



FRIENDS of
**MADAGASCAR
MISSION**



Vol 15:2

FALL Report

2026

Dear Friends of Madagascar Mission,

This newsletter is going to be all about the changes that have taken place with Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM) in recent years. Change is often viewed as a negative thing because it disrupts our “comfort zone”. But change is inherent in life and it brings new life, enthusiasm and joy! I frequently remind FOMM’s Board of Directors that if FOMM doesn’t change and grow; it will experience a slow, declining end to our mission work.

From our early beginnings in 2009 to 2026 we have experienced many changes, it seems like about every 5 years there is some major change: 1) Expanding the Board of Directors and adding committees, 2) Creating a FOMM staff, 3) An ever increase in programs to support, and 4) A growing budget to support our mission commitments.

Change is not merely a modern organizational challenge; it is a fundamental Biblical reality. From the opening pages of Genesis to the closing visions of Revelation, the Scriptures reveal a God who is constant in “I am who I am”, but dynamic in acting among us in our current times in many different ways. For a mission organization, understanding the Biblical theology of change is very vital. It shifts our perspective from viewing change as a disruptive obstacle to recognizing it as the very environment in which God works to redeem and transform the world.

In south west Minnesota I once saw a sign by a country church that has this statement: “A changeless Christ for a changing countryside”! This perspective reflects Malachi 3:6 “I the Lord do not change.” God is our Rock! However, God’s unchangeable nature does not mean He is static. God is the author of cosmic change. God speaks creation into existence, makes a covenant with Abraham to build a new nation and ultimately alters the course of human history through the incarnation of Jesus Christ. For a mission organization like FOMM, this provides anchor and flexibility, because our foundation never changes. God is our rock. We have the security needed to adapt our methods to a changing world.

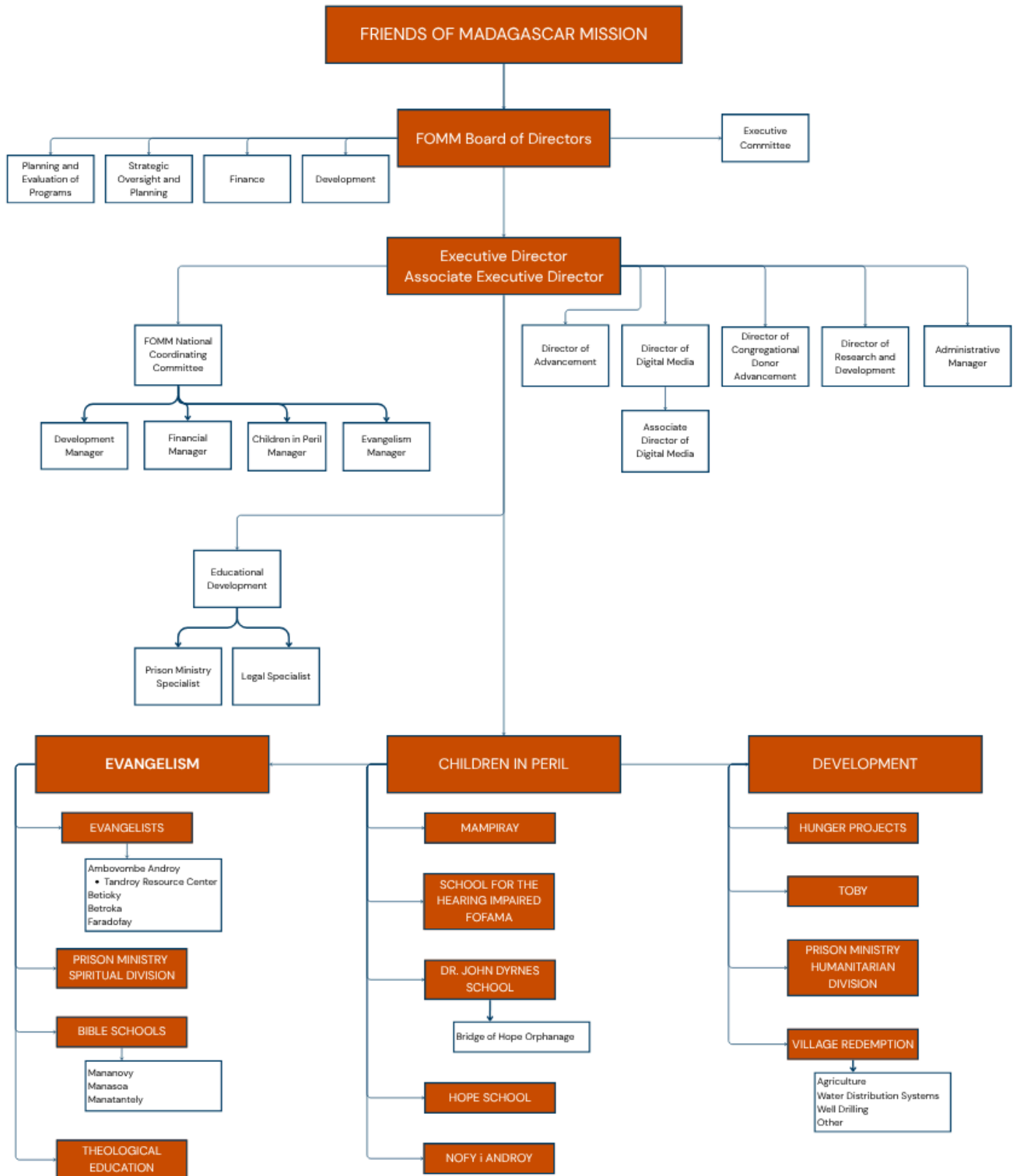
Change can bring uncertainty, fear, and institutional fatigue. However, when viewed through the lens of scripture, change is the catalyst for growth and fruitfulness. As a mission organization, we can embrace the future, not with anxiety; but with expectant faith. The cultures we engage will change, our team structures will adapt, and our strategies will evolve. But we step forward knowing that the Holy Spirit is leading the march, constantly renewing God’s church, and working toward the final day when Christ declares, “I am making everything new!” (Revelation 21:5).

PEACE IN CHRIST!

The Rev. David P. Lerseth

FRIENDS OF MADAGASCAR MISSION PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

Program Structure



NEW STAFF PERSONNEL

1. FOMM USA STAFF: Eric Brinkert

We welcome Eric to FOMM's staff as the Advancement Director. He will be working to direct all of FOMM's financial initiatives.



Eric has a 20-year career in non-profit management with particular experience in fundraising, grant writing, strategic planning, and management and leadership development. He is also a Lutheran educator and writer with teaching and research interests in ethics, medical ethics, bioethics, Luther's doctrine of the three estates, and vocation. He is a Ph.D. Fellow at Christ School of Theology at the Institute of Lutheran Theology where he also serves as an instructor of ethics and as Editorial Assistant for ILT Press. Eric also has a M.A. in Conflict Resolution from Georgetown University where he spent a semester conducting thesis research in Rwanda while embedded with the Lutheran Church of Rwanda. Eric lives in Oregon with his wife and labradoodle. He also has nine nieces and nephews, including three god-children.

You will see his name on many letters, FOMM Newsletters, etc. in the future. So remember he is a valuable new member of our FOMM Staff.

2. FOMM MADAGASCAR STAFF:

A. Pastor SOLOFONIAINA Anjaranirina Dieu Donne (Means: "Gift of God")



Pastor Dieu Donn  received his Baccalaureate in Secondary Education in 2014. From 2015 to 2017, he pursued Biblical studies at the Bible School of Toby Ankaramalaza. He subsequently completed four years of pastoral theological education at the Lutheran Pastoral Theological Seminary of Vangaindrano (from 2018 to 2021) and was ordained as a pastor in 2021. From 2021 to 2026, he continued his theological education at the SALT Seminary in Fianarantsoa. In June of 2026, he earned a Master's Degree in Theology, with a specialization in Missiology and Diakonia, focusing on Prison Ministry.

In addition to his theological studies, he has received training in Information Technology (2013) and American English (2023). In February 2026, he completed the Certified Prison Worker (CPW) Training Program offered by Prisoners for Christ (PFC).



His pastoral ministry includes evangelism, Bible teaching, prayer, spiritual and pastoral care, discipleship, preparation for baptism and confirmation, and supporting prisoners on their journey toward restoration, personal transformation, and reintegration into society. Music and choral ministry are also an important part of his work. Pastor Dieu Donn  leads and trains the Fianarantsoa Prison Choir, using music as a means of evangelism, encouragement, discipleship, and the development of prisoners' God-given talents.

His ministry extends beyond spiritual care. He believes that Christian ministry should address the whole person, responding not only to spiritual needs but also to physical, social, and practical needs. For this reason, he is actively involved in initiatives that seek to equip prisoners with practical skills and prepare them for life after release. He also leads the Prison Work Group, which coordinates and develops vocational training opportunities for prisoners, including soap production, sandal making, and welding. These programs seek to provide practical skills, strengthen self-confidence, develop God-given talents, and create opportunities for prisoners to rebuild their lives and contribute positively to society after their release.

He believes that a person's imprisonment does not erase their dignity or God-given potential. Therefore, Prison Ministry is not only about sharing the Gospel, but also about restoring hope, nurturing talents, encouraging transformation, and preparing people for a new beginning.

B. Friends of Madagascar Mission National Coordinating Committee (FNCC)

As Friends of Madagascar Mission has grown from 3 programs in 2010 to 14 programs in 2026. Many of the 14 programs have numerous locations such as the evangelist program with 4 different synods and 72 evangelists or the prison ministry program has 34 different locations. The mission has expanded and requires a lot on hands on management which is difficult to do from the USA. Also, the issues of language and culture need the leadership of Malagasy persons leading and managing these programs.

So, then we have recently created the FNCC and selected 4 leaders to manage the programs.



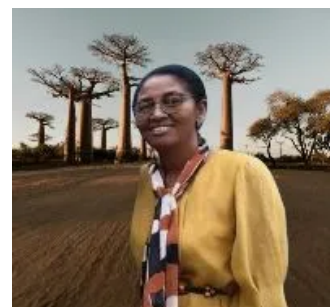
+ Lanto RABENASOLO:
Chairperson of the FNCC
and Coordinator of the
Development Projects



**+ RASOFOFOMANANA
Jobelson Orlando:**
Coordinator of the
Financial Auditing of
Programs



**+ Jeannot Luther
RAZAFINDRABE:**
Coordinator of the
Children in Peril
Programs and translator



+ VERONITA Franckline:
Coordinator of the
Evangelism Programs.

NEW PROGRAMS

1. PRISON MINISTRY VOCATIONAL PROGRAM

There are 83 prisons in Madagascar and FOMM has a ministry presence in 34 prisons, with the hope of expanding into more prisons as financial support for beginning a ministry is provided.



A baptism of a prisoner

Every prison ministry program has two parts: the spiritual ministry and the vocational program. A local congregation is assigned to fulfill the spiritual ministry and the pastor and Shepherds (trained laypersons) go to the prison to lead worship and teach. The vocational program requires having trained persons to teach a trade skill. Pastor Dieu Donne as now the leader of helping to create a vocational program in each of the FOMM Prison Ministry Programs around the country.

A prison vocational program provides training in a vocation which would qualify the prisoner with a skill that could be used to earn a living once released from prison. Under the leadership of Dr. David Isaacson, (Research and Program Development Leader of FOMM's Programs in Madagascar), he has created "Working Groups". These groups provide trainers from outside of the prison who teach the prisoners a trade skill. Currently the skills being taught are: welding, soap and sandal making. Following the training period they receive a kit of tools that will allow them to create a business once released from prison.



A prison gathering to celebrate the prisoners receiving a vocational certificate of achievement for completing a skill training.



Photos of the three vocational training programs

The products made in prison are sold at a store and the earnings are divided for use 3 ways: 1) one third goes toward purchasing more materials for the training, 2) one third goes into an account to save for the purchase of tools to give to the prisoners for their to keep when released from prison and starting their own business, and 3) one third of the funds from the sale of the products made in prison go to support the Prison Ministry Program.

Gifts to support the Prison Ministry Vocational Program

+ Welding training: \$493.00 each quarter

+ Soap Making Training: \$150.00 per quarter

+ Sandal Making Training: \$870.00 per quarter

Crumpled, Yet Still Valuable in God's Eyes!

"Imagine holding a new and clean \$100 bill. It is beautiful, fresh, and valuable. Suddenly, it falls to the ground. Mud and dirt stick to it, and after being stuffed into a pocket, it becomes crumpled and wrinkled. When people see that bill, they may think, "This bill is dirty and damaged." But when it is picked up, cleaned, and straightened out, and then taken to a store or a bank, it is still worth \$100. Its value has not changed, even though it fell into the dirt and became wrinkled.



The same is true for prisoners. They may have made mistakes, sinned, failed, or done things that led them to prison. To some people, they may look like that dirty and crumpled bill. But in God's eyes, they are still precious human beings. God has not canceled their value, because they were created in His image.

Jesus did not reject sinners; He welcomed them so they could be cleansed and transformed. When a person repents and comes to Christ, God can

restore that life, just as a crumpled bill can be straightened again. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." — John 3:16

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

— 2 Corinthians 5:17

Sin and prison may stain a person's life, but they do not remove that person's value in the sight of God. God receives prisoners because they are still human beings, and when Christ receives them, they can be renewed, lifted up, and given a new hope.

We thank God for His love and mercy. We also sincerely thank FOMM (Friends of Madagascar Mission) for supporting prison ministry in Madagascar through spiritual care, humanitarian assistance, and vocational training that brings hope and a new future to many prisoners.

Even when life has been crumpled, it is still precious in God's eyes!

Pastor Dieu Donné"

2. MAMPIRAY PROGRAM (Means: "that which unites")

Erison Ernest SOLOHERY, after retirement from being the director of a school for the visually impaired; believed that he still had the desire to serve children who have visual issues and children in prison. So, he formed this Mampiray program which works with local schools in Antsirabe. He sets up training sessions for the teachers to help them know how to teach children with vision issues and also has a program to help teach children who are in prisons. This is a new kind of program in Madagascar and he has been very successful and welcomed by both the schools and the prisons for his willingness to serve.

A gifts to support the Mampiray Program:

\$130.00 per month for school teaching materials

\$ 85.00 per month for children of prisoners teaching materials

\$ 85.00 per month for children incarcerated in prison

Children from a public school who are identified as having eye sight problem and receiving special educational opportunities because of the Mampiray Program.



3. TANDROY RESOURCE CENTER: AMBOVOMBE-ANDROY SYOND

This is a region within the Ambovombe-Androy Synod where the language that is spoken is not the normal Malagasy language. So, the Ambovombe-Androy Synod as created a Resource Center where they produce printed Bible studies, booklets, audio and video resources for use in evangelism outreach among these people. There are 3 evangelists who serve in this region and several personnel who work in the office producing the materials.



Three evangelists serving in the Tandroy region

The printing cost for 240 Bible Study booklets: \$375.00
Transportation and per diem for 2 people in one year to record weekly sermons: \$65.00

4. BRIDGE OF HOPE ORPHANAGE

The Dr. John Dynes School has been growing steadily ever since a FOMM Mission Education Trip visited there in 2023. At that time the enrollment was low, the morale was weak as a result of that visit, FOMM decided to support the school. Since that visit FOMM has supported tuition grants, purchased more desks, provided resources to build wall around the school for safety of the students and now they have asked FOMM to support the beginning of an orphanage. It is an interesting request, because the School started because Dr. Dynes saved so many children from death and it was beginning of an orphanage. Now, 100 years later an orphanage is again being established because of FOMM's financial support. Madagascar has a million street children and this orphanage is serving as a place of safety, beginning with 20 children; to have a new life, an education and receiving the love of Jesus Christ!

Food cost per day: \$2.00

Monthly salary for the Orphanage House Keeper: \$60.00

Children's school clothes per year: \$10.00

SPECIAL PROJECT REQUESTS FOR FUNDING (NOT PROMISED BUT GIFT OPPORTUNITIES)

A. SALT SEMINARY

SALT Seminary has requested FOMM to dig a new well for them that would provide access to clean water for nearly 400 persons. Currently they are connected to the city water system which does not provide a safe water supply. **The cost of this water system is 10,000.00** and we ask for your prayers that the funds will be given.



B. TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT

Also, SALT Seminary has requested a **\$10,000.00 gift to establish the seminary with an up to date electronic center** with computers, copy machines, Internet, etc. for all of their students to use this center for research and study. Again, we seek donors for this project.

Dear David Lerseth,

Thank you very much for your support for some of the students at SALT. This support is very important for the development of the Gospel ministry in Madagascar. We are writing to you from SALT because we are currently facing challenges regarding the equipment needed to carry out our work effectively. Most of our information technology equipment is now outdated, and we would like to renew and upgrade it. However, we are facing financial constraints that make it difficult for us to undertake this necessary renewal on our own.

Specifically, we would like to request financial support for the following equipment:

- Desktop computers/laptops
- Projectors
- Printers/scanners
- External hard drives/storage devices

Estimated total budget: 10,000 USD

These items are essential for teaching, administration, communication, research, and other activities at SALT. Updating this equipment would significantly improve our ability to serve students and support the ministry of the school. Therefore, we would like to kindly ask whether FOMM might be able to provide financial support, either for the entire project or for part of the equipment listed above.

If this is possible, we would be very grateful for your consideration and support. Your assistance would enable us to improve our facilities and carry out the work of SALT more effectively.

Thank you very much for your continued support and consideration.

Sincerely,

Pasteur ANDRIAMIHARIMANANA Fidiniaina Berthier, PhD “

C. HONDA MOTORCYCLE

Pastor Dieu Donne serves as the Fianarantsoa Prison Chaplain and also as FOMM's Prison Ministry Specialist, which means he is training other prisons on how to establish a Vocational Program to provide training for prisoners to succeed after they leave prison and have the skills to begin a career to earn a living. The prison in Fianarantsoa is relocating to a new sight about 6 miles outside of Fianarantsoa and he will have to travel there each day. A special gift opportunity is to purchase a **Honda motorcycle. The cost is \$2,289.** He states, "I prefer the Honda brand because it is stronger, more reliable, and better suited for the work I need to do."



NEW FOMM BOARD MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome two new board members to FOMM Board of Directors. Each of them brings a special gift to serve on the board and on one of FOMM's committees



Pastor Daniel Ostercamp, serves on the FOMM Planning and Evaluation of Programs Committee

A Lutheran pastor who has served parishes in Shevlin/Solway, MN; Badger, MN; Webster, SD and Hallock, MN. After receiving a B. S. from Harvey Mudd College, Claremont, CA, Daniel served as a teacher for Peace Corps Malawi. The "Warm Heart of Africa" changed his life direction. He would earn an Masters of Divinity from Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary in St. Paul, MN. He is blessed to be the father of two wonderful teenagers. His interests include music, travel, enjoying the company of his dog, baseball and getting to know new people.



John Goergen serves on the FOMM Finance Committee

Now retired, he spent 21 years working in IT and project management, mostly at IBM and its Lotus subsidiary, and then for 14 years was the Chief Financial Officer at a small company that creates online health assessment software.

He is on the Finance Committee of St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Eden Prairie and teaches a Bible class there. He is also on the Finance Committee of Eden Prairie's local food shelf. He is President of the EPAM Rotary Foundation and leads the Foundation's Grant Review Committee. He is also on the Board of Directors of Bloomington Eden Prairie

Meals on Wheels. He has a BA from the University of Michigan and an MA from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He and his wife Barbara live in Eden Prairie, MN. They have two grown children and four grandchildren. He enjoys traveling, working out, spending time with family, reading, and music, and in the summer likes to water-ski and provides trips for elderly and other groups through the Let's Go Fishing program



"THANKS A MILLION!"

The "Thanks a Million!" Program is off to a good start. It is not a sprint, it is a marathon; meaning it will take a few years to reach our goal. Why is this program so important?

1. The southwest region of Madagascar, where we support most of our mission programs, includes some of the driest land on the earth.

2. For centuries, the people here have suffered from drought, and it is reported to be one of the 4th driest regions in the world.

3. People suffer from the lack of water as the rains stop, the wells dry up and starvation stunts the children's growth

4. The people have to walk miles to get water, dirty and not healthy

5. Below this barren land there is a solid granite formation that prohibits drilling wells by hand.

6. FOMM coordinates drilling wells with Madagascar Water Project who have equipment that drills quickly through the granite. It is like Moses striking the rock!

7. Your gift(s) are very important, large or small, once or every month, etc. and are very much appreciated; to bring clean, healthy water to the people in the "wilderness".

8. Just mark your gift for "Thanks a Million! (TAM)". Go to 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
Pastor Daniel Ostercamp
John Goergen

**FALL
2026**

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"

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

1. EVANGELISM

- a. EVANGELISTS: \$ _____
- b. PRISON MINISTRY: Spiritual \$ _____
- c. BIBLE SCHOOLS: \$ _____
- d. SEMINARY \$ _____
- e. TANDROY Resource Center \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT OF YOUR GIFT: \$ _____

2. CHILDREN IN PERIL

- a. Nofy i Androy: \$ _____
- b. Mampiray \$ _____
- c. Hearing Impaired \$ _____
- d. Dyrnes School \$ _____
- e. Bridge of Hope Orphanage \$ _____
- f. Hope School \$ _____

3. DEVELOPMENT

- a. Prison Humanitarian \$ _____
- b. Food Distribution \$ _____
 - 1. Ejeda Hospital \$ _____
 - 2. Toby \$ _____
 - 3. Emergency Food \$ _____
- c. ANTALAHA Half-Way \$ _____
- d. Agriculture \$ _____
- e. THANKS A MILLION! \$ _____
- f. Building Projects \$ _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____ IN MEMORY OF: _____