	
David & Diane Lerseth's 50 th	Kirsten & Jeff Schlicht	
Morris Vaagenes's 90 th birthday	Norman and Evangeline Hagfors	
3. Church Endowment Funding	St Andrew, Eden Prairie, MN	\$ 10,000.00
4. Prison Ministry Vocational Training Items (100% to the Prison Ministry)		\$ 2,006.00
5. Fanjahira – Manasoa Cemetery Repair/restoration		\$ 5,000.00
6. Bicycle Fund for 48 Evangelists		\$ 5,773.91
7. FOMM Endowment Fund Balance as of December 31, 2019 (\$3,000.00 gift in 2019)		\$115,721.49

DONATION PROJECTS: Currently we are seeking used or new laptop computers to donate to mission programs in Madagascar. Contact us if you wish to donate them.

FOMM Mission Education Trip: The best way in understand Global Mission is to see it in action. Contact us if you are interested in this opportunity. Plans currently are for later June through mid-July in 2020.



FRIENDS of
**MADAGASCAR
MISSION**

P. O. Box 46381
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

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!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

**2019
Annual
Report**

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. Deadline to apply 2019 designated Choice Dollars is March 31, 2020.
- **FOMM's Endowment Fund:** The total in our endowment fund as of Dec. 31, 2019 is \$115,721.49. 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

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