



**P.O. Box 46381**

## **2016 Annual Report**

**Eden Prairie, MN 55344**

Dear Friends of Madagascar Mission,

In the Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM) 2015 Annual Report I raised the question, “Oh God, can we do this again?” referring to our donors funding the 2016 budget. The good news at the end of 2016 is: (1) FOMM has sent 100% of our promised budgeted dollars to the programs FOMM supports in Madagascar, and (2) In addition, we had a balance of \$9,338.84. FOMM’s Board of Directors voted to use these over and above the budget dollars to fund five additional projects. A list of these projects is included in this report on page 8.

Thanks to all of you who shared financial gifts with FOMM in 2016. You have amazed us with your generosity of financial gifts, prayers and support of FOMM’s mission and ministry goals.

It is important to know that FOMM is committed to growing our mission in Madagascar. In the past, the generous providers of mission support were national churches. Today, the reality is that global mission support from national churches has greatly diminished. The trend today is that smaller, nonprofit Christian mission organizations are providing a greater amount of support each year.

We are ready to accept this reality and welcome the challenge. We encourage you, our donors, to invite individuals, congregations and groups to participate FOMM’s mission. Share the story of FOMM and invite them to become donors. Here are some reasons to support FOMM: 1) 100% of your gift goes to the mission project you choose to support, 2) Nothing is taken out for our administrative account, and (3) Your gift is forwarded to Madagascar quickly, every quarter of the year!

**PEACE IN CHRIST!**

The Rev. David P. Lerseth

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Signing a “Covenant Agreement”, from the left: Dr. Justin (Ejeda Hospital), Pastor Sambo Mahaliny (Manasoa Bible School), Hanitra (Manages some FOMM programs), Pastor Lerseth (President of FOMM) and Maoly (translator).

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## Prison Ministry Program

**Total 2016 Financial Support:** \$44,440.00

**Extra 2016 Financial Support:** \$ 6,440.00 (See page 8 for details)

...if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed..." John 8:36

### A Growing Program

When Friends of Madagascar Mission began funding mission programs in 2011 we supported 3 Prison Ministry Programs. In 2016 FOMM supports 10 Prison Ministry Programs. The program is now expanding nationally. In 2017 additional Prison Ministry Programs will be added.

### Who Ministers at the Prisons

Each week the staff ministers at each prison. The staff consists of pastors, catechists and shepherds (lay trained ministers). They are not paid staff but volunteers.

### The Prison Ministry Program

1) Worship services, 2) counseling, 3) Bible studies, 4) confirmation classes and 5) distribution of: food, clothing, medicines, Bibles, Luther's Small Catechism, pens and notebooks

### Prison Ministry Statistics

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| + 81 were baptized                      | + 274 Bibles distributed for confirmands   |
| + 183 were confirmed                    | + 90 Bibles for the chapels                |
| + 2 infants were baptized               | + 65 damaged Bibles repaired               |
| (children in prison with their mothers) | + Provided supplies for the prison chapels |

### Thanks from the Malagasy Government

The General Manager of the Ministry of Justice expressed thanks for the Prison Ministry Program. He said, "This Ministry Program is so important for the prisoner's rehabilitation."

### Prayers

1. For continuing financial growth to support the additional Prison Ministry sites.
2. For the Malagasy staff (pastors, catechists and shepherds) that minister to the prisoners.

**TOTAL 2017 Financial Support Needed:** \$48,000.00

(The cost to add support for one prison is \$3,000.00 per year)



A men's prison worship service in the open court yard



## **Bible School Program**

**Total 2016 Support:** **\$28,125.00**

**“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)**

The Malagasy Lutheran Church is all about the Great Commission, teaching-preaching-social justice, for all the people. Therefore they have many Bible Schools across Madagascar. Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM) has supported two Bibles Schools and in 2017 we will add support for a third school.

The Bible Schools train evangelists through a two year course of rigorous study of the Old and New Testaments, church history, Lutheran teachings, Christian ethics and many “How to do courses” like: How to lead a Bible study, to preach, to evangelize, to be a leader, etc.

After two years of study they are prepared to be assigned a village or group of villages where they will began to share the Good News of the Gospel with the people. Sometimes they are not welcomed, but most often they develop a group of people who want to be Christians and prepare them for baptism and confirmation. Soon a Christian Church is begun and the supervising pastor of the evangelist presides over the baptisms and communion services.

### **Prayers**

1. For the students and their families as they prepare to be evangelists.
2. For those who teach the students to become evangelists.
3. For additional financial resources to provide support of an additional Bible school.

**TOTAL 2017 Financial Support Needed:** **\$30,500.00**



A group of first and second year Bible school students

## Evangelist Program

**Total 2016 Support:**                      **\$27,070.75 (Salary for the 35 evangelists)**  
   **\$ 6,675.75 (Cost of Evangelist Training Event)**

**“The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...”**

### **1) Introduction**

The Evangelist Program has continued to be well supported by congregations and individual donors in 2016. In 2011 we began this program with support for 3 evangelists. For the past four years we have been maintaining full support of 35 evangelists each year.

### **2) Evangelist Training Event**

On September 2-4 FOMM supported an Evangelist Training Event in Antsirabe, Madagascar. We were fortunate to have 34 evangelists (one was hospitalized), 2 synod presidents and their staff, and leaders from all of our other programs present for this event. We were able to share together in worship, Bible Study and fellowship. Pastor Lerseth was invited to give a presentation on “Lutheran Foundational Teachings”. Meetings were also held with Pastor Lerseth and all the leaders of programs in Madagascar supported by FOMM.

### **3) Evangelist Program Expanding**

Two years ago, the Ambovombe – Andry Synod sent FOMM an invitation to support 15 evangelists in their Synod. FOMM agreed to their request when additional donors became available. At the end of 2016 we were blessed with a sudden increase of donors. As a result, in 2017 we have support for 9 of the 15 evangelists requested! Thanks be to God!



In early September 35 evangelists together with other synod leaders of the Malagasy Lutheran Church participated at a training event sponsored by FOMM in Antsirabe

### **Prayers**

1. To empower the evangelists to proclaim the Gospel.
2. To open the lives of those who have not heard the Gospel to accept Jesus Christ as Savior.
3. To raise up additional sponsors to support an evangelist.

**TOTAL 2017 Financial Support Needed:**                      **\$26,400.00 (For 44 current evangelists)**  
   **\$ 3,600.00 (For 6 additional evangelists)**  
   **\$ 4,400.00 (For Evangelist Training Events)**

## The Lellelids of Androy

**Total 2016 Financial Support:**      **\$2,044.00**      **\$80,554.00 (Current funds in account)**  
(Total estimated cost: \$100,000.00)

**“All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.” (Psalm 119:160)**

### Waiting, Being Patient

Early in 2016 the goal was to have the Tandroy Bible which Steve has spent 16 years translating, ready for printing. After searching for a printing company that would offer the best price and quality, The China Christian Council Printing House in Nanjing, China was selected. With this decision made, another obstacle arose. The Chinese are very cautious about granting individuals the permission to print such large quantities of a book. They required an official organization in Madagascar to authorize the printing, before they would sign a contract.

### Another Delay

Steve contacted the Ambovombe Androy Synod (SPAA), where he works, to grant permission for the printing of the Bible. The synod then appointed a task force to review Steve's translation. This meant selecting five pastors to read the Tandroy Bible translation and give their approval. The process was to be completed by November of 2016. At the time of writing FOMM's Annual Report, a decision has not been made.

### Steve's Words of Encouragement to the Task Force

Steve shared this story with the President of the SPAA Synod to encourage him as to the need of the Tandroy Bible translation. “An intern from the Bible School in Ambovombe was assigned to share the Gospel to two villages that were not Christian. Arriving at the village a group gathered and he read from the Gospel of John written in the Tandroy language. When he was half way through reading the Gospel of John the intern suggested they pause before completing the reading. He was interrupted by an elder of these sitting in the now growing circle of individuals and said: ‘For years the church has sent people here, carrying their black



book and reading and singing to us, but when they were done we knew no more than when they came. Now, you bring the Word of God in our language and we understand and you propose to stop reading, no way! We will eagerly sit through the reading of the book, please read to the end.’ That day, a church was founded with 30 members. The same happened in a second hard to reach village. As soon as the task force gives their approval, the Tandroy Bible Manuscripts will be sent off for printing 20,000 copies!

Steve Lellelid gathers a group of people and reads from the Tandroy Bible.

### Prayers

1. That the Ambovombe Androy Synod (SPAA) will approve the Tandroy Bible manuscript.
2. That the remaining funds needed for printing the Bible, shipping to Madagascar and the distribution program to the villages will be provided by faithful donors.
3. That as people receive the Bibles, God's Word will be effective in bringing them to faith.

**TOTAL 2017 Financial Support Needed:**      **\$19,446.00**



### Ejeda Nutrition Program

**Total 2016 Financial Support: \$8,400.00**

**Total 2016 Financial Support for Medical/Food Emergency: \$4,576.84**

**“ See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” Isaiah 43:19**

Madagascar ranks as one of the nations most susceptible to severe drought and starvation. Currently, nearly 850,000 people in drought-hit southern Madagascar are experiencing “alarming” levels of hunger, and more aid is needed to prevent a dire situation from becoming a “catastrophe”, UN agencies said. At Ejeda Hospital FOMM seeks to assist their patients with food (the families in African hospitals provide their food), when the patient’s family does not have an adequate supply of food. There are 3 categories of patients who receive food:

**+ Patients who have tuberculosis:** Poverty and malnutrition are the leading contributors to tuberculosis. The current rate of TB is approximately 235 cases for every 100,000 people.

**+ Handicapped patients at the hospital and community:** There are no government programs to assist persons who are handicapped and have no way to provide for their care and food. The Nutrition Program provides medical and food support as resources are available.

**+ Hospital patients:** This Nutrition Program encourages people to come to the Ejeda Hospital for treatment, even when they do not have the resources. The hospital staff evaluates and determines who is eligible for receiving rice and meat for the families to prepare for the patient.

**TOTAL 2017 Financial Support Needed For Nutrition Program: \$8,400.00**

When drought becomes severe, even more food and medical resources are needed to provide for the patients who come to the hospital. In 2016 FOMM provided \$4,576.84 for the two emergency programs. The gifts were greatly appreciated, but far short of meeting the need.

**TOTAL 2017 Financial Support Needed for Medical Emergency Fund (\$5,000)**

**TOTAL 2017 Financial Support Needed for Emergency Food Support (\$ 5,000)**

### Drip Irrigation Program

**Total 2016 Financial Support (an accumulation from the past several years): \$3,950.00**

**“I cared for you in the wilderness, in the land of drought.” (Hosea 13:5)**

FOMM has been praying and planning about beginning a Drip Irrigation Program in the arid and drought-ridden region around Ejeda Hospital and Manasoa Bible School. Currently we have a team of talented professionals: Matt Ellingson (irrigation specialist), Loren Morschen (architect) and Andry Ranaivoson (hydrologist) working with Pastor Lerseth (FOMM president) working to develop how the program will work. The goal is to have the program in operation by September, 2017.

FOMM does not pretend to be able to solve the drought issue for southern Madagascar, but we seek to teach the people how they may provide food for their families during a drought.

**TOTAL 2017 Financial Support Needed: The cost for teaching, providing the equipment is \$50.00 per family. We have no total amount needed until the program begins. We will keep you updated through our quarterly FOMM Newsletters.**

## **Special Giving in 2016**

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Thrivent Choice Dollars                            | \$ 1,623.00 |
| 2. Memorial and In Honor Gifts in November – December | \$ 1,045.00 |

### **In Memory Of**

Joy Noel Ashley  
Susan Wilcox

### **Given By**

David and Diane Lerseth  
John and Diana Hetzler  
Anonymous  
Phyllis and Joseph Soosai  
Rachel E Thorson  
Peter and Judith Dyrud  
David and Diane Lerseth  
Annette Baker  
Jean Larson  
Carl and Ruth Vaagenes  
Peter and Judith Dyrud

Pastor Erwin Toso

### **In Honor Of**

Anonymous

Scott and Tamara Hamilton

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| 3. Memorial Gifts in January --- October | \$ 1,875.00         |
| 4. Easter Giving Appeal                  | \$ 3,675.00         |
| 5. Christmas Giving Appeal               | <u>\$ 17,615.00</u> |

### **TOTAL SPECIAL GIVING GIFTS IN 2016**

**\$ 22,188.00**

### **Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM) Gift**

A gift has been reported to FOMM by the attorney for the estate of Judith Ann Kidd, from the United Kingdom. To date we have received \$83,653.17 with additional funds to be determined. The FOMM Board of Directors has designated the funds to be placed in FOMM's Endowment Fund.

### **2016 Thrivent Choice Dollars**

Individuals who have qualifying Thrivent Financial annuities and/or insurance products will accumulate Choice Dollars. If you qualify, please consider designating them to Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM). Visit [www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call 1-800-847-4836.

### **Friends of Madagascar Mission Endowment Fund**

FOMM provides an opportunity for an individual, a congregation or an organization to make a legacy gift that will provide income each year for mission in Madagascar. Since last year's annual report we have \$85,384.79 in our FOMM Endowment Fund. We invite you to prayerfully consider if you should provide a legacy for FOMM. A donor may designate the purpose of the endowment and name the gift in honor of a person or congregation.

Do you know you may support FOMM through making an IRA qualified charitable distribution? You may make a required minimum distribution by directing it directly to a charity without any tax consequences to you or FOMM. Consult with your tax advisor to take advantage of this.

Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM)  
PO Box 46381  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

# 2016 Annual Report

After all of our 2016 budget projects were paid in full, there was a balance of funds.

The FOMM Board of Directors designated these projects to support: 1) "New Prison Ministry site at Ihosy" (\$3,000); 2) "Prison Vocational Training Project" (\$2,670); 3) "Recording of Prison Ministry Freedom Singers" (\$770); and 4) "Laptop and Printer: Betioky and Betroka Synods – for Evangelist Department" (\$1,575).

## Suggestions for Congregations

- 1) List the name(s) of the evangelist you support in your bulletin, newsletter and on your bulletin boards.
- 2) List the link to FOMM's web site in your congregation's publicity and on your web site.

## E-Mail Address

FOMM would appreciate receiving an update from you regarding your email address and other contact information, if it has changed. Sometime we wish to quickly communicate information to our donors.

Email us at [FriendsOfMadagascarMission@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfMadagascarMission@gmail.com)

## One Time Giving Opportunities

FOMM received non budgeted financial request from the Malagasy Lutheran Church. Here is a list of a few current requests: 1) Toby Ambohimahazo: replacement of a building damaged by an earthquake on January 12, 2017; 2) Motorcycle for the Betroka Synod evangelist coordinator;

3) Remodeling of Ejeda Hospital;

4) Choir robes for Prison Ministry "Freedom Singers".

Contact Pastor Lerseth for receiving a proposal on any of these projects.

