



Episode 5 – Tsifaria Auber, Principal John Dyrnes School, Bezaha Madagascar

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Karen: Hello, welcome back to the Friends of Madagascar Mission podcast. My name is Karen and our guest today is Tsifaria Auber. He is the principal of John Dyrnes School in Bezaha, Madagascar. Welcome Tsifaria. It's so nice to have you.

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Tsifaria: Hello, Karen, welcome and thank you to talk with me today.

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Karen: Tsifaria, let's jump right in and you can tell us a little bit about yourself and about the John Dyrnes School

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Tsifaria: OK. My name is Tsifaria Auber. I'm 38 years, and I'm a single dad. I come here in Bezaha since 2021. And now I become the principal of John Dyrnes School. I graduate from the law school, and get my master degree. And in 2008 I get my engineer degree with agronomy from the university from Madagascar.

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Karen: You have a truly fascinating story Tsifaria. It sounds like you achieved a lot before you even arrived at John Dyrnes School. Tell us all about your school.

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Tsifaria: John Dyrnes School is a high school. It is in Bezaha. It is a small town. In the province of Toliara. And the John Dyrnes was here since 1957. John Dyrnes is the name of the doctor who was build the school from Manasoa. And in 1957 they moved (the school) to Bezaha. This is the only one high school in this area at that time, and he have a great result that time and everybody attended the school until this become down.

I came back from China in 2019 and that time, and I was here in Bezaha. And in 2021 I decided to become pastor and that time I became the principal of this high school. I came back for one reason. When I was in China, I was 10 years in China. I get my job there. I was the business

manager in one company and in two thousand one seven (2017), I lost my brother and I have, I have to come back to the country for the funeral and that time there was one problem.

First my mom. Who was really depressed for the loss of her son, and I have to go back to China. To see that situation of my mom, I decided to stay. And now I am here.

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Karen: What kind of challenges do you face?

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Tsifaria: OK. There are many problems, OK? But this is a fight. Believe in God. If you believe, you can do everything. So, to put this kind of idea in the mind of my staff in Dyrnes School, it's very hard. They didn't believe the way of God.

I come here because God put me in this earth in this school and we work with the plan of God. He make us to grow because this school was almost closed. When I come, there are only 50 student, and we can even not pay the staff. And when I come, we have to pay a lot of money to the teacher, to the government through the social worker, all of this stuff is still big money, and that is a big struggle because even myself, I don't understand how I can pay that. But I believe that God have his own way to make this school in the right way. And that is my faith, my belief, and I never give up. I know that this school will be a great school one day.

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Karen: Tsifaria, it sounds like you have had a hard job. Why do you keep doing it?

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Tsifaria: OK, as I said. When I come here, there are only 50 students from nursery and to Grade 12. And that time grade 12, there's only six students. And now we are like 20 somethings and all the student is more than 370 somethings.

I keep doing this because I believe that one day this school can be the great school here, because before the Dyrnes, the person of Dyrnes believed that this area can be a big area for growing people. And if I try to make this with the work of God the way how God to put in my way, that is my life.

And if for example, I give up what will become (of) the school? The school have many things. They have the classroom. They have big area but for nothing. But I think that we can do it together and we can do the right

things if everybody trusts that God have His own way to put everything. So I still doing this because I believe that.

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Karen: Now, can you please talk a little bit about how you became associated with Friends of Madagascar Mission?

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Tsifaria: OK, last year, I don't remember maybe in April or May, two Friends of Madagascar Mission come here to visit the seminary because we have a seminary here to become a pastor in the Lutheran Church, and they come to visit them. And that time they, they want to visit my school.

So, when they come and we talk, they ask me, what you want? What they have to do to help me? So, I ask them two things. One, because I also study this in the seminar to become pastor, and I see the children of these seminar people their, their children didn't go to school. They just play around and I try, I want to help them. So why I asking Friends of Madagascar Mission to help these kids? Thanks God, now we have 42 children supported by Friends of Madagascar Mission, and they paid the tuition, the school fees for these 42 children. That is one thing.

The second thing. When I come here in this school, I, in the elementary school, like 7th grade, they were, there was two or three girl who was pregnant. And I put it in my heart and I said that one day I can help this this girl because maybe they are poor and their parents cannot send these children to school.

So, if we support their parents, if we can give the help to them, maybe they can go to school and they can become someone. So, Friend of Madagascar put us together with Nofy i Androy, and now we working with Nofy i Androy together and they support the 22 girl in my school.

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Karen: So, what does support from Friends of Madagascar Mission mean for you Tsifaria?

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Tsifaria: It means a lot for me. Mean a lot because Friends of Madagascar can send people to school. They can, they can have their dream these kids, and their dream become true with Friends of Madagascar because they support their tuition, they support their school fees, and they can become a great person one day.

So, if I have one request. I ask Friend Madagascar of Madagascar to increase their help because, for example, the kids from the SPL, the seminary for pastor, they are more than 75, but only now they support 42. So I hope next year they will support all of these kids. First.

And secondly, this girl with Nofy i Androy, I need to make the experience with us and with the support with Friends of Madagascar, we can become bigger. And most importantly, I already talk with Jeff and the Reverend David about my fence because my school is only...there are no fence. There are no wall, nothing. And to make the trust of the parents, to send them student to my school, I need some fencing. I need to build some wall around my area because there is only yard.

So, if Friends of Madagascar can support us, to make that this kids they want. I can't tell you that these kids even don't know what is Internet. What is computer? They didn't even know that this kind of evolution of this, because we are in 2024, everybody need to know what is Internet, what is the Wi-Fi these kind of things we don't have. So, with support of Friends of Madagascar Mission, I hope that these kids can become someone have the, the dream become true.

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Karen: Currently you are the principal of a successful school. What do you see as the future for John Dyrnes School?

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Tsifaria: OK, for the future, I see that this school will be a witness for the way of God, how He work because the school is already the school is known.

They have to pay the lot of money, but I understand the way how God work. He work in His own way, So the future I see that this is this become the first school high school in this area first and make sure that the kids who come here understand what happened this world. They can have a dream. They can become a pilot, they can become engineer. All of this. This is my, my dream for this school. But we vote fence, we vote this world. I can do nothing so that that is my hope.

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Karen: Tsifaria, thanks so much for taking the time to be with us today.

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Tsifaria: Thank you, Karen.

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Karen:

We will certainly look forward to hearing more about John Dyrnes School and the support it receives from Friends of Madagascar Mission.

Listeners, if you are interested in learning more about John Dyrnes School, we invite you to visit the Friends of Madagascar Mission website at madagascarmission.org, and click on Programs.

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