



FRIENDS of MADAGASCAR MISSION

P.O. Box 46381

2018 Annual Report

Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Dear Friends of Madagascar Mission,

Thank you for your support of FOMM! Without you, we would not exist because you fund and own this organization. The purpose of your organization is: TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR GOD'S GLOBAL MISSION IN MADAGASCAR. And so, this annual report provides information about what your gifts have accomplished in 2018.

- + 221 donors made 427 contributions for a total of \$179,347.00.
- + Donor gifts were given by: individuals, congregations, national church bodies, Thrivent Choice Dollars, foundations, service clubs and cash donations.
- + On October 17, 2018 FOMM reached \$1,000,000.00 in giving since our humble beginnings in 2010. In addition the good news is that every dollar received in the history of FOMM has been given to mission projects in Madagascar.
- + Contributions from individual donors increased by 57% over 2017 and the value of those contributions was more than double that of 2017. This helped to offset the reduction in donations from congregations during 2018.
- + About 25% of our contributions are given in the month of December and 4% are given in the month of July.
- + What does our giving mean for mission and ministry in Madagascar? After reading this report, please pray how you may help FOMM grow in its mission. May we suggest: encouraging others to become supporters (family, friends, congregations), participate in a Mission Education Trip to Madagascar, increase your giving, help FOMM identify individuals who may join our work team, etc.

The purpose of this report is to thank you and inspire your continuing support of mission!

PEACE IN CHRIST!

The Rev. David P. Lerseth, Executive Director

FriendsOfMadagascarMission@gmail.com

www.MadagascarMission.org

847-445-8177



Teaching people to read, so they will be able to read the Bible (see p. 6 for more details).

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Prison Ministry Program



A prisoner, serving year 32 of a 33 year sentence for stealing and selling cattle gave this witness to us about the work of the Prison Ministry Program during our visit in July of 2018:

"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."

Total 2018 Financial Support Sent: \$48,000.00

2019 Budget: \$48,000.00

Description of the Prisons in Madagascar: In Madagascar there are 82 prisons. The legal system in Madagascar is modeled after the French judicial system which means you are guilty until proven innocent, the opposite of the American legal system. The prisons are crowded, dirty, polluted and disease infected. Prisons built to hold 150 are over populated with 1,000 or more prisoners. The government feeds the prisoners cassava which is a starchy root vegetable that provides limited nutrition benefits. They also do not have any programs to help rehabilitate the prisoners.

Goal of the Prison Ministry Program: In the love of Christ the Prison Ministry Program bring hope, love and compassion to men, women and youth prisons. Currently 12 of the 82 prisons in Madagascar are being served with a ministry that includes: worship services, music groups (a free DVD of these groups called "Freedom Singers" is available with every gift to this ministry), vocational training programs, confirmation, counseling, nutritious food distribution, Bibles, medical supplies, clothing and God's love. Each of the 12 prison ministries are served with local pastors and a local congregation's "Shepherds" (a ministry renewal program) providing the ministry. FOMM pays for the material costs of the program.

Analysis: Since 2016 we have not increased this budget. FOMM is very cautious about not promising funds unless we can fulfill our commitment. Thus no additional prisons have been added to our budget in the past 3 years. **The average cost to add a prison ministry is \$1,000.00 annually. There are 3 prisons selected to be added as the funds become available.**

Bible School Program



Students and families at the Mananovy Bible School.

Total 2018 Financial Support Sent: \$30,500.00

2019 Budget: \$30,500.00

Description of the Schools of the Malagasy Lutheran Church: The Malagasy Lutheran Church has three Biblical objectives for the church: 1) Evangelism: Inviting people to Faith in Jesus Christ. 2) Social Ministry: Living out our faith in serving others in their physical, spiritual and emotional needs. 3) Leadership Development: Preparing individuals to serve the ministry and mission of the church. The Malagasy Lutheran Church provides for primary and

secondary schools, schools for the blind and hearing impaired, farm school, 8 Bible Schools, 6 regional seminaries and one seminary that offers a master's degree in theology. (Continued on page 3)

Goal of the Bible School Program: The Bible Schools provide a two year program with studies in Old and New Testament, Church History, Lutheran Doctrine, Christian Ethics, Stewardship, Leadership Development, Malagasy Natural Religion and How to Witness. A graduate of this program may serve as a catechist (teacher) in a congregation or as an evangelist (sharing the faith to non-Christians).

Analysis: The Bible Schools are essential for the church's evangelism program. We currently support 3 Bible Schools (Mananovy, Manantately and Manasoa) and have another Bible School which has requested support.

The cost of operating a Bible School averages \$1,000.00 per month.

The Bible Schools have a campus atmosphere with class room buildings, chapel, family housing and gardens to grow vegetables. Each school has an average of 25 students plus their family members. Each schools also has needs for additional buildings, improvements to existing buildings, solar lighting and educational supplies. The staff normally incudes 3 teachers, a president, a business manager and a grounds keeper. Upon graduation they are assigned to serve for an annual wage of \$600.00 per month.

Evangelist Program

Total 2018 Financial Support Sent: \$30,100.00



2019 Budget: \$31,500.00

Description of the Evangelist Program: Evangelism, reaching out with the Gospel message of Jesus Christ is the basic goal and purpose of the Malagasy Lutheran Church. They describe evangelism in this way: "We are to be in the forefront of life by preaching of the Gospel and confronting the worship of idols and traditions and beliefs that contradict the message of the Gospel." It is this powerful conviction that empowers them to send evangelists into the regions of Madagascar where the Gospel has not been heard or believed.

Goal of the Evangelist Program: The trained evangelists are called and sent to a specific village within the synods of the church to live and share the Gospel. Sometimes they are driven out of a village by witch doctors and unbelievers. Their work consists of traveling to other villages to share the Gospel message. In 2018, as a result of their work, 1,666 individuals were baptized (Children 845 and Adults 821). In one of the synods they reported that the evangelists in 2018 visited 869 villages and within those villages they visited 2,545 houses. There are amazing stories of 151, 125, 43, 25 etc. people being baptized on one weekend within a village.

Analysis: Currently in 2018 we have supported 43 evangelists. This program is always fully funded by faithful, loyal congregations and individuals who are assigned to support a specific evangelist at \$700.00 a year.



The photo of 151 who were baptized in the village of Ambatomanga. Read the full story on FOMM's web site.

Some of our sponsors have been supporting an evangelist from the beginnings of FOMM in 2010. Each year we add a few more sponsors who receive a name of an evangelist, a photo, normally one letter a year and at least one report a year of their evangelists work. We are supporting evangelists in three synods (there are 25 synods) and another synod has submitted a proposal for FOMM's support of evangelists in their synod. The need is

great. **We have a request for around 50 more evangelist! Can you assist us in growing the support for more evangelists?**

Ejeda Nutrition Program and Emergency Food/Medical Fund

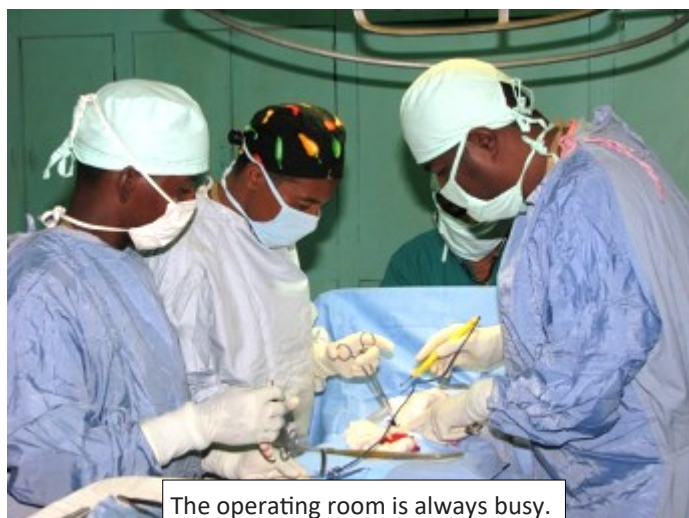
Total 2018 Financial Support Sent: \$8,400.00 plus \$1,000.00 for Emergency Medical Program

2019 Budget: \$8,400.00 plus free will gifts to the Emergency Food/Medical Program

Description of the Ejeda Hospital Program: The Ejeda Hospital is located on twenty-five hectares (1 hectare is equal to 2.47 acres) of land that was given by the local people and the Maroseragnagna King in the late 1950s/early 1960s, to the Lutheran Mission and Malagasy Christians, for the purpose of helping villagers deal with their own healthcare needs. The name "Ejeda" actually comes from the name of a local king, Re-joda. In the 1970s, teams of Malagasy nurses made monthly visits into twenty-five villages of the area, bringing vaccines, doing nutritional counseling with parents of borderline and overtly malnourished five year olds, and sitting in dialogue about basic health and sanitation issues. Ejeda thus was established as a "mission hospital" for the purpose of providing medical treatment to the local people and also sharing the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Goal of the Ejeda Nutrition and Emergency Food and Medical Programs: Due to the severe cycles of drought and crop failures in the Ejeda region (3 out of 4 years there are no crops), the people do not come to the hospital for medical treatment during these times. The reason is that families must provide the food for the patients. Also, they do not have money to pay for medical services. The Friends of Madagascar Mission Emergency Food and Medical Programs assists the hospital during these frequent times of drought.

Analysis: We budget for the Nutrition Program each year and that meets the needs at Ejeda for a year with crops. The funds for the Emergency Food and Medical Program are not budgeted and are dependent upon extra budgetary gifts. **The funds received for the Emergency Fund are usually not adequate and we Encourage congregations and individuals to give to this fund, as a World Hunger need!**



The operating room is always busy.



The women's ward at Ejeda Hospital.

DEADLINE to designate 2018 Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thrivent members have until March 31, 2019 to designate any remaining 2018 Choice Dollars. If you qualify, please consider designating them to Friends of Madagascar Mission. Visit www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 1-800-847-4836. Those who have already done so, thank you!



Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase to FOMM when you log on to **FOMM's** unique Amazon Smile link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/27-2312947>

Drip Irrigation Program



A water reservoir used for the Drip Irrigation Program.

Total 2018 Financial Support Sent: \$5,000.00

2019 Budget: \$8,000.00

Description of the Drip Irrigation Program:

The south west part of Madagascar, the area where many of our programs are located, is a very arid region where hunger and starvation is common. We are responding to the pleas and needs of the people to help them have an adequate food supply every year. (Read the Ejeda Hospital Report on page 4 to understand more about the effects of drought in this region.)

The drip irrigation system is very simple, requiring only a large bucket, a handmade stand to

hold the bucket and 100 meters of rubber drip hose. The field where the system is installed needs to have a fence surrounding it to keep animals out and the bucket of water needs to be filled daily depending upon the temperature, etc. The cost for these items is \$25.00 and normally should last for 3 to 4 years.

Goal of the Drip Irrigation Program: We have established two training centers to teach the people how to operate the program at Ejeda Hospital and at the Manosoa Bible School. A staff person at each institution has been assigned to manage the program and teach people how to care for the gardens. We give a Drip Irrigation Kit to everyone who goes through the training and provide some follow up supervision to be sure they maintain their gardens and enjoy the food grown for their families.

Analysis: Life in Madagascar is very difficult when compared to our life style in America. We expect immediate results and receive them from electronic communication, ordering items for delivery to our homes, picking up ready-made food, flipping a switch and the heat or cooling comes on, etc. None of this describes life in Madagascar. I share this thought with you because the Drip Irrigation Program has not been fully established as we had planned. It is not because they are not motivated. It is because it is hard to get all the parts of the program in place. It will happen, but on Malagasy time, and not by our American time table. So, we invite you to pray that the program will move forward in 2019.



Vegetables in a Drip Irrigation garden.

JOB OPENINGS: grant writer, office manager, development coordinator. Contact us for details.

DONATIONS: Lap top computers, new or used to donate to ministries in Madagascar

The Printing of the Tandroy Bible and Hymnal



Copies of the Tandroy Bible, large hymnals and pocket hymnal.

Total 2018 Financial Support Sent: \$92,100.00

2019 Budget: Gracious, continuing support for distribution and teaching expenses

Description of the Tandroy Bible and Hymnal Program: Steve Lellelid spent 18 years translating the Bible into the Tandroy dialect. The next goal was to find a printing company to produce a quality Bible. We had been working with the China Christian Council (one of 5 officially accepted religions in China) printing facility in Nanjing, China, but they would not give us a printing bid. As our hopes for printing with them was not producing results, we became aware of the Ebenezer Printing Company in Kerala, India (a Christian company) and within one week we had a contract to print 20,000 Tandroy Bibles and 82,000 hymnals.

Goal of the Tandroy Bible and Hymnal Program: The Bibles and hymnals arrived in Madagascar by ship at the end of 2018. The next task was to begin distributing the Bibles to communities throughout the Tandroy region. Steve has written, "The distribution of Bibles and hymnals has continued at a fast pace. Our house was the place where the books were stored and crowds of people came to our doors seeking the "Book" as they called it. And we would give a Bible to all who could read and were at least 16 years old. The Bibles and hymnals were delivered to remote communities by hauling cartons of books on one's head, on bicycles, by trucks and oxen carts. Where ever we went the word that the "Book" was available had spread across the region and people were eager to receive one." The goal now is to continue to teach and help the people to come to faith in Jesus Christ.

A project which dovetails with getting the "Book" to the people is the adult literacy training program. Over the past 5 years the program has established 300 reading centers training 7,000 people to teach the Tandroy dialect so people will be able to read the Word of God. Steve's wife, Tafisoa manages this program supported by the Adsum Foundation of Belfast, Ireland. Without this program no one would be able to read the Bibles now being distributed. This is called "planning for success"!



Nothing fancy, class "room" to teach reading in Tandroy dialect.



Delivery of the Bibles in hand-pulled cart.

Want to help promote FOMM? Become a **FOMM Ambassador!** Promote our work in a way that is comfortable to you: speak to family/friends/congregations or any other way in your comfort zone. You will receive quarterly updates, printed materials and power point presentations.

FOMM Mission Education Trip: The next trip will be from October 15 – 31, 2019. Contact us if interested and we will send you information

Special Giving in 2018

1. Thrivent Choice Dollars		\$ 4,584.00
2. Remembrance Gifts		
<u>In Honor Of</u>	<u>Given By</u>	\$ 945.00
Brother	Jonathan and Ann Sorum	
Morris and Bonnie Vaagenes	Robert and Suzanne Zapolski, Nancy and Bruce Godfrey	
Dale and Andy Arnolds 50 th	Carol and Dan Schievensky	
David & Diane Lerseth's 50 th	Lowell and Ellen Satre, Morris and Bonnie Vaageness,	
	Cloteal Ashley, Jan and Lynne Gasterland,	
	Paul and Roberta Knudson, Catherine and Ted Marks,	
	Florence and Delbert Smallfield	
Dr. Stanley and Kathie Quanbeck	Mariel Wolter	
<u>In Memory Of</u>		\$12,080.00
Kathryn Hayter	Al and Phoebe Bergh	
	Chuck and Penny Eidem, Betty Gieske, Harry Hayter	
	Joel and Solveig Goldstrand, Scott and Gretchen Hutton	
	David and Diane Lerseth	
Dick Biehl	Paul and Roberta Knudsen, Gladys Biehl	
Larry and Nordis Christensen	Morris and Bonnie Vaageness	
Joanne Negstad	David and Diane Lerseth, Marian Vaughn	
Roger Ose	Claudia Forsberg, John and Diana Hetzler,	
	David and Diane Lerseth, Morris and Bonnie Vaageness,	
	Phyllis and Joseph Soosal, Carl and Ruth Vaageness,	
	Mark and Sharilyn Walters	
Robert Vaughn	Marian Vaughn	
Kenneth Buseth	James and Caroline Peterson	
Major Karl Bakke	Morris and Bonnie Vaageness	
Hazel Braaten	Lief and Cheryl Aakre, Arlene Lellelid, Leonard Akland,	
	Carolyn Akland, Delores Berkas, Arndt F. Braaten,	
	Duluth Graduate Med Ed Council, Peter and Judith Dyrud,	
	Richard and Kathryn Jefferson, Jean Larson	
	Paul and Anna Roisen, Carl and Ruth Vaageness	
	Morris and Bonnie Vaageness	
Velma Johnshoy	Arlene Lellelid, David and Diane Lerseth	
Lyla Lerseth	Stephen and Deborah Lamb, David and Diane Lerseth	
	Family and Friends, Philip and Edna Lerseth,	
	Marian Vaughn	
Harold Hanson	David and Diane Lerseth	
Junice Rothermel	David and Diane Lerseth	
3. Christmas Appeal		\$10,895.00
4. Prison Ministry Vocational Program Items (100% sent to Prison Ministry)		\$ 2,076.50
TOTAL SPECIAL GIVING GIFTS IN 2018		\$30,580.50

REPORT OF FOMM'S ENDOWMENT PROGRAM

As of December 31, 2018 balance	\$103,202.61
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MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND: We have received \$99,580.96 in gifts to our Endowment Fund in the past two years. This Fund will provide an annual income to support FOMM's mission. We invite you to consider leaving a legacy gift to FOMM. Consult with your financial manager about how you may make a gift.



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!
The Rev. David P. Lerseth

2018 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.
- **FOMM's Endowment Fund:** The total in our endowment fund as of Dec. 31, 2018 is \$103,202.61. 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 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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