Dear Friends of Madagascar Mission,

THANK YOU! Thank you for your prayers and your generosity in supporting the projects of Friends of Madagascar Mission. Without your support we would not exist, for we are a donor based organization. This is your organization! The Board of Directors for FOMM is the manager of your global mission commitment, helping to direct your gifts to the correct mission and ministry program.

The purpose of the FOMM Annual Report is to share with you the stories of FOMM’s work in 2015 and the challenges in 2016. We closed the books on 2015 and paid all of our financial support promises for the year, and even some projects over and above our plans.

Now as we begin 2016, we pray: “Oh God, can we do this again? Will our current donors and the new donors be able to meet our commitments for supporting the programs and projects in 2016?” God has been faithful in every year of FOMM’s existence. The number of donors has increased every year and together we continue to provide amazing support for mission.

Our prayer is that the annual report will encourage you to continue supporting the mission and ministry through FOMM and that you will encourage others to join us on our mission journey!

PEACE IN CHRIST!

The Rev. David P. Lerseth, President

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A congregation in the Andriry Betroka Synod
Prison Ministry Program

Total 2015 Financial Support: $38,000.00

“...for I was in prison and you came to me...” Matthew 25:35-37

The Prison Ministry is much like the ministry in a local congregation. The following statistical report describes the extent of what has been accomplished in 2015.

**Baptisms:** 42 prisoners baptized and 4 children (who live with their mothers during their incarceration).

**Confirmation:** 288 prisoners enrolled. 66 prisoners being confirmed.

**Worship Services:** Each week a service is held in 7 prisons.

**Bibles and Luther’s Small Catechism:** 200 Bibles, 300 Small Catechisms & 300 notebooks/pens distributed.

**Released Prisoners:** Supported 38 released prisoners with travel expenses to their homes.

**Providing Gifts of Food for the Prisoners:** The government does not provide food. Families are expected to provide food. The Prison Ministry Program gives rice and a protein to needy prisoners. Also twice a year, at each of the 7 prisons, a cooked meal is provided. One of these meals is around Christmas time. Following the meal the warden encouraged The Prison Ministry Team to continue this act of kindness. He said, “You are the only group that comes here at Christmas time. We give thanks to you and the organization from America (Friends of Madagascar Mission) who provides the funds for this meal.”

**Distribution of Medication:** Under a doctor’s supervision medications are distributed to the prisoners.

“The Malagasy Lutheran Church Prison Ministry Team wishes to express their thanks to the Friends of Madagascar Mission donors for your generous support.

Yours, in Christ’s Service, Ramangavololona Denise, Director of Prison Ministries”

**TOTAL 2016 Financial Support Needed:** $38,000.00
(Does not include the “2016 Challenge” to support 2 more prisons for $10,000.00)

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A Special Giving 2016 Challenge

**Expansion of Prison Ministry Program**

This Prison Ministry Program has caught the attention of the Malagasy government. They have requested the program to be expanded. The Program has expanded from 3 to 7 prisons, and in 2016, we have been asked to add 2 additional prisons.

The chief warden of the prison system in Madagascar has said, “Numerous charitable organizations come to the prison, but your organization is special. You not only care for the spiritual needs of the prisoners, but you minister to the social needs as well (food, clothing, medicine, etc.).” Please contact us for more information on supporting this “2016 Challenge”.

Pastor Theo conducting worship at a prison.
Bible School Program

Total 2015 Financial Support: $24,000.00

“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’” (Romans 10:14-15)

This is a perfect description of the two year Bible School Program in Madagascar. They are equipping individuals to become evangelists and share the Good News with those who have not heard. They also work to teach adults and children to read, so they may read God’s Word!

The course of study is impressive.

First Year:
- Old Testament Introduction
- New Testament Introduction
- History of Israel
- Luther’s Catechism (and how to use it)
- How to Teach a Bible Study
- Dogmatics (Lutheran Theology)

Second Year:
- Study of I Corinthians & Galatians
- Malagasy Lutheran Church History
- Study of Traditional & Idol Worship
- Christian Ethics

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<th>First Year</th>
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<td>Gospel According to Luke</td>
<td>Practicing How to Preach</td>
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<td>Evangelization</td>
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Friends of Madagascar Mission currently supports 2 Bible Schools with 45 students enrolled.

TOTAL 2016 Financial Support Needed: $24,000.00 ($12,000 for each school)

A Special Giving 2016 Challenge
Expansion of Bible School Program

In order to better equip their students to serve in the church, the Bible Schools are beginning an internship program. The students, under supervision of the faculty, will work in areas reaching out to those who have not heard the Gospel. The cost of the program is $2,500. Please contact us for more information on supporting this “2016 Challenge”.

Please pray for the students studying to be evangelists, and for congregations and individuals to provide the annual salary of $600.
Evangelist Program

Total 2015 Financial Support: $21,000.00

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” (I Corinthians 12:4-7)

The following report has been provided by Dr. Elson and his wife Hanitra who manage the Evangelist Program for FOMM. NOTE: Detailed reports will be sent to those supporting evangelists.

1) Introduction
Greetings from the Betioky Atsimo and Andriry Betroka Synods! We are very thankful to Friends of Madagascar Mission for supporting 35 evangelists. Each Evangelist receives $600 a year salary, plus continuing education funds.

2) Update from the Andriry Betroka Synod: 19 evangelists supported by FOMM.
We need you to pray for the people in the Betroka area. We have many people that we call “dahalo” which means outlaws. They are known for being cattle rustlers and they rob people of their livelihood. Many people are killed attempting to defend their herds. Also, the people suffer from a lack of rain and the crops die.

Several evangelists in this synod have been attacked by thieves. Some evangelists have had their houses burned. Some evangelists are forced to abandon their work in a certain area because they have been threatened personally. Some evangelists are asked to leave a village because a person or group tells them to get out. The lawlessness is well organized and heavily armed with weapons. The evangelists are not always welcome, but as the Word of God says in Hebrews 4:12 “We are confident in the knowledge that the Word of God is powerful and can transform hearts…”  (This paragraph is written by the Synod President of the Andriry Betroka Synod.)

3) Update from the Betioky Atsimo Synod: 16 evangelists supported by FOMM.
The climate for evangelists in this synod is not as dangerous. The people have become more open to the evangelists and receptive to the Word of God. You will see in the Activity Report below, that the results in the Betioky Atsimo Synod are much more positive. The evangelists visit door to door, village to village and have a great impact. The evangelists are also very encouraged that there is a spiritual hunger and as a result there are many new converts to the Christian Faith.

4) Activity report for 2015

   a) Andriry Betroka Synod
   Villages visited: 698
   Families visited: 2,402
   Children baptized: 127
   Adults baptized: 81
   Confirmations: 36
   Taught to read: 951

   b) Betioky Atsimo Synod
   Children baptized: 405
   Adults baptized: 333
   Confirmations: 571

Please pray for the current evangelists and more donors will be provided to support more evangelists.

5) Annual Evangelist Training Events
The evangelists from each synod attended an Evangelist Training Event in 2015. The agenda for each of the Evangelist Training Events was the same: 1) The Mission of the Church, 2) The Dogmatics (the theology of the Bible), 3) The Lutheran Church’s Theology, and 4) The Story of the Good News (what and how we are to share the story).

Total 2016 Financial Support Needed: $21,000.00
The Lellelids of Androy

Total 2015 Financial Support: $ 78,510.00 (Current funds in account)
(Total estimated cost: $100,000.00)

“And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.” (Acts 18:11) Steve has spent most of his life in Madagascar translating and teaching the Word of God!

Steve Lellelid and the Translation of the Bible into the Tandroy Dialect

Steve works in the southern part of Madagascar in the Ambovombe-Androy Synod of the Malagasy Lutheran Church. For the past 15 years he has been translating the Bible into the Tandroy dialect. The translation is now complete and we are having difficulties finding a printer.

Seeking a Printing House

Two printing houses have been contacted to submit bids. We are now facing two new obstacles: 1) Neither printing house has enough quality paper to do the printing. 2) The new import laws in Madagascar will not exempt non-profit organizations from taxes. This will add considerable price to the printing of the Bibles.

During the time of waiting, Steve and his assistants have been reviewing the translation. As Steve says, “If it were any other book, it would be tedious; but it is the Word of God, ever fresh and ever new, so I am working at reviewing the text 12 hours a day.”

New Solar Power Generating System and Bicycles

In Madagascar only 17% of the people are on the electrical grid, and most of those live in the larger cities. The power grid goes down or has a “brown out” frequently. Steve has had a solar electrical system for a number of years to provide electricity for his computers and radio program. The current system is old, well used and a new system is needed. A new solar generating system has been purchased.

Literacy Training

Steve’s wife, Tafissoa, manages the literacy training project. The program has a payroll of 300 trainers and 25 supervisors. She also must purchase all the writing utensils, blackboards, erasers, chalk, etc. for the program. In 2015 they trained about 8,000 adult Tandroy people to read, write and do arithmetic. In 2016 the plan is to train 10,000 people in 300 villages.

Prayers

1. That a printing house may be found to print the Tandroy Bible.
2. That those who go out and distribute the Bibles will be strengthened in Christ and be kept safe.
3. That as the Bibles are received, the people will believe and follow the Word of God.
4. That the remaining funds needed to pay for the printing of the Bibles will be received.

TOTAL 2016 Financial Support Needed: $ 21,490.00 (Estimated balance needed)
Ejeda Nutrition Program

Total 2015 Financial Support: $8,400.00

“How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.” (1 John 3:17-18)

Southern Madagascar has suffered from food shortages for many years. Malnutrition places additional stress on acute health care facilities. Malnourished patients often have higher rates of infections, requiring more medications and consequently have longer lengths of hospital stays. All these factors combined indirectly increase hospital costs associated with treating the patient.

In Madagascar, the hospital does not provide the food. Each family has a cook shack within the hospital grounds where they may stay, cook and sleep. If a family does not have food to feed a patient, FOMM Edjeda Nutrition Program provides the food.

During 2015 the number of persons served by the Ejeda Nutrition Program:

Number of hospital patients (surgical & other medical needs) served food: 1,445
Number of TB patients and malnourished patients served food: 1,126

“On behalf of all the patients, TB patients and malnourished patients who received food this past year; we want to express our appreciation for your generosity of support. Your assistance means very much to us. We would like to thank the FOMM Board of Directors for the generous gifts to the south west area of Madagascar. You are truly making a difference in people’s lives!”

Dr. Elson and his wife, Hanitra

TOTAL 2016 Financial Support Needed: $8,400.00

Drip Irrigation - New Program

Total 2015 Financial Support: $2,000.00

Jesus said, “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” (Matthew 25:35)

We are now working to begin a Drip Irrigation Program. This south west region is Madagascar’s most economically and climatically disadvantaged area. Most are farmers and their livelihood is hampered by a low level of education, limited income alternatives and poor infrastructure. The productivity of the cropland is limited by highly unpredictable rainfall and soil fertility constraints.

The rhythm of life in this region swings between abundant rainfall and severe drought. This area is semi-desert and receives as little as 13 inches of rain annually.

The Drip Irrigation Program will attempt to teach the people to conserve water by only irrigating the plants. With a bucket and 100 meters of hose, a family may raise enough vegetables to feed their family and even have enough left over to sell at the village market for some extra cash.

The plan is to have this program inaugurated in the summer of 2016. It will involve developing the irrigation equipment needed, training leaders to teach how the drip irrigation works and the benefits it will have for the people. This will be a change in the cultural habits of the region. Please pray that the program may be successfully received.

TOTAL 2016 Financial Support Needed: $3,000.00
## Special Giving in 2015

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Thrivent Choice Gifts</th>
<th>$ 4,598.00</th>
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<tr>
<td>2. Memorial Gifts in September – December</td>
<td>$ 5,075.00</td>
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### In Memory of

- Hazel Schumacher
- Bob Vaughn
- Mark Vaagenes
- Maurice Robinson
- Joann Toso
- Duane Olson
- James Kolden
- Catherine Darchuk

### Given by

- Bruce and Janis Schumacher
- Marian Vaughn
- 94 individual donors
- Lorraine Simba
- David and Diane Lerseth
- Morris and Bonnie Vaagenes
- John and Susan Christopherson
- Arlene Lellelid
- Morris and Bonnie Vaagenes
- Arlys Zieske

### In Honor of

- Morris Vaagenes’ birthday
- Alan and Elise Olson
- Cynthia and John Green

### Given by

- Robert Lockwood
- Myrle and Mavis Olson
- Myrle and Mavis Olson

| 3. Memorial Gifts in January – August | $ 1,095.00 |
| 4. Christmas Giving Appeal | $ 9,335.00 |
| 5. Other Kinds of Gifts: Automobile | $ 1,400.00 |

### TOTAL SPECIAL GIVING GIFTS IN 2015: $21,503.00

## 2015 Choice Dollars

Thrivent Financial members have until March 31, 2016 to direct any remaining 2015 Choice Dollars to Friends of Madagascar Mission. After that date they will expire.

Individuals who have qualifying Thrivent Financial annuities and/or Insurance products will accumulate Choice Dollars. If you qualify, please consider designating them to Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM). Visit [www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call 1-800-847-4836.

## Friends of Madagascar Mission Endowment Fund

We have established a Mission Endowment Fund. The purpose of the fund is to receive gifts from congregations, individuals or organizations that wish to have their financial gift be invested and produce income each year. A donor may designate the purpose of the endowment. The endowment gift may be named in honor of a person or a congregation. For more information about donating to this Fund, please contact us.
Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM)
PO Box 46381
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

2015 Annual Report

Mission Trips
See mission in action for yourself in Madagascar! Experience a church on fire for evangelism! Expand your world view and experience! Contact FOMM to be included in the next mission trip or future trips. The next mission trip is planned for the summer of 2016. For more information on joining a mission trip, please contact us.

Mission Sunday Speaker
FOMM is able to share the story of God’s global mission. We are available to speak at worship and/or make a power point presentation. For more information on visiting your congregation, please contact us.

Looking to Personalize a Global Mission Project
If you are celebrating a special event in your congregation, your personal life, looking for a birthday/Christmas/Anniversary gift/etc. that is unique and special; please contact us for more information on a special project that you could support as a gift!

Contact information
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