



FOMM CATALOG IDEAS FOR GIVING

Vol 13:4

webpage: www.MadagascarMission.org

Winter 2024

YOU ARE A BLESSING!

Dear Friends of Madagascar Mission,

Through your prayers, gifts, and partnership, people's lives are being changed each day in the love of Jesus Christ. We thank God for all the ways you support the work and ministry of Friends of Madagascar Mission.

Recently, I was privileged to be a part of the group who journeyed to Madagascar in August. I would like to share a story with you from that trip.

One day we visited FOFAJA, the School for the Visually Impaired, in Antsirabe. Director Ernest Solohery gave us a tour of the school and grounds. The students enroll to learn Braille, receive an excellent education, grow in faith and love for Christ, and prepare for life. During our visit together, Ernest shared about a different time when Pastor David Lerseth and another FOMM traveling group stopped to see them.

A few years ago, the school was struggling to receive enough financial support to operate. Director Ernest had not received a salary for several years in order to keep the school afloat. When Pastor Lerseth promised to pray for him and for the school, he then proceeded to put his hand on Ernest and to pray for him in the moment, asking God to give him courage, wisdom, and hope, and for the needed resources to come for the school to continue the work for Christ and the students who attend there.

As Ernest shared with our group this August, remembering the power of that key moment of prayer, he said, "Many Christian groups come to visit and promise to pray for us. But, David, you actually took the initiative to pray right then together with us." Ernest paused, and was unable to speak for a bit, overcome with emotion. "I am so thankful for Pastor Lerseth, my friend, and for the financial support that Friends of Madagascar Mission gives to us." Ernest and David hugged and tears flowed.

Partnership in Christian ministry is about prayer, giving, and the fellowship of the Spirit in Jesus' name. That moment in prayer proved to be a turning point, giving Ernest the strength to persevere, but also, financial resources began to improve, allowing them to carry on the work Christ has called them to do.

Having just traveled to many places of ministry in Madagascar, we are very enthused to see all the good things happening through the Christian leaders there, carrying out the work of Friends of Madagascar Mission. Would you pray with us that the Lord would graciously provide all the resources needed to fulfill our mission goals and finish well in 2024, empowering us for an even stronger impact into 2025? Please read through the accompanying pages of opportunities for supporting our mission and ministry. Thank you again for your partnership in sharing Jesus' love in Madagascar. You are a blessing!

Together for Christ and His kingdom,

Lee Laaveg
Director of Development
Friends of Madagascar Mission

HOW THIS "FOMM CATALOG ---IDEAS FOR GIVING..." works:

- 1) Chose a program/project that you wish to support
- 2) Select a method for payment --- Go to FOMM's website www.MadagascarMission.org or mail to: Friends of Madagascar Mission, PO Box 46381, Eden Prairie, MN 55344

EVANGELISM (Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ)

To learn more about FOMM programs go to our website, www.MadagascarMission.org, click on What We Do, and then Programs & Projects.

A. EVANGELISTS “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” (Mathew 28:19-20a)

In Madagascar 42% of the people are Christian.

The goal is to reach out to those who have not accepted Jesus Christ as their savior.

HOW TO SUPPORT AN EVANGELIST?

1) Cost: \$800 for salary, education and health care



11 new evangelists from the Faradofay Synod with Pastor Lerseth at the Evangelism Summit in August 2024

2) All sponsors receive the name of an evangelist they support

3) Receive 4 reports on their work each year

4) GIVE THE EVANGELISTS A RAISE: A gift of any amount will help provide \$100 more a year to their salary!



The Evangelism Summit with 114 Malagasy Evangelists and program leaders sharing three days of study and learning of FOMM's programs



A new evangelist and his family

B. PRISON MINISTRY “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” (Matthew 25:35-36)

Madagascar has 82 prisons (currently FOMM supports ministry in 36 prisons).

FOMM is the major sponsor of work in Madagascar Prisons, both...

...Spiritual ministry with local congregations being trained to lead worship services, confirmation, counseling, providing Bibles/hymnals, etc.; and

...Humanitarian resources such as food, vocational training, providing legal assistance, clothing, medicine, assistance back home after release from prisons, etc. (See the Development page for more information of this role in giving to Prison Ministry.)



Pastor Lerseth officiating at the baptism of prisoners at the Fianarantsoa Prison in August 2024

HOW TO SUPPORT THE PRISON MINISTRY PROGRAM?



The regional prison warden presents gifts of appreciation to FOMM for our support of Prison Ministry in 36 prisons in Madagascar.

1) Cost: \$1,000.00 to open up a new prison (But gifts of any amount are welcome)

2) All sponsors will receive update reports on the Prison Ministry.



Following worship FOMM gave a loaf of French Bread to all 700 prisoners at the Fianarantsoa Prison.



A worship service at a prison in Madagascar.

C. BIBLE SCHOOLS "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another" (Colossians 3:16).

FOMM supports three Bible Schools which train lay persons to become evangelists and congregational parish education leaders.

HOW TO SUPPORT THE BIBLE SCHOOLS?

- 1) Cost: \$50.00 a month (Includes tuition, books, food and lodging for each student; teacher salaries and maintenance of the schools facilities.)
- 2) All sponsors will receive update reports on the Bible Schools



2024 graduating class at the Manatantely Bible School



2024 graduating class at the Mananovy Bible School

D. Theological Education "And so Christ himself gave the apostles, prophets, evangelists, the pastors and teachers;" (Ephesians 4:11)

The Malagasy Lutheran Church has a membership of 4 million. There is a need to train pastors to meet the needs for a growing church.

HOW TO SUPPORT A SEMINARY STUDENT?

- 1) Cost: Tuition: \$300.00 a year, living: \$525.00 a year, and rent: \$280.00 a year
- 2) All sponsors will receive update reports on the seminary students



Students who have received scholarships from FOMM for their theological education.



Do you know that all six of FOMM's USA staff receive no salary or benefits? It is a great gift to our mission!

IN DEVELOPMENT: A legal team to give assistance to prisoners who are not able to afford a lawyer to represent them. Please contact FOMM for more information on this at FriendsOfMadagascarMission@gmail.com or 847-445-8177

100% of your gift goes to the project...nothing is taken out for FOMM's Administration

CHILDREN IN PERIL

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14)

There is a general responsibility for us as believers to seek the good of children in many ways, especially those who are more vulnerable. Madagascar with a poor economy, has a vast number of children who are very vulnerable. We use the term "Children in peril", which means they are in extreme danger. FOMM is rapidly developing this area of mission as we believe our actions are the hands of the Gospel of Jesus Christ reaching out to give life, hope and a future to them.

To learn more about FOMM programs go to our website, www.MadagascarMission.org, click on What We Do, and then Programs & Projects.

A. NOFY i ANDROY "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My father who is in heaven" (Matthew 18:10).

This is a program to help girls who are culturally vulnerable to sexual exploitation. Currently there are 500 girls enrolled in this program.

HOW TO SUPPORT A NOFY i ANDROY STUDENT?

- 1) Cost: Tuition: \$200.00 a year
- 2) All sponsors will receive a photo and two update reports a year from the student

IN DEVELOPMENT: As an example: Three girls from the Nofy program have been admitted to the SeFAM, nursing school. They received scholarships to study to become either a nurse, a midwife or a laboratory technician. For \$300.00 a year you may provide such a scholarship. Please contact us at FriendsOfMadagascarMission@gmail.com or 847-445-8177 for more information.



The girls and faculty at the Dynes School where The Nofy program was begun this year.



The founder of Nofy, Meta Kaurin (3rd from the right) and two staff members made a presentation at the Evangelism Summit in August, with Pastor Lerseth



The Nofy program is expanding to a third location where the program is welcomed with a meeting to share what the program is about.

B. John Dynes School "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

(Proverbs 22:6)

FOMM began to support this school in 2024 with support for students and also began a Nofy I Androy program. As a result the enrollment at the school has increased from 350 to 450 students. In 2024, 100% of the students passed the government test allowing the students to advance to the next educational level.



A class room at Dynes School

HOW TO SUPPORT A STUDENT?

- 1) Cost: Tuition scholarship: \$45.00 a year
- 2) A gift of any amount for school facilities which are in need of being improved



Tsifaria Auber, the Dynes school principal made a presentation at the Evangelism Summit in August.

C. SCHOOLS FOR THE VISUALLY AND HEARING IMPAIRED (NEW PROGRAMS)

“Then the eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped.” (Isaiah 35:5)

The Malagasy Lutheran Church is based upon a commitment to share the Gospel with all and to do justice in the world by caring for those who have spiritual and physical needs. FOMM supports two schools who care for students who are visually impaired (Enrollment: 184 students) and hearing impaired (Enrollment: 204 students)

HOW TO SUPPORT THE SCHOOLS

1) Visually Impaired School Cost: \$50.00 per month



Amazing baskets woven by the students and sold to raise funds for the school



A student learning how to read and write Braille

2) Hearing Impaired School Cost: \$50.00 per month



This student is learning the skill of sewing

Students at a chapel service



D. HOPE SCHOOL (NEW PROGRAM)

“As for children, obey your parents in the Lord, because it is right. The commandment ‘Honor your father and mother’ is the first one with a promise attached: ‘so that things will go well for you, and you will live for a long time in the land.’ As for parents, don’t provoke your children to anger, but raise them with discipline and instruction about the Lord.” (Ephesians 6:1-4)

A school in the capital city, Antananarivo for street children begun in 2007, provides free quality education for homeless children living in extreme poverty and having a high risk of entering the juvenile justice system or being victims of sex trafficking or child kidnapping. Currently there are 185 students in grades 1st to 9th grade. They have an amazing national examination record of 100% of their students passing. The students receive free lunch daily, which for most of them is their only meal for 24 hours.

HOW TO SUPPORT THE SCHOOL

1) Salaries: Currently the principal’s salary is: \$71.00 a month (\$852 a year) A teacher’s salary (13 teachers): \$61.00 a month (\$732 a year)

2) The principal and teachers have not received a salary increase in 4 years. They have requested \$3,500.00 to share an increase in salary for all teachers and the principal.



Students

The students sharing a meal at school.



DEVELOPMENT

"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" (Acts 20:35)

To learn more about FOMM programs go to our website, www.MadagascarMission.org, click on What We Do, and then Programs & Projects.

A. Village Redemption "Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers" (3 John 1:2)



A new "Water Station" with a good hand pump built on top of a new well.

FOMM's Board of Directors has approved "A 7-Point Blueprint for Spiritual Growth and Economic Prosperity in Rural Villages in Madagascar" which is located on our web page.

1. Water well and drilling: FOMM has hired a non-profit called Madagascar Water Project to dig wells in the arid southwest portion of Madagascar. The region is located upon a granite base. The existing wells are very shallow and during the long dry season, clean water is not available.

To date we have provided two major deep wells and a water distribution system to support numerous church institutions and their neighborhoods. We are also digging wells for use in irrigating crop lands and for small villages.

HOW TO SUPPORT:

- (1) A gift of any amount will help provide digging more wells.
- (2) A gift of \$1,000.00 will provide a well in a small village
- (3) A major gift of \$20,000.00 will provide a large water well and distribution project.

2. Agriculture: The south west region of Madagascar experiences frequent droughts. It is one of five most likely regions in the world to experience famine.

- (a) Establishing agricultural teaching centers to equip leaders to teach farming methods.
- (b) Create Seed Banks to provide and preserve seeds for the next planting season.

(c) Plant Moringa Trees (called the tree of life) which grows in arid climates. All parts of this fast growing tree (leaves, seed pods, the bark) provide great nutritional food values. Our goal is to plant one million Moringa Trees where ever we dig a water well.

HOW TO SUPPORT:

- (1) Gifts of any size will support any of these projects
- (2) Examples: \$100 will train a person at our agriculture training center. \$250.00 will help build a Seed Bank in a village, and a Moringa Tree seedling will cost \$2.00.



The seed bank for planting the next crop.

3. Food for the Hungry: Madagascar is always listed as one of the poorest nations in the world. People are hungry and FOMM attempts to provide food for people in hospitals, places that care for the poor and in the prisons.

HOW TO SUPPORT:

- (1) Gifts of any amount are appreciated.
- (2) A gift of \$1.00 a day will feed 1 person, \$30 a month or \$360 will feed one person for a year!



Hitting a strong source of water for the Mananovy Bible School



The water tower to provide water to 5 Church institutions within a kilometer distance.



A corn field. Goal to improve production and irrigation for the times of drought.

B. Medical Clinics “I was sick and you looked after me,” (Matthew 25:36a)

The Malagasy Lutheran Church has the large medical program called SALFA, with 10 hospitals, 25 clinics and many dispensaries. They have invited FOMM to help build two new clinics in areas where there is no health care and to remodel an existing clinic.

HOW TO SUPPORT:

- (1) We are in the “home stretch” of having the funding for these three projects, but additional funding is needed.
- (2) Gifts of any size are welcome. Call FOMM or email us to hear more about this project.



An architect drawing of the new clinics.

C. CHURCH ROOFS “I rejoiced with those who said to me, Let us go to the house of the LORD.” (Psalm 122:1)

Evangelists supported by FOMM donors live in remote villages, teach and reach out to those who are not Christians. When a number of people become Christians, the first thing they want to do is build a place of worship. FOMM promises when an evangelist begins a congregation we will pay for a metal roof.

HOW TO SUPPORT:

- (1) The congregation needs to provide an application and submit it to FOMM with an amount for the cost of the metal roof.
- (2) Average cost is \$1,500 to \$2,000.00 But, a gift of any amount is greatly appreciated.



A church with a new roof.

D. PRISON VOCATIONAL TRAINING (welding, sandal making, plastic recycling, etc.) “Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.” (Ephesians 4:28)

Our prison ministry strategy states that a vocational training program should equip a prisoner with a life skill. Upon release from prison, he or she will have an opportunity to make a living. We currently are in the process of selecting a prison, with the Ministry of Justice, to begin a training session in welding and sandal making. Besides providing job training, the sale of the products made in prison will provide income to support the spiritual and development programs of FOMM’s Prison Ministry Program.

HOW TO SUPPORT:

- (1) Each program will need \$2,000.00 to begin the welding and the sandal making vocational training
- (2) A gift of any amount will be greatly appreciated.



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

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Catherine Marks, Secretary
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WINTER 2024

FRIENDS OF MADAGASCAR MISSION GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

How do I donate:

1. Write a check and send to:

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

2. Go to: www.MadagascarMission.org (click on "Donate" and select a project to support)

3. A gift may be given "in memory of" or "in honor of"

4. You will receive:

a) A thank you letter from FOMM, b) Quarterly newsletters about FOMM's mission work

I would like to support the following FOMM Programs and/or Projects

EVANGELISM

- A. EVANGELISTS: page 2 \$ _____
B. PRISON MINISTRY: page 2 \$ _____
C. BIBLE SCHOOLS: page 3 \$ _____
D. THEOLOGICAL ED: page 3 \$ _____

CHILDREN IN PERIL

- A. Nofy i Androy: page 4 \$ _____
B. Dyrnes School: page 4 \$ _____
C. Visually Impaired: p. 5 \$ _____
Hearing Impaired p. 5 \$ _____
D. Hope School

DEVELOPMENT

- A. Village Redemption
1. Water Wells: page 6 \$ _____
2. Agriculture: page 6 \$ _____
3. Food for Hungry p.6 \$ _____
B. Medical Clinics: page 7 \$ _____
C. Church Roofs: page 7 \$ _____
D. Prison Vocational Tr. p.7 \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT OF YOUR GIFT: \$ _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____ IN MEMORY OF: _____