



FRIENDS of MADAGASCAR MISSION

Vol 11:4

Winter 2022



FROM THE HEART OF... "GOD"



Dear Friends of Madagascar Mission,

The human **HEART** is essential for life. So, the word **HEART** is used in the Bible to refer to what is essential for a meaningful life. For us, the **HEART** is the nature of who we are: our character, feelings and behavior. In the same way the **HEART OF GOD** refers to God's purpose, what God desires for us and how God restores life for us through Jesus Christ. At Christmas, the **HEART OF GOD** came in humility to lie in a manger. **God's HEART** is accessible, vulnerable, and inviting.

This message of **God's HEART** is uniquely shared in a song by Zach Williams:

1) I know you're hurtin', I can see it in your eyes
So pull back the curtain and take off your disguise
Whoever told you, you ain't worth the fight
The cross tells a story that'll change your mind (chorus)

2) Come, prodigal children, it's never too late
Run home to the Father, let Him clothe you with grace
And bury your burdens, break free from your fear
Step out of the shadows, there's no judgment here (chorus)

3) No, He's not sittin' there shakin' His head
Writin' you off, leavin' you lost
He's not sittin' there shakin' His head
Wishin' He'd never went to that cross (chorus)

Chorus:
'Cause there's only love in the heart of God
No room for shame in His open arms
There's beauty from ashes, so come as you are
And there's only love in the heart of God

(Songwriters: Jonathan Smith / Zach Williams / Ethan Hulse)

Because of this love **FROM THE HEART OF GOD**, Friends of Madagascar Mission is committed to God's mission to share this message with others in Madagascar. This newsletter therefore will also tell the story of **FROM THE HEART OF THE DONOR** and **FROM THE HEART OF THE RECEIVER**.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM FOMM!

PEACE IN CHRIST!

The Rev. David P. Lerseth

Walking to church,
some for many miles
to hear a message
**FROM THE HEART
OF GOD!**



FROM THE HEART OF THE DONOR



Friends of Madagascar Mission is growing and expanding its mission and ministry in Madagascar from the original 3 programs in 2010 to 8 programs in 2022, plus many one-time projects; because of our faithful and generous donors. In FOMM's first year we received \$7,439.00! In 2021 we received \$456,019.00! And remember 100% of these funds go to the mission, nothing is taken out of our receipts for paying our administrative costs, which are very low because we do not pay any salary for our 5 staff members. God has indeed blessed FOMM's mission because **FROM THE HEART OF THE DONOR** we receive financial and prayer support!

DONOR GIFTING OPPORTUNITIES

(In making a gift to any of these programs, please designate your gift by using the number before each program.)

#11 --- EVANGELIST GIFTS: \$700.00 A YEAR (Plus a gift of an extra \$100 for Health Insurance)



Evangelist BRUNO Auguste and family,
sponsored by Rev. Paul and Arline Berthelot

In the first 9 months of 2022, the 55 evangelists supported by FOMM report the following results of their ministry:

Villages Visited: 1,808

Children Baptisms: 2,447

Families Visited: 6,185

Adult Baptisms: 1,178



A sponsor of this program receives a photo and a resume of the evangelist they are assigned and also a quarterly report on their evangelist's work.

#21 --- PRISON MINISTRY: \$1,500.00 TO BEGIN A NEW PRISON (or a gift of any amount)

In 2022 we have increased the number of prisons served by this ministry from 21 to 25 prisons. There are 82 prisons in Madagascar so we are in 30% of the prisons. The goal is to increase the number of prisons served by at least 5 more prisons per year. In order to accomplish this goal we need a one time \$1,500.00 start-up cost for each new prison ministry, and \$3,000 a year to support each prison ministry.



I support FOMM because of 1) the wonderful people of Madagascar desperately need to know the one true God and have hope in their salvation in Christ, 2) FOMM equips evangelists with training and bicycles or motorcycles to teach the Gospel in remote areas of the country, 3) FOMM's ministries in Madagascar serve real and basic needs, 4) FOMM serves prisoners by holding church services in the prison courtyard, bringing them the hope of Christ, and 5) FOMM supports a remote Bible School.

Many, many people in Madagascar do not have adequate food, water, or medical care. Diseases such as tuberculosis, which is unheard of in the US, are very real there. I have been to other "third world" countries, but Madagascar is by far the most in need of help. I have also seen with my own eyes the many ways FOMM works to help the people help themselves. It is truly a worthwhile mission!

Susan Bailey, Illinois

#23 --- ANATALAHA CHILDREN'S PRISON: \$100.00 FOR A QUALITY LEATHER BOUND MATTRESS



A cell for children prisoners at the Antalaha Prison

Children are in this prison because they have stolen vanilla beans. The children are paid a small amount of money to go into the vanilla fields and steal the vanilla beans. Vanilla is the major export crop in Madagascar and in this area is the major industry. Madagascar uses the French judicial system which means when a person is arrested for a crime, they go directly to a prison. There is no pretrial or bond system, and so one has to wait for a time to appear before a judge. This may take weeks, months or even years and so a prisoner waits in a prison. The children, against all international laws, remain in

prison for a long time. Through FOMM's supported Prison Ministry Madagascar program, a local congregation reaches out and ministers to these children, some as young as 6 years old. The goal is to minister to their spiritual and physical needs. FOMM is assembling a team of skilled leaders to help develop this program: 1) An international expert from American/India/Madagascar in how to make quality products to be sold on the international market and 2) a literacy expert from Australia who will develop a program, using the children's personal story, to teach them how to read and write. God has literally placed these experts into this program, offering their skills with no cost to FOMM.



#31,32,33 --- MANANOVY, MANANTANTELY and MANASOA BIBLE SCHOOLS: \$100 A DAY PAYS FOR THE OPERATION OF ALL THREE SCHOOLS



Building a foundation for a new housing unit at the Mananovy Bible School

These schools are important for the training of evangelists and catechists who are at the forefront of proclaiming the Gospel to those who do not know of God's marvelous love through Jesus Christ. Two of the schools are having major building rebuilding projects. At the Manasoa Bible School the campus is being totally rebuilt and solar energy equipment being installed through the generous gifts of FOMM donors. A cyclone damaged/destroyed two main buildings on the Manantantely Bible School campus and they too are being rebuilt through a generous donation from a FOMM donor.



#41 --- EJEDA HOSPITAL NUTRITION PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY FOOD/MEDICAL COSTS: \$50.00 (A GIFT OF \$25.00 WILL PROVIDE FOR FEEDING THE HOSPITAL PATIENTS FOR ONE DAY AND AN ADDITIONAL \$25.00 WILL PAY FOR THE MEDICAL COSTS OF A PATIENT WHO CAN NOT AFFORD THE HOSPITAL COSTS.)



Ejeda Hospital Campus

It is difficult for us to comprehend what it is like to live in a region of the world where people suffer from the constant threat of drought and starvation. In such a climate, Ejeda Hospital exists and ministers spiritually and medically. A gift to this program is probably one of the most fulfilling ways to support a FOMM program because you are proving food, medical help and a word of hope through the Gospel!

#51 --- NOFY I ANDROY (The Dream of the Androy Girls): \$200.00 a year



Young students receiving their school supplies

It is a “dream of the Androy girls” because education is not always valued, especially for girls. This tutoring educational program seeks to keep the girls in public school and encourages receiving as much education as possible. Currently there are over 350 girls in the program. The number increases every year as parents see this program as a way to save their girls from a life of poverty. A sponsor receives a photo and a bio of the girl you are assigned plus two letters a year.



#52 --- Center for Education of Visually Impaired: COST IS ONLY \$2.00 A DAY PER CHILD

It is amazing, but the cost to support a child for one day is this cheap! The Malagasy government does not provide enough support, even though the school is doing the government’s job. Also, organizations in Europe who have historically been good sponsors of these kinds of special schools have withdrawn their support . So, we as Christians in the USA need to help the “least of these” to be trained to have a good life.



A boy learning to write and read braille

#63 --- RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT: \$200.00 to purchase vegetable seeds for planting

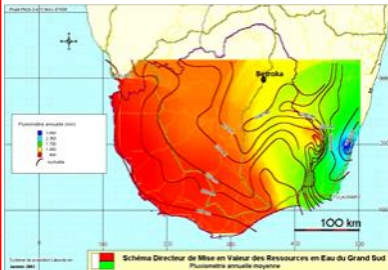


Onion seeds are one of the crops grown in this region

Throughout the long past four years of drought and famine, the people have planted crops only to have them dry up due to no rainfall. In this period of drought, the people have eaten the seeds that were supposed to be saved for planting the next year. Now when it rains again, there is a need for seeds to plant. The church develops programs for the distribution of the seeds to those who are in the most need.



#64 --- DIGGING OF WATER WELLS: \$20,000.00 FOR A DEEP WELL, PLUS OTHER OPTIONS TOO



The area in red receives approximately 15.7 inches of rain a year and is the region FOMM has many projects

There are several options that FOMM is doing to help bring water resources to the arid south west of Madagascar. Through an organization FOMM collaborates with, called Madagascar Water Project, has verified that there are 200 shallow wells that are not working because the hand pumps are broken or they have been abandoned and filled with rocks. We are sharing the cost of fixing these wells at a very reasonable cost. Secondly, we are planning to drill several deep wells that have a cost of up to \$20,000.00 but will continue to produce water even during a drought. To date, we have received two gifts of \$20,000.00. One gift is from a couple and the second one is from a small, 125 member, rural church at Fosston, Minnesota, Vernes Lutheran Church.



“I support FOMM because people are hungry for the Word of God. I have had the privilege of traveling to Madagascar with FOMM two times. I have also supported an evangelist for many years and have met her during each visit. When she came to an Evangelist training event she had to walk 9 ½ hours to reach a bus and then spent a day and one half trip to come to the event. These evangelists are committed to their work. Also I was able to meet Steve Lellelid who translated the Bible into the Tandroy dialect. These are committed people!” ~ Bob Jemc, Illinois

#70 --- TANDROY BIBLE PRINTING: \$3.05 FOR EACH BIBLE AND SHIPPING COSTS



20,000 Bibles are shared with individuals to read the Word of God in their own language

Steve Lellelid spent 18 years translating the Bible into the Tandroy dialect. In 2018 at Ebenezer Printing in Kerala, India; 20,000 Bibles and 82,000 hymnals were printed and shipped to Madagascar. The Bibles were quickly received and now four years later, another 20,000 bibles have been printed and just received in Madagascar on November 27, 2022. As this newsletter is being written we are waiting for the port to allow us to gain possession of the container. It will then be transported by land to Steve Lellelid's place to begin the process of distributing them to those seeking to read the Word of God in their own dialect. How long will it be before we need to order another 20,000 Bibles? Your contributions will start the next printing of 20,000 bibles at the cost of \$56,000.00, plus shipping.



#94 --- FRIENDS OF MADAGASCAR ENDOWMENT FUND: GIFT OF ANY AMOUNT

It is important to have an endowment fund for FOMM. We are fortunate to have established such a fund and currently have nearly \$300,000.00 in our endowment fund. Only the interest may be used for supporting FOMM's mission programs. It is important to have numerous streams of income and our endowment fund is for this purpose. Currently we have two designations in this fund: 1) General mission programs, and 2) Evangelist support. We may also add other designations as the fund grows and gifts are designated. Another way to grow the endowment fund is by bequests that are designated to FOMM from wills or trusts. FOMM provides our endowment fund as one of the best ways to make sure your interest in global mission, and Madagascar in particular, is funded beyond one's life time. If this is your prayerful desire, consult with your financial planners for the best way to accomplish this plan. FOMM's future will be enhanced through building up our endowment fund.



An important part of any non-profit is an endowment program



#95 --- GROWTH OF FOMM'S MISSION MEANS A "COORDINATOR FOR FRIENDS OF MADAGASCAR ACTIVITIES IN MADAGASCAR"



FOMM's New Coordinator in Madagascar

Over the past 3 years, FOMM's organization has grown through expanding the role of the board, developing a staff of 5 persons who receive no pay or benefits and now expanding the programs and projects in Madagascar. For better management and greater relationships with our partners in Madagascar, we have decided to employ a coordinator in Madagascar. This means we must pay a person's salary, office/equipment and travel for this position. If you would like to help support this position, a gift of any amount may be given. We are estimating a cost of \$10,000.00 in 2023.

We have been interviewing a person for this position, and will approve hiring him in the near future. His name is NARCISSE Rabezato Lovamalala Sambo. He is a university graduate, attended law school for 3 years and will be working with FOMM half time while attending law school the other half of his time. When asked why he would want to work with FOMM, he replied: "I love Jesus and I want to share that love with others who have a need to hear of His love!"



"Thank you for all you do in support of FOMM. I appreciate receiving all the reports and updates that I receive about FOMM. May God continue to bless the work of FOMM." ~Joan Braunhardt, New Mexico

SPECIAL GIVING "FROM THE HEART OF THE DONOR"

(September through November)

	<u>Jan – Aug</u>	<u>Sept – Nov</u>	<u>Total</u>
Thrivent Choice	\$ 4,186.00	\$ 8.00	\$ 4,194.00
Church Roofs	\$ 200.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,200.00
Antalaha Prison	\$19,155.00	\$12,721.00	\$31,876.00
Prison Vocation	\$ 591.00	\$ 494.00	\$ 1,085.00
Manantately Cyclone Damage Repair		\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Living Water	\$10,854.00	\$28,155.00	\$39,009.00
Theological Seminary		\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Nofy i Androy		\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Memorial Gifts	\$ 7,636.00	\$ 2,345.00	\$ 9,981.00
In Honor Gifts	\$ 2,751.00	\$ 500.00	<u>\$ 3,251.00</u>
			\$134,596.00

IN MEMORY OF

Elaine Perkins
Gordon Syverson
Erland Norn
Margo Pettersen Fohls

Connie Lovaas Beck Olson

Vangie Hagfors
Joel Goldstrand
Naomi Knudson-Kudak

GIVEN BY

Delores Berkas
Naomi Garber/Mike Syverson
Luther & Jean Lerseth
Arlene Lellelid
Paul and Anna Roisen
Arlene Lellelid
Paul and Anna Roisen
Morris and Bonnie Vaagenes
Chuck and Penny Eidem
David and Diane Lerseth

IN HONOR OF

Morris Vaagenes
Diane Lerseth,
Kirsten Schlicht,
Catherine Marks &
Brianna Luken
David Lerseth

GIVEN BY

Robert Lockwood
David Lerseth

Ascension Lutheran
Church, Ames, IA



FOMM is pleased to welcome Lori Krei as the new Administrative Assistant for FOMM. Lori lives in Spencer, Iowa. She was the Church Administrator and Technology Director for Faith Lutheran Church. She received a BS from Mankato State University in Interdisciplinary Computer Science and Management Information Systems, and a MA in Computer Application from Marycrest College in Davenport, Iowa. Her career has included serving as an Analyst/Programmer at the National Computer Systems, a Senior Programmer at Iowa Mutual Insurance, a Webmaster at Choice Technology and an Adjust Instructor at Iowa Lake Community College. We welcome her to FOMM's staff!

MICRO INTERNSHIPS

Many people have a desire to make a difference in the world by contributing time, energy and talents to projects that are known to make a positive impact on reaching people with the Gospel and alleviating the effects of poverty. However, living far away from the source of the need, taking care of one's own family and needs and busy lifestyles often create barriers to people engaging in impactful projects. We are in the planning stage to create such an program to invite you to be a part of FOMM's mission. The goal is to have a listing of projects that you may do where you live. They may be a short time task, a week, a month or a year; however long you wish to be involved. Following completion of your task, FOMM will recognize your service with a certificate. Many companies require their workers to donate time for such a task and this is one way to accomplish that requirement. More information will be shared after we have a coordinator for this program in place in our newsletters and on our web site.

MADAGASCAR MISSION EDUCATION TRIP

No definite dates have been set, but we are planning a trip the end of May through the beginning of June in 2023. Please contact us if you are interested and more details will be available in early 2023.



FROM THE HEART OF THE RECEIVERS

We receive letters of thanks frequently for the support FOMM provides to the eight mission programs and many projects. This letter is written by the Synod President (Bishop) of the Betroka Synod. It is a letter written from the **HEART OF THE RECEIVERS** in Madagascar.

FIANGONANA LOTERANA MALAGASY

(Eglise Lutherienne Malagasy-Malagasy Lutheran Church)

SYNODAM-PARITANY ANDRIRY BETROKA

(Synode Regional d'Andriry Betroka-Andriry Betroka Regional Synod)

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Dear friend co-worker FOMM

Object : A LETTER OF THANKS

We greet you all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ

We, All of our colleagues in the Andriry Betroka Regional Synod, would like to express our thanks and appreciation for our cooperation since then (more than 10 years), for helping us in many ways and in many domains, such as :

- Funding us for functioning of our Bible School in Mananovy and more than 100 Catechist students have gone out during that time.
- You help us to recruit the catechists as evangelists, to work in villages where there are no Christians. 22 evangelists are providing medical care.
- You are supporting us to change the thatched roofs of the churches built by the evangelists
- Give us and the evangelists various tools that help us to progress of our preaching and sharing the Gospel, such as motorcycles, bikes, computers,...
- Give us money to help us to take care of the prisoners in Betroka due to the difficulties they are facing.
- Supplying us church workers with seeds through the SPAB seed project.

FOMM always responds our need by giving us solution when you know that the thing asked is good for us. In addition, you are also looking for ways to develop the Betroka area by finding useful solutions, such as plans to make wells, planting trees, building a hospital,

So we are happy and grateful for the cooperation with FOMM until now. we are very appreciative for what you have done for us. FOMM rotates many projects in our Regional Synod. All the FOMM team is worthy of praise and recognition for working together to make all of this happen. And what you all did was for the glory of God alone.

May God bless you all ! Peace in Christ!

Betroka, September 30th, 2022

The President of Betroka Synod (SPAB)





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

Winter 2022

REQUEST: If you are receiving this newsletter by mail, please consider providing FOMM with your email address. This will help us save money on postage and printing. Also, we do not give out any donor information. Thanks! If you do not have an email address, we will continue to mail you FOMM communication.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING SPECIAL **GOOD GIFTS** TO FOMM

1. **Charitable IRA Distributions:** If you have an IRA and you like the idea of saving taxes and supporting FOMM, you may give your required minimum distribution to FOMM as a tax free gift. Deadline: December 31st each year. Check with your financial advisor for details.
2. **Thrivent Choice Dollars:** If you have qualifying Thrivent annuities and/or insurance products, you will accumulate Choice Dollars to designate to FOMM. Call 1-800847-4836 or visit www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice on how to designate these gifts to FOMM. The deadline to designate 2021 Choice Dollars is March 31, 2023.
3. **Easy ways to send your gifts to FOMM:** There are now two ways to send gifts electronically: Go to our website: www.MadagascarMission.org and (a) give through our PayPal Account or (b) click on "Get Involved" and use the new donor friendly DonorView process to give your gift. If you like to write a check, that works too! Send to: FOMM, PO Box 46381, Eden Prairie, MN 55344.

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

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