



## FOMM CATALOG IDEAS FOR GIVING

Vol 14:4

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

Winter 2025

Dear Friends of Madagascar Mission,

### THE GIFT THAT CHANGED THE WORLD!

As we prepare for Christmas, we are busy determining what gifts we should purchase for family members and friends. It is a tradition that has gone through many phases throughout history to the point of becoming very commercialized. But today, as Christians, we need to reclaim why we give gifts? The Christmas story tells us of the Wise Men bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The last time I checked, no stores had these items on their selves. But they have a deep meaning: GOLD means King of Kings; FRANKINCENSE means divinity and MYRRH means suffering. These gifts define the life of Jesus and so held much meaning. So, let's think about giving gifts with meaning this Christmas season also! Friend of Madagascar has some suggestions for you to think about to give to family and friends. This newsletter is kind of like a Christmas catalog of giving **THE GIFT THAT CHANGED THE WORLD** for someone in Madagascar.

So please read through this opportunities for gift giving in this newsletter catalog and give a gift of meaning!

#### HOW TO MAKE A GIFT?

1. On the back page select the gift you wish to give and fill out all the information!
2. Send a letter to the person you are giving the gift and tell them about the program/projects of FOMM.
3. How do I donate:
  - A. Write a check and send to: Friends of Madagascar Mission  
PO Box 46381  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344
  - B. Go to: [www.MadagascarMission.org](http://www.MadagascarMission.org) (click on "Donate" and select a project/program to support)
  - C. A gift may be given "in memory of" or "in honor"
  - D. You will also receive a thank you letter from FOMM and our quarterly Newsletters (Please include your email address)

Thanks for supporting **"THE GIFT THAT CHANGED THE WORLD"** for someone in Madagascar!

PEACE IN CHRIST!

The Rev. David P. Lerseth



## THE GIFT THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

### **EVANGELISM GIFTS: Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ**

To learn more about FOMM programs go to our website: [www.MadagascarMission.org](http://www.MadagascarMission.org)

Click on What We do and then click on Programs and Projects.

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

FOMM is all about supporting evangelism through the Malagasy Lutheran Church! FOMM supports 76 evangelists who live in villages and travel throughout the surrounding area to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **During the months of July, August and September the evangelists baptized 1,208 children and 587 adults.** Now I would call that effective evangelism!

#### **HOW TO SUPPORT AN EVANGELIST?**

- 1) Cost: \$900.00 for salary, education and health care.
- 2) All sponsors receive the name of the evangelist you support
- 3) Receive 4 reports on their work each year and bio & photo



Evangelists receive bicycles to use in traveling to neighboring villages.

**2. 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, called catechists. They study for 2 years with an extensive curriculum of studies: Old and New Testament, Church History, Lutheran Doctrine, Christian Ethics, Stewardship, Leadership Development, Malagasy Natural Religion, How to Witness and How to Teach Reading, a great preparation for their ministry. Upon graduation, they are assigned to live in a village and travel to surrounding villages.



The Staff at the Mananovy Bible School

#### **HOW TO SUPPORT THE BIBLE SCHOOLS?**

- 1) Cost: \$50.00 a month per student (Includes tuition, books, food and lodging, teacher salaries and maintenance of the school's facilities)
- 2) All donor designated gifts for the Bible School will receive update reports.

**3. THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION** *"Christ gave gifts to the church in the form of people with specific roles: apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastors and teachers. These roles are intended to equip God's people for ministry and to build up the body of Christ."* (Ephesians 4:11)

The Malagasy Lutheran Church has a membership of 4 million plus members. There is a need to train enough pastors to meet the needs for a growing church. For some individuals the cost of tuition and board and room is more than they or their family can afford. FOMM currently supports 25 students.

A personal letter from a SALT Seminary student whom FOMM financially helped when she hemorrhaged at the delivery of her child, who died during delivery. "Dear FOMM, I know that you are a very kind organization. You take care of the life and education for many here at SALT Seminary. This means a lot to me. Since that moment in February, when you saved my life; I have never stopped thinking about you. Just as Jesus saved me on the cross, you saved me that day in February.

(continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2)

You have been an organization that really cared for me. I will never forget that and I will always remember you in my prayers. PEACE IN CHRIST! Myriame SAFIDY

#### HOW TO SUPPORT A SEMINARY STUDENT?

- 1) Cost: Tuition: \$300 a year, living expenses: \$525.00 per year, and rent: \$280.00 a year or \$1.105.00 per year.
- 2) All sponsors will receive an update report on the seminary students.

Eight of the 25 students receiving scholarships in 2025.



#### 4. 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)

There are 82 prisons in Madagascar and FOMM Supports mission and ministry in 32 prisons. The ministry is divided into two divisions: (A) Spiritual: Local congregations are trained to lead worship, teach confirmation, do counseling, provide Bibles and hymnals; and (B) Humanitarian: In the prisons they provide food, vocational training, providing legal assistance, clothing, medicine, assistance to return home after prison release; accounts of this divisions work will be shared under the HUMANITARIAN report on page 6.

#### HOW TO SUPPORT THE PRISON MINISTRY PROGRAM?

- 1) A gift of any size is very much appreciated which goes to the operating budget of the Prison Ministry.
- 2) All sponsors will receive an update report on the prison programs.
- 3) A story from the Prison Ministry:

##### **From Confession to Commitment:**

While in prison, Frédo had time to reflect deeply on his life choices. He came face to face with his brokenness, confessed his sins before God, and made the life-changing decision to follow Jesus Christ with his whole heart. After six months of regular catechism study, he asked to be baptized and today, that decision was fulfilled.

Even behind prison walls, Frédo now radiates a new light and purpose. He boldly proclaims his desire to become a **pastor in the Malagasy Lutheran Church (FLM)** after his release, so he can serve God and help others find the same hope he discovered in Jesus.

Let us continue to pray for Frédo and for many others like him; souls whom the world may have forgotten, but whom **God has never stopped pursuing**. Peace !

**Pastor SOLOFONIAINA Anjaranirina Dieu Donné**, Fianarantsoa Prison Ministry Pastor



A photo of Fredo's baptism in prison.

#### FOMM Openings

**FOMM STAFF POSITIONS:** Development Director and Associate Executive Director

**FOMM BOARD MEMBERS:** Especially ones with interest in program evaluation or financial management.

Contact FOMM at 847-445-8177 or FriendsOfMadagascar-Mission.org if interested.

**FOMM would appreciate receiving your email address, as it will save us a lot of money on postage. If you do not have email, then you will continue to receive information via the USA mail.**



## THE GIFT THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

### CHILDREN IN PERIL GIFTS: Reaching out to the children in need!

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) 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 developing many programs in 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](http://www.MadagascarMission.org)

Click on What We do and then click on Programs and Projects.

#### 1. NOFY I ANDROY *"See that you do not look down on one of these little ones, because I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven."* (Matthew 18:10)

This program helps girls who are culturally vulnerable to sexual exploitation. It has grown beyond expectations as parents are so appreciative of helping to protect and teach the girls that they may have a great future upon receiving an education, a profession and a future full of hope! The program is growing rapidly at 8 sites and nearly 700 student enrolled.



A group of Nofy i Androy girls.

##### HOW TO SUPPORT A NOFY I ANDROY STUDENT?

- 1) Cost per year: Tuition is \$200.00 a year
- 2) All sponsors will receive a photo and bio of a girl, plus two update letters a year from the student.

#### 2. DR. JOHN DYRNES 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)

Since FOMM began supporting the school, the enrollment has grown from 88 students to 600 students. It has also introduced the Nofy i Androy program which includes nearly 100 girls attending the school. It is a school begun many years ago by a missionary doctor who rescued many children from death due to culture traditions. As the children became of school age he began this school. Because of FOMM's support today, it has saved many children from a life of poverty by providing a quality education. The school has begun to distinguish itself as a school where all the children pass the government required advancement tests.



A group of Nofy i Androy students at the Dr. John Dyrnes School.

##### HOW TO SUPPORT A DR. JOHN DYRNES SCHOOL STUDENT?

- 1) Cost for a year's tuition is \$45.00
- 2) A gift of any amount for school facilities, which need to be improved.

### LEAVE A LEGACY

Everyone has a gift to leave for future generations and this is called our legacy. Daily you leave a legacy of your values and your Christian faith to your family and community by how you live your life. You also may leave a financial legacy, but that takes planning. FOMM has received several legacy gifts and several informing FOMM that we will be receiving a legacy gift from them. If you are interested in leaving a legacy gift to FOMM and wish to discuss what causes you would wish to support please contact us.

### 3. SCHOOL FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED *Jesus looks up to the heavens and says, "Ephphatha, which means 'Be opened'" and heals a deaf man. (Matthew 11:5)*

Children with hearing problems have received a great education at the residential school FOFMA School in Antsirabe, Madagascar. The school has an enrollment of 200 students. Besides learning regular academic subjects, they learn how to speak with sign language. Another large part of their education is to learn a trade so they may be able to make a living.

#### HOW TO SUPPORT THE SCHOOL?

- 1) The cost per student is \$50.00 per month (school, room and board)
- 2) We have not begun an individual student support program because of the difficulty in having the students write letters, but we will send donors updates on the school.



This student is learning the skill of sewing

### 4. HOPE SCHOOL *"Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him." (Psalm 127:3)*

A wonderful school begun by Dr. Peri and his wife Ernestine in 2007 in the capital city of Antananarivo; which provides free quality education for homeless children. These children live with extreme poverty and experience a high risk of entering the juvenile justice system or being victims of sex trafficking or child kidnapping. The enrollment of the school is 185 students in grades 1 through 9, with hopes to expand and add the high school students also. The school has an amazing national examination record of 100% of their students passing the test. The students receive a free daily lunch, which for most of them is their only meal in 24 hours.

#### HOW TO SUPPORT THE SCHOOL?

- 1) Teacher's salary which have been very low and the need to provide an annual improvement in their salary. Also there are additional programs that they wish to develop: vocational training, adding the high school grades and a computer lab.
- 2) You will receive reports on the progress of the school



A group of Hope School students.

### 5. MAMPIRAY (means unity) A community based support for children in public schools that are visually impaired. **(A NEW PROGRAM)** *"He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means "Be opened!"). (Mark 7:34)*

The Mampiray Program visits public schools to identify children with visual issues and children who have a parent in prison. Currently they are working with eight schools where they have identified 106 children and youth benefiting from the Mampiray Program: 72 of them have low vision and visual difficulties, 9 are completely blind, and 25 are children of prisoners. the program also leads teacher training programs to help the teacher know how to teach these children.

#### HOW TO SUPPORT THIS PROGRAM?

- 1) Cost: \$50.00 a week with provide educational materials to the public schools for using in assisting the visually impaired children to receive a quality education.
- 2) Updates on this program will be sent to donors throughout the year.



Some of the children involved in the Mampiray Program

## THE GIFT THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

**DEVELOPOMENT GIFTS** "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](http://www.MadagascarMission.org) Or to our second website: [www.MadagascarDevelopment.org](http://www.MadagascarDevelopment.org) Click on What We do and then click on Programs and Projects.

**1. PRISON VOCATIONAL TRAINING** (welding, sandal making, puppet making, 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)

FOMM's Prison Ministry Humanitarian Division 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 with skills learned during their imprisonment.

### HOW TO SUPPORT THE PRISON MINISTRY HUMANITARIAN PROGRAM?

- 1) A gift of any amount is appreciated
- 2) The chart below lists some specific needs at the Fianarantsoa Prison's Program
- 3) If you have any specific questions about any of these items below please contact FOMM at: 847-445-8177 or [MadagascarMission@gmail.com](mailto:MadagascarMission@gmail.com)
- 4) You will receive update reports on the progress of this program.



In the prison, men are making sandals in the vocational program. The sandals are sold, the profits go into an account for the prisoner to use when he is released from prison and goes home with a career to use in making a living. Some of the profits go to purchase more materials and some funds

N°	Description of the project	Amount (MGA)	Amount (\$ US)
A	Prison Choir	8.600.000	\$ 1,911.11
B	Rehabilitation of the Chapel House	2.803.000	\$ 700.25
C	Sewer drainage canal and cover slab installation	9.423.500	\$ 2,355.94
D	Equipping the Prison workshop for skills development & habitation	594.000	\$ 130.31
E	Equipment procurement for Farmer's prison	2.384.000	\$ 596.00
F	Literacy materials for Prison Education program	1.650.000	\$ 412.50
G	Renovation/rehab water wells, washing area and sur-	5.127.000	\$ 1,124.29
H	Welding training equipment	2.220.000	\$ 493.34
I	Sandals making training program	5.476.500	\$ 1,252.00
J	Soap making training project for female inmates	1.480.000	\$ 370.00
	TOTAL BUDGET 2026	39.758.000	\$ 9,345.74

**2. FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY** *"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink..."* (Matthew 25:35)

Madagascar is always listed as one of the poorest nations in the world. People are hungry and FOMM is attempting to provide food for people at Ejeda Hospital, in the 32 prisons we have a ministry, at the Toby Ambohimahazo (A Christian retreat center that cares for the poor and mentally ill) and are exploring other places to begin the distribution of food.



Distribution of rice to the prisoners at the Fianarantsoa Prison. Pastor Dieu Donne, the leader of this prison ministry stands in the background. He is passionate about his ministry. Please pray for him and his ministry!

### HOW TO SUPPORT THIS PROGRAM?

- 1) Gifts of any amount are appreciated.
- 2) An example for a gift: A gift of \$1.00 will feed a person for one day



### 3. CHURCH ROOFS *"I rejoice with those who said to me, Let us go to the house of the Lord." (Psalm 122:1)*

The evangelist's ministry produces amazing results (see the article on evangelists on page 2). When the number of Christians grows in a community, the first thing they want to do is build a church building. FOMM promises to pay for the installment of a metal roof on their new church building.



The Ampototsy Church with their new metal roof. (L to R) President( Bishop) Pastor Jean Norbert Andriamihaja, the evangelist who started this church and the church president proudly stand in front

#### HOW TO SUPPORT?

- 1) The Madagascar congregation fills out an application for the cost of installing a roof.
- 2) The average cost is \$1,500 to \$2,000, depending upon local prices and size of the roof.
- 3) Gifts of any amount are very much appreciated. You do not have to pay for the complete cost.
- 4) You will receive a letter and photo of the installed roof.

### 4. 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)*

FOMM's Board of Directors has developed a "7-Point Blueprint for Spiritual Growth and Economic Prosperity in Rural Villages in Madagascar", which may be located on [www.MadagascarMission.org](http://www.MadagascarMission.org)

**A. Agriculture:** The south west region of Madagascar is one of the five most likely regions in the world to experience severe drought. FOMM's goal is to make an impact in the region that may therefore draw investments from corporate and government grants to help fund FOMM's goals for agriculture development in the region.

#### WHAT IS NEEDED?

- (1) Establishing agricultural teaching centers to equip leaders to teach farming methods.
  - (2) Create "Seed Banks" to provide and preserve seeds for the next planting season.
  - (3) Plant Moringa Trees (called trees of life) which grow in arid climates. All parts of this fast growing tree provide great nutritional food values. Our goal is to plant a grove of these trees when we dig a water well.
- NOTE:** We are currently in conversations with a group from Norway who are interested in working with FOMM on this project.

#### WHAT DOES IT COST?

- 1) Gifts of any size are welcome.
- 2) Examples: \$250.00 to build a "Seed Bank" in a village and \$2.00 for planting one Moringa Tree.



The Betroka Synod owns 180 hectares (445 acres) of farm land. FOMM has drilled two wells to provide water for the drip irrigation program. We now need to build two water towers to distribute the water one drip at a time to the plants so they will not dry up and as a result not produce any crops in the arid landscape. IF INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING THE BUILDING OF THE WATER TOWERS, PLEASE CONTACT FOMM. ( Cost: \$7,194.00)

### 5. DRILLING WATER WELLS *"I was thirsty, and you gave me drink." (Matthew 25:35)*



FOMM is undertaking this program because of the arid region in southwest Madagascar. People in that region, for centuries, have had a difficult time finding water resources. Now we are able to drill through solid granite to find large pools of clean water. Please go to [www.MadagascarDevelopment.org](http://www.MadagascarDevelopment.org) to learn more about this program.



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**

Rev. David P. Lerseth, President  
Jeff Tetzlaff, Vice President  
Catherine Marks, Secretary  
Kirsten Schlicht, Treasurer  
Andrea Crew  
Rev. Lee Laaveg  
Loren Morschen  
Craig T. Norenberg

WINTER 2025

**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](http://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**

1. EVANGELISTS: page 2 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
2. BIBLE SCHOOLS: page 2 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
3. THEOLOGICAL ED page 2/3 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
4. PRISON MINISTRY: Spiritual  
page 3 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_ IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHILDREN IN PERIL**

1. Nofy i Androy: page 4 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
2. Dyrnes School: page 4 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
3. Hearing Impaired p. 5 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
4. Hope School p. 5 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
5. Mampiray p. 5 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**DEVELOPMENT**

1. Prison Vocational Tr: p.6 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
2. Food for Hungry p.6 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
3. Church Roofs: page 7 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
4. Village Redemption  
A. Agriculture: page 7 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
B. Water Wells: \_\_\_\_\_

**THANKS A MILLION!** p 7 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT OF YOUR GIFT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**