



FRIENDS of MADAGASCAR MISSION

Vol 12:1

Annual Report

2022

“OH, GOD DIDN'T GIVE ME MUCH...” Oh Yes!

Dear Friends of Madagascar Mission

A camp song that expresses gratitude for all the gift we receive in our life, but we do not always acknowledge:

*Oh God didn't give me much
Just the green leaves of summer
Just the golden leaves of fall
Just the white snow of winter
Just the little bird's call.*

*Of God didn't give me much
Just the sunlight in the morning
Just the moon at night,
Just the breeze through my window
Just a warm fire-light*

*O God didn't give me much
Just a constant companion
Just an end to my strife
Just a Son who died for me
Just the promise of life*

As I reflect upon the year of 2022 at Friends of Madagascar Mission, I think of the attitude of this song:

Oh God, didn't give Friends of Madagascar much! Oh Yes!



- + \$402,000.00 from our donors to support amazing mission projects.
 - + 56 evangelists sharing the Gospel with through who have not heard it.
 - + 25 prisons where the Gospel is shared and a caring ministry is given.
 - + 3 Bibles schools to teach evangelists and prepare them for ministry.
(And two of the schools are having new buildings and repairing others).
 - + 3,386 Ejeda Hospital patients, were provided with food during their hospitalization. The hospital does not have a food service.
 - + 2 water programs: (1) 2 Drip irrigation teach centers and (2) drilling new wells and repaired damaged ones .
 - + 117 students educated at the FOFAJA School for the Visually Impaired.
 - + 400 girls attending Nofy i Androy program to receive an education.
 - + 20,000 Bibles in the Tandroy Dialect printed and distributed.
- And not to be forgotten:
- + 9 FOMM Board members who give leadership to our mission.
 - + 5 staff members who work effectively, without salary, to manage the mission.

The pages of this 2022 Annual Report will provide more specific information about each of these mission programs, how your gifts were used and how you may continue to support them in 2023! THANK YOU!

PEACE IN CHRIST!

The Rev. David P. Lerseth

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Oh God, didn't give Friends of Madagascar much! Oh YES!

"56 evangelists sharing the Gospel with those who have not heard."

2022 Evangelist Statistics: These statistics speak for themselves, about the work of the evangelists!

- 1) Villages visited: **2,426** (Each evangelist travels to villages within their region.)
- 2) Families visited in these villages: **8,124** (Evangelists visit homes to teach and share the Gospel.)
- 3) Baptisms: Children: **3,213**
Adults: **1,573**
TOTAL: **4,786**
- 4) Confirmations: **1,273**
- 5) Absolutions: **1,151** (Individuals who sought out an evangelist to seek God's forgiveness)
- 6) New congregations formed as a result of the evangelist's work: **23**



A photo of a new group of Christians as a result of an evangelist's work.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION: The cost to support an evangelist is **\$800.00 a year** (Salary, education fund and health care). The donors receive a bio and photo of the evangelist. In addition four quarterly reports on their work are sent to the donors. In 2023, FOMM is giving each evangelist an extra gift of \$50.00 from undesignated giving. To learn more about the Evangelist Program, go to our web site at: www.MadagascarMission.org and click on "Get Involved/Projects".



The congregation builds a church, as a result of the evangelist's work. Friends of Madagascar Mission promises to provide a metal roof to replace the grass thatch roof, at a cost of \$3,500.00. Gifts may be provided for this project.

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Oh God, didn't give Friends of Madagascar much! Oh YES!

"3 Bible schools to train evangelists and catechists to share the Gospel"

The Bible Schools train evangelists and catechists, important persons in the programs of evangelism within the Malagasy Lutheran Church. In 2023 the 3 Bibles Schools that Friends of Madagascar Mission supports had an enrollment of **53** students. Student enrollment is down because of the pandemic and the drought of the region where these Bible schools are located. During this time, all three schools have been involved in building projects to improve their campuses and be ready for an increase in enrollment.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION: Due to the poverty of the region where the Bible Schools are located, the FOMM Board decided to increase the annual support of each Bible School by **\$1,000.00** in 2023. The cost for construction (and installation of solar power) at the Manasoa Bible School is **\$140,000.00** and the repairs for damage at the Manatantely Bible School from a cyclone in mid-2022 is **\$32,000.00** (The ELCA Central Southern Synod has also provided funding through FOMM for this project). All the money for these construction projects has been raised. A thank you to all of the gracious gifts from the donors!



Old buildings were demolished and ready for construction of a new building at Manasoa Bible School.

To learn more about the Bible School Ministry program and how you may support this project, go to our web site at: www.MadagascarMission.org and click on "Get Involved/Projects"



A new dormitory being built at the Mananovy Bible School.

Oh God, didn't give Friends of Madagascar much! Oh YES!

"25 Prison Ministries sharing the Gospel of forgiveness and hope."

The prison ministry began in 2010 with 3 prisons. At the end of 2022 we were supporting 25 prison ministries. The goal is to begin 5 additional prisons in 2023, for a total of 30 prison ministries. There is a total of 82 prisons in Madagascar, and with your support we will have a ministry in each prison.

Each prison ministry is based out of a local congregation. The pastor and members are trained and supervised for the ministry. They visit the prison at least once each week to lead a worship service, provide Bible Study, confirmation, counseling, assist with food/clothing/medicine and when a prisoner is released from prison, they assist with travel expenses to return home.

2022 Prison Ministry Statistics

Number of worship services: **1,160**

Number of congregation members who helped with the prison ministry: **6,991**

Number of prisoners who attended worship services: **173,893**

Number of prisoners confirmed: **192**

Number of baptisms: **50**

Number of rice bags given: **2,028**

FINANCIAL INFORMATION: The cost for the prison ministry in 2022 was **\$80,000.00**. In 2023 we are increasing the funding to **\$86,000.00** in order to begin 5 new prison ministries.



A team being trained to lead the ministry at a prison.



A worship service, singing group



A worship service in a prison

In addition, in 2023, we are beginning to support the Antalaha Children's Prison Ministry. Children in this region are caught stealing vanilla beans, which currently have great value. The children are hired for "pennies" to steal the beans. But they are often caught and in Madagascar they go directly to the prisons because the "French legal system" claims guilty until proven innocent. It then takes months and even years to have their day before a judge. We will also be providing legal help to these children. To learn

more about the Prison Ministry and Antalaha Children's Ministry programs and how you may support these projects, go to our web site at: www.MadagascarMission.org and click on "Get Involved/Projects"

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"400 girls attending Nofy i Androy program to receive an education."



A graduate from a program to work as a midwife.

Born into a culture that does not value education for girls, Nofy i Androy exists to help girls beginning at the 5th grade to stay in school and even continue their education at a university or trade school. The success rate for this program is very high and more girls are taking advantage of this educational program. FOMM has assigned a female evangelist from the Ambovombe Androy Synod to work within the program to teach the Christian Faith to the girls, counsel with the parents and girls to encourage them to stay in the program.

We have a program to sponsor a girl for **\$200.00** a year, hopefully renewed until the girl finishes her education. A donor will receive a photo and bio of the girl, plus two letters a year giving an update on the girl's educational goals.

To learn more about the Nofy i Androy Program and how you may support this project, go to our web site at: www.MadagascarMission.org and click on "Get Involved/Projects"

Oh God, didn't give Friends of Madagascar much! Oh YES!

"3,386 Ejeda Hospital patients, were provided with food during their hospitalization."

The hospitals in Africa do not have food service, so a family member of the patient must stay with the patient and provide for their meals. If a family does not have a supply of food, they will not bring the sick patient to the hospital. So Ejeda Hospital has a Nutrition Program to provide rice and a protein for these patients without food. In the



Distribution of rice for feeding a patient



An arial photo of the Ejeda Hospital grounds

past 4 years, there has been a severe drought in this region and this program has been particularly important.

FOMM also has an emergency food program to help provide extra food during these times of drought or when there are more patients than normal coming to the hospital. In 2023, FOMM is being asked to increase the support for these programs, so the need is great! The minimum goal of support for the Ejeda Nutrition Program in 2023 is **\$10,800.00.**

To learn more about the Ejeda Nutrition, Ejeda Nutrition Emergency and Medical Emergency programs and how you may support these projects, go to our web site at: www.MadagascarMission.org and click on "Get Involved/Projects"

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Oh God, didn't give Friends of Madagascar much! Oh YES!

"117 students educated at the FOFAJA School for the Visually Impaired."

There are not many "safety nets" in Madagascar to help those with physical impairments. There are no OSHA laws to make life easier for them. The education of visually impaired children presents a problem for the educational system in Madagascar as they have a limited access to needed resources. The Malagasy Lutheran Church provides quality education for the visually impaired children of all ages at the FOFAJA school campus in Antsirabe, Madagascar, a work that began in 1924 with the Norwegian Mission Society. At the FOFAJA campus students will receive relevant and inclusive education which prepares them to become autonomous citizens and to participate effectively in all aspects of their daily life. The school curriculum that is offered at FOFAJA is the same as all primary schools in the country. However, additional subjects are included in the curriculum such as braille reading and writing, mobility and orientation for the visually impaired.

Annual cost of a residential student at the FOFAJA School for the Visually Impaired is **(USD \$586.00)**. A donor may provide a full scholarship or **one half (USD \$293.00)** or **one quarter (USD\$146.50)**. We would encourage an annual renewal of your support. A donor will receive: 1) A photo of the student, 2) A biography of the student and 3) A letter twice a year informing the donor of the student's progress.



Singing is one of the student's favorite pastimes

To learn more about the FOFAJA School for the Visually Impaired and how you may support this project, go to our web site at: www.MadagascarMission.org and click on "Get Involved/Projects"

Celebrate Global Mission Magazine

Go to www.cgmmag.com to read the "Radical Mission article" about the history of FOMM.

Oh God, didn't give Friends of Madagascar much! Oh YES!

"2 water programs: (1) 2 Drip irrigation teaching centers & (2) drilling new wells & repaired damaged ones."

Water is an absolute necessity for life! So how do you live when you do not have water (or clean water) to drink or to grow your crops? Millions of Malagasy people live with a lack of adequate water, most in the south west part of Madagascar where we support most of our programs. We realize that FOMM can not



Water reservoir towers proving water for the drip irrigation field



A lush field irrigated through drip irrigation

solve this mega problem which can only be solved by governments and big corporations. But we believe we can show in our small ways that there are solutions to this issue. So, we are providing water projects: 1) A Drip Irrigation Teaching Center at two locations, Ejeda Hospital and Manasoa Bible School to teach people how they can raise crops even in times of drought. 2) We are working on two ways to provide water in cooperation with other agencies/non-profits to reduce the costs. A) We are working with Madagascar Water Project to reclaim wells that are not producing and in 2022 reclaimed **29 wells** at an average cost of **\$1,500.00**. Each well serves an average of 1,500 persons. B) Secondly, we are preparing to dig two deep wells that will produce large volumes of clean water. The cost averages **\$20,000.00** each. To date we have received funding for two wells. One is from a small, but vibrant mission focused congregation of 100 members who in 9 months raised support for one well, Vernes Lutheran Church, Fosston, Minnesota and the second well from an individual couple who wishes to remain anonymous.



A repaired well

To learn more about the water projects and how you may support this project, go to our web site at: www.MadagascarMission.org and click on "Get Involved/Projects"

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Oh God, didn't give Friends of Madagascar much! Oh YES!

"20,000 Bibles in the Tandroy Dialect printed and distributed."

Since Steve Lellelid completed the translation of the Bible into the Tandroy dialect in 2018. Since then, FOMM has printed 40,000 copies of this Bible, plus 70,000 hymnals in the same dialect. God's Word is being heard for the first time in this tribe's native language. So why not print the Bible in the official Malagasy language? Because the people speak their tribal dialect and thus do not hear the Word of God. Steve has made this possible with his work to translate the Bible into this dialect.

But there is more to the story. Not only did he translate the Bible but he and his wife have been teaching the people how to read and write the Tandroy dialect through a grant from the Adsum Foundation in Belfast, Ireland. They train many to teach others and the success is instrumental in getting God's Word read and understood. A dozen years ago it was hard to find a single person in most villages who could read and now it's hard to find a village that does not have those who can read and write.

The cost to print 20,000 Bibles in Kerela, India through the Ebenezer Press (A Christian printing company), ship them to Madagascar and pay the import duties and handling amounts to about \$85,000.00. Gifts of any size are now welcome for the third printing of the Tandroy Bible.



The Bibles have been distributed by vehicle, ox carts and her is pictured an 85-year-old man by the name of Rehaba who delivers the Bibles with is fat wheel bicycle.

To learn more about the Tandroy Bible Printing Program and how you may support this project, go to our web site at: www.MadagascarMission.org and click on "Get Involved/Projects"

Proud to be a Part of FOMM's Team! Oh Yes!

By: Lee Laaveg, FOMM's Director of Development

Dear donors of FOMM's mission!

You can be proud and pleased to be part of the FOMM team, supporting our important work in prayer and giving. But, do you realize how unique FOMM is in its philosophy and function? The philosophy shaping the operation of FOMM is truly distinctive. The approach to church and international missions is key to FOMM's strength, efficiency, trustworthiness, and fast growth. Gladly we say, to God be the glory!

First, one hundred percent of every gift of support goes directly to fund the on-going programs and projects in Madagascar. This keeps all administrative costs at an absolute minimum.

Second, all staff positions are volunteer. The overhead for management is almost zero. Leadership, both staff and board members, donate their time, experience, and expertise in their different defined roles as a portion of their 'gifting' to FOMM.

Third, FOMM practices very focused diligence on communication to all donors, including regular reporting with on-going programs, updates for designated giving, accurate statistics on people impacted, and joyful celebrations when projects are completed. We are committed to total transparency. We consider all who support FOMM as partners on our team. In addition, FOMM is distinctive in its philosophy of cooperative partnership with international leaders in Madagascar. The programs we support and the projects we launch are a direct result of careful, mutual dialogue with the leadership of the Malagasy Lutheran Church as well as other Christian agencies in Madagascar.

We begin by asking Madagascar leaders, "Where is your greatest need? Where would you like to focus to serve the people?" FOMM suggests possibilities in strategic thinking, advises, encourages, rallies prayer support, and raises needed funds for operation.

Another major point of emphasis is sustainability. We desire local leaders to work cooperatively with FOMM on various visions for 'cottage industry' programs and vocational training. This empowers greater self-sufficiency in their ministry future.

Ultimately, FOMM seeks to work through the Christian leaders of Madagascar to impact their culture positively for good. Simultaneously, FOMM raises the global mission consciousness of our American church. Mutually, we seek to share the gospel of Jesus Christ, expand health care, empower education of future leaders, restore villages, provide water in drought devastated areas, tangibly help those in need, and give people hope for a better future. All this mission work is for Christ and His kingdom. He who calls us will be faithful.

Thanks for being part of FOMM's team!

THRIVENT CHOICE 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. The deadline to designate 2022 Choice Dollars is March 31, 2023.

FRIENDS OF MADAGASCAR MISSION EDUCATION TRIP: An exciting trip to experience global mission first hand. We will visit the prisons, Bible schools, attend an Evangelist Training Event, attend "Summits" on the vision for the future direction of our programs and meet the wonderful people of the Malagasy Lutheran Church. We depart on May 31st and return on June 15th. Please contact Pastor David Lerseth as soon as possible at FriendsOfMadagascarMission@gmail.com or 847-445-8177 for more details and costs.

SPECIAL GIVING 2022

IN MEMORY OF

Elaine Perkins
Gordon Syverson
Erland Norn
Margo Pettersen Fohls

Connie Lovaas Beck Olson

Vangie Hagfors
Joel Goldstrand
Naomi Knudson-Kudak
Robert Zapolski

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
Delores Berkas
Suzanne Zapolski
Carl and Ruth Vaagenes
Charles and Gail Kitner
David and Diane Lerseth
Sharon and Daryl Durheim
Arlene Lellelid
Christopher Carlson
Joseph and Julie Koegel Jr.
John and Diana Hetzler
Delores Berkas
Suzanne Zapolski
Carl and Ruth Vaagenes
Peter and Judy Dyrud
Phyllis Soosai
Chris and Kim Carlson
Delores Berkas
Carl and Ruth Vaagenes
Numerous anonymous gifts
Suzanne Zapolski
Mark, Bob and Denise Hendrick
Fritz and July Meyer
Peter and Judy Dyrud
Mark Walters
Arlene Lellelid
John and Diana Hetzler
Paul Hanson
Mark Walters
Carl and Ruth Vaagenes
Mary Peterson
David and Diane Lerseth
Arlene Lellelid
Cathy Vivian Wells
David and Elaine Vold
Shon and Vicky Schetnan
Arne and Dyanne Sather
Norman & Ardelle Quanbeck
Arlene Lellelid
Gerald Rowell
John Lyngdal
Michelle Schulte-Weiber/David Weiber
Peter and Judith Dyrud
Wayne and Alyce Kivell
Nathan and Heather Grawe
David and Catherine Olson
John and Diane Hetzler
Daniel and Sarah Presteng
Stanley Quanbeck
Quanbeck Family Trust
David and Diane Lerseth

Rev. Arndt Braaten

Sharilyn Walters

Dale Peterson

Jaona (Madagascar, Dr. Elson's father)

Steve Ose

Katharine Quanbeck

IN MEMORY OF

Olaf Dahle
Robert Slagle
Einor Ellingson
I.S. Rasoanindrina
(Madagascar: Voaly and Denise's mother)
Viggo Dahle
Kermit & Marian Roisen
Elaine Bouzek
Irma Bennett

Total In Memory of: \$9,981.00

IN HONOR OF

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

Children and grandchildren
Ted and April Poulsen, Robert
& Lillian, Becket, Claire,
Annalyn, Ted & April, Steffen,
Ewan, Jim, Jessica and Keaton
David Lerseth's birthday

Colleen King

Tara King

David Pathuges

Total In Honor of: \$3,336.00

Total for 2022: \$13,317.00

GIVEN BY

Otto and LeWannSotnak
Joan Braunhardt
Lester and Valborg Ellingson
David and Diane Lerseth

Gary and Elizabeth Dahle
Rebecca Utu
Suzanne Zapolski
Paul and Arline Bethelot

GIVEN BY

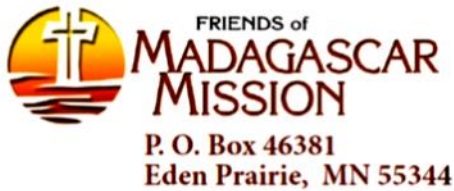
Robert Lockwood
David Lerseth

Ascension Lutheran
Church, Ames, IA
Paul and Anna Roisen

Jeff and Kirsten Schlicht
Ted and Catherine Marks
Tom and Harriet Wagner
Al & Rose Anne Hoekstra
Paul & Bobbie Knudson
Jim and Joyce Witt
Linda Powers
Debbie Arcilla
Al and Phoebe Bergh
Norm and Carol Carlson
Bill and Linda Roth
Mari Fontana
Rebecca Utu

Rebecca Utu

Charitable IRA Distribution: 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.



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

Catherine Marks, Secretary

Kirsten Schlicht, Treasurer

Charles Eidem

Rev. Lee Laaveg

Loren Morschen

Craig T. Norenberg

Jeff Tetzlaff

Rev. Morris Vaagenes, Emeritus

**2022
Annual
Report**

HONORING THE LEGACY OF KATHARINE QUANBECK

Katharine (Kathie) Quanbeck, wife of Dr. Stanley Quanbeck, over a period of 20 years accumulating oral histories of many individuals she encountered in her travels throughout Madagascar. This was from 1979 to 1999. In her early years of missionary work, 1966-1978, in Ejeda, she had an intense interest and love for the people of the Ejeda region called the Mahafaly. But she did not settle for just calling them "Mahafaly". Kathie wanted to know the sub-clans that they came from.

When we were traveled throughout Madagascar, Kathie took the opportunity to further her interest and studies in the origins of those whom she encountered. She had a special journalistic trait of asking the right questions to elicit the history she was looking for. In the end she collected 25 oral histories which she put together as a manuscript with maps showing the origin of where in Madagascar these stories had originated.

When she died on January 14, 2022, these 25 Oral Histories were largely completed and assembled as a manuscript, but what should be done with them? After contacting Prof. Rahersoanjato Daniel, professor of Oral History at the University of Madagascar, he said the documents should be inducted into the Akademia Malagasy, which is responsible for the study of Madagascar's culture and customs. On January 12, 2023, Dr. Quanbeck, representing his wife Kathie, attended the formal induction ceremony of her book, "Twenty-five Oral Histories" into the Akademia Malagasy.



Dr. Stanley Quanbeck presenting Katharine Quanbeck's Book to the Akademia Malagasy in three languages: Malagasy, French and English.