



Episode 9 – Meta Paubert Kaurin, Founder and Director of Nofy i Androy and Tsifaria Auber, Principal John Dyrnes School, Bezaha Madagascar

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Karen: Hello everyone. Welcome back to the Friends of Madagascar Mission podcast. My name is Karen and joining us today are Meta Paubert Kaurin and Tsifaria Auber. Meta is the founder and director of Nofy i Androy in Androy Madagascar and Tsifaria is the Principal of the John Dyrnes School in Bezaha Madagascar. Welcome to you Meta and to you Tsifaria.

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Meta: Hi, Karen. Thanks for having me and I'm so glad to be here today.

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Tsifaria: Hello Karen and thank you for inviting me today to join this talk. I say hello to Meta also who join us during this podcast.

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Karen: Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to talk to each of you separately about your programs. For those of you listening, if you have not had a chance to listen to those podcasts, we invite you to listen to episodes 4 and 5 to hear about what these individuals are doing in Madagascar.

Okay, Meta. When we talked to you a few months ago, you shared with us that you were expanding the Nofy i Androy program for girls into Bezaha. Would you tell us more about that?

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Meta: First of all, I'd like to thank FOMM for giving us the opportunity to expand our missions to Bezaha. We chose Bezaha because Dyrnes School is a historical place. It has been there since 1960. Now it's about to close if we, or all of us, don't take actions. So, Nofy i Androy has been dealing with one of Dyrnes School's problems which are - girls dropouts, early pregnancy, early marriage or child marriage. Because of Nofy i Androy's reputation and impacts in our community, especially for female students success in school, we decided to do the same program in Bezaha to encourage girls to go to school, focus in school, remain in school until finishing a higher education. As a result, our 5th graders and 9th graders in Bezaha got 100% passing

grade on a national exams called CEPE and BEPC. And most importantly, none of the students got married off or got pregnant.

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Karen: Congratulations Meta on your amazing success with the girls in Bezaha. Now Tsifaria, how has the Nofy program been received by the people in your city?

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Tsifaria: And how is Nofy i Androy received by the people in my city? In the beginning, people don't understand what this means or what is the fact about this program. And when we talk explain that this take care of the girl who wants to be big or clever in the future. So, some people understand some people don't understand, but just looking first. And we for last year, we was taking care of 43 childrens. 20-22 from the 7th grade and 19 from the 9th grade. And now the children are in 6th grade and 10th grade because they all succeeded from the national exam. And I think this is a good things. And now the people in my city start to understand what is the meaning and started to send their girl to the school.

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Karen: Tsifaria, how has the Nofy program affected your school? For example, has the enrollment changed because of the Nofy program?

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Tsifaria: It really have a big effect to my school because the number of my student that increases and if you listen to the first episode you heard that we have like 275 students last year and this year we enrolled 550 students and from Nofy i Androy is around 70-74. It's really have a big effect because it's the people in the city know, know that the school still alive. Because when we make a little story about the school the school is in the way to closed and even the school 4 years ago cannot take care of the salary of the teacher, and now this year we thanks God and this I always faithful to God, because even me, I don't understand how He was working during these four year and He used me, used Nofy i Androy, to achieve the goal. That God always keep His whatever He's doing and we just an accessory for Him and we just accomplished this big mission from God. Means educate these kids and send them to school and give them a good education.

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Karen: That's a huge increase in students Tsifaria. God is using you in great ways. Meta, please tell us a little bit about the challenges that you continue to face both with the Nofy program in Androy and with the Nofy i Androy program at Bezaha.

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Meta: Challenge is real. We are blessed enough to get to this point. I remember before we met Reverend David, we only had one admin staff. About 200 students. 15 teachers in one site. That was in 2019-2020. Now we have, we have 659 students. 97 of them are in Bezaha, and 72 of them are in college. Our staffing increased to 72 people. Before working with FOMM, we only had one site. And now we have 8 site throughout Androy and also in Bezaha. So the challenge is that we are growing so fast, which is great by the way, and it's proven to be working. As a result, the impact is great for the kids and for the parents as well, and it's definitely clear that it's a movement. So we need continued funding for growth. Back to what I said. We need more support. We need more advocacy, encouragement. More importantly, we need prayers.

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Karen: Tsifaria, I have a similar question for you. What challenges do you face at your school, especially with the increase in enrollment?

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Tsifaria: Challenge for me is to give those kids a really, really, good education. I want to put this culture of excellence. It means that students need to have a dream, a big dream and to become someone one day. But all of these are together with God and the Jesus Christ will give us the faith and the courage to continue and to work in this really very, very hard things. Like this year, because the number of the student that increases. So, we have a table problem for the kids. But thank you for Friends of Madagascar Mission, they give us around 40 table, new table for the kids. That is a big challenge and it's not only to increase number of the student, but give them the good education. With give them the right way from God education so challenge for Nofy i Androy and my school. I hope that the kids from Nofy i Androy will go very, very far and continue to studying hard and to prove that the woman girl can do the big things, the right things.

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Karen: The last question for each of you is - how can the people listening to this podcast be of help? Tsifaria, you go first.

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Tsifaria: OK. Hope you who listen of this podcast, I am the witness of the work of God. I start for nothing, but God put all of this program. Even the first time I didn't understand why I should be here. Why I have to renew the school it's very old. But I believe in the name of God that He always be with us. He will never go away, but He give us the Holy Spirit to have the idea to become His

accessory for all causes. So, I really thank mission of Madagascar - Friends of Madagascar Mission. I'm sorry. Because this is a really big help for me and I help the donor, everybody who has given us some things to help this school. This is not us. This is God. He work between us and He put us together to be the witness that God is great, and He always be with us. So, I really thankful for everybody who participate of this donor to the Friends of Madagascar Mission.

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Karen: Meta, it's your turn.

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Meta: People can learn about us on social media. They can spread our amazing work to their friends and families. You can also volunteer either helping me here in America or you can volunteer in Madagascar. There is always room for a volunteer at Nofy i Androy. You can share with me your thoughts on how to make the program better. Please donate to the FOMM website or to Nofy i Androy website. Or you can write a check to FOMM or write a check to Nofy i Androy. You can also sponsor a student to go to school with \$200 a year. And that the student will update you on how they are doing by sending 2 letters a year. If you like our program, you could be an advocacy for Nofy i Androy, an advocacy for the children of Madagascar. And please put them in your prayers that they will be independent and they will be succeed in their school. They will be succeed in their lives.

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Karen: It has been a pleasure to talk to you both again and to be updated on your successes in Madagascar. Thank you for taking the time to be with us today.

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Tsifaria: Thank you, Karen, and thank you Meta to join us today and hope to see you again next year.

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Meta: God bless you all. Thank you.

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Karen: If you are interested in learning more about John Dyrnes and the Nofy i Androy program, we invite you to visit the Friends of Madagascar Mission website at madagascarmission.org and click on Programs.