



# FRIENDS of MADAGASCAR MISSION

Vol 14:3

webpage: [www.MadagascarMission.org](http://www.MadagascarMission.org)

FALL 2025

Dear Friends of Madagascar Mission,

**"Give Thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever!"** (Psalm 136:1) As a child our family ended every meal time with this prayer. It has become ingrained in my life to give thanks for all that I have. Giving thanks is the beginning and source of a stewardship of life. Recently I have experienced a double whammy of health issues, but I can say, "Give thanks.." God has blessed me and so I give with my time, talents and treasures to serve God. As Martin Luther said, "Therefore (because of God's goodness) I surely ought to thank, praise and serve him." We invite those you who already support FOMM, continue; and invite those who do not support FOMM to begin.



In this third quarter of Friends of Madagascar newsletters, this is our theme: **"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever."** Our prayer is that you will find joy in giving to the needy of the world through FOMM's program and we will let you know how your gifts have been used through regular quarterly newsletters and other special mailings about specific program updates.

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Pages 2-3: Thank you letters from Madagascar  
Pages 3-5: Some exciting programs to support  
Page 5: Listing of memorial and honor gifts  
Page 6-7: How to support "Thanks a Million!"

## LEAVE A LEGACY

Everyone has a gift to leave for future generations and this is called our legacy. Your legacy is sharing with your family, community and church your values, your faith and your earthly possessions. Daily you leave a legacy of your values and your Christian faith to your family and community by how you live your life.

For your material wealth and how you leave a legacy takes planning. Who will be the recipients of your personal property and financial assets? This requires estate planning. This is the process of coming up with a legal plan for transitioning wealth as you would like it to happen: To family, organizations or causes. Your legacy will live on through financial planning.

Friends of Madagascar Mission has been the recipient of several legacy gifts and we manage them to be used for the purpose the donor designated. If you are interested in leaving a legacy gift to Friends of Madagascar Mission and wish to discuss what causes you would wish to support please contact us at: [FriendsOfMadagascarMission@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfMadagascarMission@gmail.com) or 847-445-8177.

## **"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever."**

The following are some of the thank you letters received from programs FOMM supports

### **1) Letters of thanks from the Betroka Synod:**

A) Support of seminary students: Thanks to FOMM for funding 26 students in seminary for the 2025-2026 school year. Without this support these students would not be able to attend and receive the education needed to serve as pastors in the Malagasy Lutheran Church.



### **B) Support for providing water wells:**

I would like to thank FOMM for digging the water wells in Betroka and Mananovy. The poor people now have clean water to drink, to bath and use for planting gardens to grow food even when there is no rain.



C) I also would like to thank FOMM so much for the tin roof for the church building in Ampototsy. The roof is finished; the house looks beautiful after the tin roof is finished. The Christians were happy and asked me to send their thanks to FOMM. So I continue to convey their thanks: "Thanks a million" to FOMM. The Christian there assured that they will continue to improve their Church building.

### **2) A thank you letter about a young man entitled: "From Blindness to Sight: A Miracle for Velodia".**

"One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" John 9:25

Such successful medical care is rare in Betroka, a relatively remote area of Madagascar. This story is not only about medicine, it is a testament to faith, hope, and the power of God's miraculous works. Indeed, Velodia's healing is a living testament to God's glory.

**VELODIA'S JOURNEY:** VELODIA Auguste is a young man born in 1999. His life was forever changed by faith, perseverance, and the healing power of God. He faced a challenge that would test both his courage and his hope. Velodia had a long battle with diabetes, a condition that worsened over time and by February 2025, what began as blurred vision soon turned into total blindness. A medical examination revealed that cataracts were the underlying cause. For three long months, Velodia lived in darkness. At the beginning of June 2025, determined to regain his sight, Velodia's father, evangelist VELOJIA Auguste reached out to FOMM for financial help. FOMM's evangelists have an annual health insurance program, but his medical request would cost more than \$100.00 FOMM provides annually. So immediately FOMM responded to his request to provide additional funds for his travel, housing, meals and surgery. On June 10, 2025, Velodia underwent surgery on his right eye. The results were remarkable. A few weeks later his left eye was operated on, with equally miraculous results. Today, he can see clearly with both eyes restored. Overwhelmed with gratitude, Velodia shared : "For me and my family, it is a great miracle to see again. As the Bible reminds us : " One thing I do know. I was blind, but now I see!."(John 9 :25). So I would like to express my deepest thanks to FOMM.



His father, evangelist VELOJIA Auguste, wrote to FOMM: "I am writing to you today with a heart overflowing with gratitude and joy. We recently witnessed a powerful testament to God's love and your faithful work. We are immensely thankful for your support for the assistance you provided to us. The story of my son VELOJIA Auguste, who was blind and now sees, is a true miracle and we are all praising God for this incredible act of healing.



### 3) A thank you letter from Pastor Dieu Donnee, who serves as the prison pastor in the Fianarantsoa Prison.

*"For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground."* (Isaiah 44:3)  
Clean water is life.

It is a vital need for everyone, especially for those in prison who often live with very limited resources. Providing clean water is not only about health—it is also about giving **love, dignity, and hope**.

We sincerely thank **FOMM** for providing an **immersion pump** to the Fianarantsoa prison. This gift of love is a living testimony that compassion can bring life and hope through clean water.

**Together, we can bring change and hope to those behind bars.**

Pastor Dieu Donné and prison warden

## **"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever."**

Some additional programs that you may be interested in supporting. For a listing of all FOMM programs go to: [www.MadagascarMission.org](http://www.MadagascarMission.org) or [www.MadagascarDevelopment.org](http://www.MadagascarDevelopment.org) to view the total listing of our mission.

## **FOMM has three categories of ways you may support our mission**

### **1) EVANGELISM**

**A. We are always seeking more support for evangelists** who are at the front of bringing the Gospel to the people who have not heard the saving message of Jesus Christ to transform their lives.



What does it cost to support an evangelist for one year? \$700.00 Salary, \$100.00 for education and \$100.00 for health insurance for a total of **\$900.00**. You will receive a photo and biography of the evangelist you support and a quarterly report about their work. Support payments may be made annually, quarterly or for only \$75.00 a month. We currently support 76 evangelists, but there are requests for more evangelists to share the Gospel.

### **B. We are seeking support for purchasing Star Links satellite systems**

for use, especially in remote areas where Internet connections are very difficult to receive. We purchased two systems this summer for two Bible Schools. In the age we live, for educational purposes; it is important for the students at the schools we support to have good Internet access for the "world of information at one's finger tips". These units will be used by teachers and students for their studying and also allow the schools to have teachers outside of their school to teach via these satellite units.

What does it cost to purchase a Star Link Satellite system? Star Link Satellite: \$397.24, annual subscription: \$600.00 and a solar panel and generator: \$152.19; for a total of **\$1,149.43** for the whole system.

(more categories on page 4)





**2. CHILDREN IN PERIL** --- In 2025 we have begun to support two new programs that support educational programs for children who are facing a difficult time because they live on the street (1 million street children in Madagascar) or because of physical issues. "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God." (Luke 18:16)



**A. Hope School:** This is a program based out of a commitment to minister to children who are called "street children". They may have parents but they all live on the street and have nothing. The children in this program receive a quality education and a good noon meal, which may be their only meal for the day. The school has a very high degree of student success, to give them an advantage for a better life.

Gifts of support: \$71.00 per month supports the principal's salary and \$61.00 per month supports one teacher's salary. Other gifts of any amount are needed for purchasing books for the library and computers and Internet connection for the computer lab.

**B. Mampiray:** This is a new program supported by FOMM. The name of the program means unity!



It is a program that is working with the students in the public schools who are blind or have other vision problems. The teachers are not equipped on how to teach special need children. The program leads workshops to help the teachers provide better success for the visually impaired students. This program also works with children who have a parent in prison. The child needs help and guidance with a parent missing from their life and also suffering from the lack of household income to support the family.

Gifts of support: \$10.00 for purchasing school materials per child and \$50 for leading workshops to provide skills to teachers on how to work with these students.

### 3. DEVELOPMENT:

**A. Prison Ministry Humanitarian Division** --- There are two divisions in the prison ministry: The spiritual division and the humanitarian. One of the developing programs within the humanitarian division is the vocational program. The goal is twofold: 1) To provide the prisoners something to do, as the prisons do not have any rehab programs, and 2) To provide a training program that will teach them a skill that they may use once released from prison to make a living with the skill they learned in prison. Currently we are setting up working groups at each prison to teach them: welding, soap making, jewelry items, sandal making and making lemur puppets.

Gifts of support: Gifts of any amount are needed to purchase raw materials, paying for persons to lead in teaching each of these skills. Your gift may be designated to a specific skill or we will assign where the gift is most needed.

**B. "Thanks a Million!"** -- On pages 6 and 7 you have the information on how you or a congregation may become involved in this great program. Recently students at universities across Madagascar have protested due to the lack of clean water and sufficient electricity. Now, I do not think we in the USA think anything about turning on a water faucet or flipping a light switch. The students in Madagascar called the government to task on these two issues and the result was that the president fled the country. The Malagasy people have declared the event as a new "Independence Day" and are going to write a new constitution that is much more concerned about the needs of the people.

(continued on page 5)

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FOMM has been leading the way in already digging wells and establishing water systems. As a result of our 2024 Lenten Season program called “Living Water”, we met our goal of raising \$100,000.00. **PLEASE JOIN IN HELPING US REACH THIS NEW GOAL!**

## “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever.”

### SPECIAL GIVING 2025 (January-October)

#### IN MEMORY OF:

Steve Lellelid  
David Awes  
Carl Vaagenes  
Carl Vaagenes  
Carl Vaagenes  
Morris Vaagenes

Ruth Vaagenes  
Carl Vaagenes  
Arlene Lellelid  
Steve Lellelid  
Morris Vaagenes  
Pat Schaeffer  
Carolyn Peterson  
Christa Lee  
Ted Berkas  
Bob & Ethel Anderson  
Elaine Perkins  
Vivian Wells  
Caleb & Connie Quanbeck  
James Peterson  
Malvin Rossing  
James & Carolyn Peterson

#### GIVEN BY:

Delores Berkas  
Lewann Sotnak  
Peter & Judy Dyrud  
Phyllis & Joe Soossai  
Joh and Diana Hetzler  
North Heights Lutheran Church  
Claudia Lodermeier  
Arvella Lang  
Arvella Lang  
Arvella lang  
Ron and Bev Hinz  
David & Diane Lerseth  
Dawn Whittenberg  
Rachael Archer  
Paul & Suzan Grabow  
Paul & Suzan Grabow  
Paul & Suzan Grabow  
Paul & Suzan Grabow  
Dawn Whittenberg  
Elizabeth Erickson  
David & Diane Lerseth

**TOTAL GIFTS: \$7,450.00**

#### IN HONOR OF:

Lyngblomsten Home Malagasy  
Missionaries who live there  
Susan Gunderson  
Phoebe Bergh's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday  
Ardie Voss' 90<sup>th</sup> birthday  
David Lerseth's birthday  
Ardie Voss' 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
  
Peeri and Ernestine's 60<sup>th</sup>  
Wedding Anniversary

#### GIVEN BY:

David Stensland  
St. James Lutheran Church  
David & Diane Lerseth  
Ted & Catherine Marks  
Ted & Catherine Marks  
David & Diane Lerseth  
Jeff & Kirsten Schlicht  
  
David & Diane Lerseth

**TOTAL GIFTS: \$1,950.00**



**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 share any donor information/addresses outside of FOMM. 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](http://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](http://www.MadagascarMission.org) and (a) give through our PayPal Account or (b) click on “Get Involved” and use the new donor friendly Donor View 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.

**"THANKS A MILLION!"**



**A program of Friends of Madagascar Mission to raise funds for digging water wells**

## **JOIN US IN RAISING A MILLION DOLLARS FOR WATER!**

### **1. When does the program begin?**

It has started and will continue until we reach our goal. This program is not a sprint, but a marathon. This means it may take a few years to achieve our goal, but we pray and know we will reach this goal and invite you to help us to reach the goal!

### **2. Who can participate?**

- A. Individuals: young, old and all in-between
- B. Families
- C. Churches
- D. Sunday Schools, youth groups
- E. Civic organizations, and any other kind of group



### **3. How to participate?**

- A. Please go to [www.MadagascarDevelopment.org](http://www.MadagascarDevelopment.org) and click on "Thanks a Million!".
- B. Donate (consider a minimum gift of \$3.00 for 3 months and ask 3 others to do the same).
- C. A family works together to make a three-month gift.
- D. A congregation develops a program to collect funds for each 3 months.
- E. A youth group, congregation, Sunday school could collect donations or:
  - (1) Hold a sale, like a rummage sale, cookie sale, pie sale, supper, etc.
  - (2) Conduct a "Water Walk". Children in Madagascar are given the household duty of going to the river to get water. Sometimes it might be a short distance. As the dry season arrives, it might mean walking a half mile, a mile, or more to bring back a small pail of water. So, have a walk where children must carry water a certain length and then teach them about the children in Madagascar carrying water every day. The water from the river will not be clean water. Diseases are common.
  - (3) Hold a "Noisy Water Offering" at worship once a month.
  - (4) The congregation sets an annual budgeted amount for this program.
  - (5) Host a "Thanks a Million!" fundraising party. Create and upload videos to post on social media. Link the videos to [www.MadagascarDevelopment.org](http://www.MadagascarDevelopment.org) and be sure to include the QR code found on this page or the website.

***Let your imagination go wild and offer members of a congregation the opportunity to provide water for people who do not have a source of plentiful water.***

**Friends of Madagascar Mission**

Phone: 847-445-8177 ♦ E-mail: [FriendsOfMadagascarMission@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfMadagascarMission@gmail.com)

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**"THANKS A MILLION!"**



**A program of Friends of Madagascar Mission to raise funds for digging water wells**

**4. Resources?**

- A. Resources are available on our web site: [www.MadagascarDevelopment.org](http://www.MadagascarDevelopment.org) or you may request a paper copy of the resources.
- B. Videos are available and helpful for introducing the **"Thanks a Million!"** Program.

**5. How to Contribute?**

- A. Online at <https://madagascardevelopment.org/donate/>
- B. If you wish to send in your contributions through a check, please write and send the check to:

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

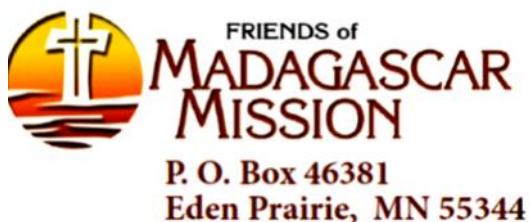
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!**



**Friends of Madagascar Mission**

Phone: 847-445-8177 ♦ E-mail: [FriendsOfMadagascarMission@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfMadagascarMission@gmail.com)

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### 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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**FALL  
2025**

### SOME KEY VALUES TO KNOW ABOUT FRIENDS OF MADAGACAR MISSION (FOMM)!

1. 100% of any gift given to FOMM goes to that program or project. Nothing is taken out of any gift to support our administration account. We do receive gifts especially designated to the administration account.
2. FOMM's staff does not receive a salary or reimbursement for expenses. They are all valuable volunteers.
3. If you would like to learn how you could become a part of FOMM's leadership, please contact us. Needed are persons to serve on our board of directors, a development director and associate executive director. Contact us for more information at: [FriendsOfMadagascarMission@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfMadagascarMission@gmail.com) or 847-445-8177.
4. Our FOMM Endowment Fund currently has a total of 4 designated legacy accounts and a total amount of \$275,122.00. If you wish a copy of our Endowment Program, please contact us at: [FriendsOfMadagascarMission@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfMadagascarMission@gmail.com) or 847-445-8177.