



Phil & Vala Long

Taking Life to the forgotten people of Madagascar

Mad 4 Life Ministries

"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10:10

www.Mad4Life.org

March 25, 2021

Dear Pastors and Prayer Partners,



Bonjour and Salama Ireo from the Big Red Island of Madagascar!

Usually in January, I like to look back at the past year to see what God did with us and through us in His ministry. I also love looking forward so we can begin praying about how God will use us to impact Madagascar this year. These are the things I usually like to talk about in January, but if you remember, we had an emergency in January, so I sent out an urgent prayer letter asking you all to pray for Nandrianana and Tahiry. She had gone through a brutal delivery that caused the baby to die and left her barely able to walk for several weeks. To give you an update on the family, she has made a full recovery and has returned to the church where she is loved. Please to continue to pray for this family.

Now, I want to take the rest of the time I have and ask you to pray for our goals in the ministry - this year and long-term. In January, Vala and I had some of our young adults over to our home and I took the opportunity to share our vision of what we want to see God do this year, and I want to share this with you so you will know how to be praying with us. First, let me start with outreach. As you know from our past updates we have to teach English in order to keep our visas here in Madagascar. With some of the new visa laws, we have discovered that it may be possible for me to get a visa as a pastor instead of an English teacher through our NGO, so we are actually pursuing that. However, the English classes have proven to be great outreach opportunities. I have challenged our young people from the church to come and to bring their friends. The English classes not only put us in front of new people in class, but, because we are doing these outreaches in local schools, it gets us in the door there as well. We will also be having other outreach activities throughout the year that I will update you on as we get closer, but **please be praying for our English outreaches**.

The second area we ask you to **pray with us in is the area of discipleship**. We ask that you pray with us in two ways. First of all, I challenged all the teens and young adults to go through our discipleship program by the end of the year. It will be a challenging goal, but not impossible. I am happy to report that since I gave that challenge in January, we have had 4 people begin discipleship with one more to start in the next couple of weeks. By the way, one of the first ladies who went through discipleship with us in Madagascar is now leading someone through discipleship. Vala and I are also going through discipleship with 3 men and 4 women at the missionary hospital where she teaches English.

This brings me to another area we ask you to pray with us, and that is disciplers. As more people are added to the church we are going to need people who are able to take others through the discipleship program. **We are praying that we have 7 new disciplers by the end of the year.**

The last two things I am asking you to pray with us about are goals that extend beyond 2021, and one of them is big. I am praying that our young adults will all find a place of service in the church, but **we are also praying that God will begin working in their lives and call them into ministry**. The second long-term prayer request is this: the need and opportunity in Madagascar is so huge. There is so much work to do. Friends, everywhere I go I see a need for the Gospel - men, women, and children who need to hear about Jesus. Some places are so crowded with people you can hardly move. There is so much work to be done, but so few people to do it. **Would you pray with me that God would call and bring four new church-planting missionary families in the next five years?** I know this update is long and we are asking you to pray with us for many things, but we believe that God is moving here on the Island and we are excited to see what God will do. Will you pray about the possibility of being part of what God is doing in Madagascar?

Thank you for praying for us and remember, we are also praying for you.

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