



FRIENDS of
**MADAGASCAR
MISSION**

Vol 3:1

February 2014



WHEN HOPE IS ALL YOU HAVE!

Madagascar is a poor nation. It always ranks in the top ten poorest nations in the world. It is currently suffering from natural disasters (cyclones, locust infestation, drought, etc.) and political instability which damages economical development and increases poverty

Today more than one and a half million children are out of school and many suffer from chronic malnutrition. Child poverty in Madagascar is reaching a record high. The United Nations estimates that 82 percent of the children under 18 are living below the poverty line.

In this context, the Malagasy Lutheran Church proclaims a message of HOPE! They do not have an abundance of financial resources, but they have an abundant faith, reaching out to the poor. Through the proclamation of the Gospel and caring for the poor in hospitals, prisons, and schools the church responds to the needs of the people.

The Malagasy Lutheran Church does not have the resources to fund the programs of mission and ministry. That's where we enter their story. We have the resources and we have a way to transfer our gifts to the people of Madagascar through Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM).

Please read the accounts on the inside of this newsletter and learn how you may provide support that will continue to give hope in Christ's name.

The Rev. David P. Lerseth, President
Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM)



(L to R) Bob Jemc (Trinity, Ingleside, IL), Dale Arnold (Joy, Gurnee, IL), David Lerseth (Trinity, Ingleside, IL), Val Ellingson (Trinity, Carrington, ND); Ron and Lorraine Simpson (New Life, Duluth, MN)

MISSION TRIP REPORT: A JOURNEY OF HOPE!

In June of 2013, six people traveled to Madagascar to listen, look and learn from the Malagasy people and Church. Our trip included meeting people, visiting mission and ministry sites, traveling to three major cities and numerous villages, experiencing the culture and the beauty of the countryside, and enjoying the delicious foods. We saw the poverty and the hardships that the people endure, but we also experienced SEEDS OF HOPE in the midst of their poverty.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Individuals or congregations who have qualifying Thrivent Financial investment products accumulate Choice Dollars. These may be assigned by Thrivent members to Friends of Madagascar Mission. If you qualify, please consider designating them to Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM). Visit www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice or phone 1-800-847-4836.

Mission Trip

Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM) is planning another mission trip in 2014. If you would be interested in receiving information about the next trip, please email (FriendsOfMadagascarMission@gmail.com) or call (847-445-8177) to receive the mission trip updates. The trip will probably be in later fall.

Annual Report for Friends of Madagascar Mission

The FOMM annual report has been delayed due to difficulties in receiving reports from Madagascar. The Internet connect is not always accessible. Often the administrators of FOMM's programs drive 15-20 hours over rough roads to send the information. This is expensive and time consuming. As soon as we receive the information we will send the report to donors and post it on our web site.

Purchasing a Satellite for Communication

To improve communication with south west Madagascar, FOMM is gathering information on purchasing a satellite link. We are seeking

1. Someone who has knowledge about satellite technology and would be willing to consult with FOMM and our friends in Madagascar.
2. Someone to advise FOMM about the best equipment to purchase, costs and possibility of purchasing a system in Madagascar.

Also, if there is an individual or congregation that would like to provide funds for a satellite system, please contact us by email (FriendsOfMadagascarMission@gmail.com) or call us (847-445-8177).



Pastor David Lerseth preaching during a worship service at a male prison in Antananarivo, Madagascar in June 2013.

FOMM's 2013 SUPPORT: SEEDS OF HOPE!

We wish to thank our donors who have supported Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM) in 2013. We believe donors are pleased with FOMM's policy that 100% of their gift goes to the mission project they have chosen. **This year FOMM was able to fulfill our 2013 budget goals for ministries in the amount of \$99,927.09. Thanks be to God!**

Prison Ministry: FOMM provided a powerful presence of the proclamation of the Gospel in seven prisons. The Prison Ministry team leads worship services, confirmation classes, distribution of Bibles, counseling, distribution of food-medicine-clothing in the over-crowded prisons. **Gifts for Prison Ministry provided SEEDS OF HOPE in the midst of great poverty!**

Ejeda Nutrition: FOMM provided the people of S.E. Madagascar with food for physical and spiritual healing. They frequently experience drought and famine, but 2013 also included destructive from Cyclone Haruna and a locust infestation of Biblical proportions. Many families of patients did not have food to feed their loved ones. **Gifts for Ejeda Hospital's mission of healing and proclaiming the love of Jesus Christ provided SEEDS OF HOPE in the midst of great poverty!**

Evangelists: FOMM set a goal to provide for funding for 25 Malagasy evangelists in 2013. Currently we have support for 35 evangelists. They are on the front lines of evangelism through the Malagasy Lutheran Church's outreach with the Gospel. They move into a community without Christians and proclaim the Gospel through preaching, teaching and witnessing by the example of how they live. **Gifts for support of the Evangelist Program provide SEEDS OF HOPE in the midst of great poverty!**



Evangelists supported by FOMM donors at an Evangelist Training event. Since this photo 10 more evangelists have been funded.

LENTEN OFFERINGS

Friends of Madagascar Mission would like to help individuals or congregations direct a sacrificial Lenten gift to a specific mission project in Madagascar. REMEMBER 100% of your gift will go to the mission project you choose. Also, FOMM will keep you informed with reports and stories of how your gift has been used. If you would like to discuss how your Lenten gift could be directed, please call (847-445-8177) or email (FriendsOfMadagascarMission@gmail.com).

URGENT APPEAL!

We have received word that people are staying away from medical care at Ejeda Hospital because they do not have money to pay the cost. We are seeking donations to assist in paying for medical care.

Send to Friends of Madagascar Mission
PO Box 46381, Eden Prairie, MN 55344.
(Please include Medical Emergency Fund on the memo line of your check.)

Who Are We?

We are a Christian mission organization, incorporated as a nonprofit with approval by the IRS as a 501(c)3 organization managed by a seven-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.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Phone: 847-445-8177
FriendsOfMadagascarMission@gmail.com
• www.MadagascarMission.org

Welcome to our mission!

The Rev. David P. Lerseth, President

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