



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

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Dear Pastors and Prayer Partners,

Bonjour and Salama Ireo from the Big Red Island of Madagascar! When you think of a tough guy, who comes to your mind? For me it's Teddy Roosevelt, John Wayne, or even Clint Eastwood – all tough guys who kept control of their emotions no matter how tough things got. I can honestly say I am no tough guy, but I don't like showing emotions in public, and the last 7 weeks were tough! As you may already know, we returned to the US for our daughter's wedding and to move Gabriel into University. For the past year the question I have heard the most was, "Are you going to be able to hold it together when you give away your only little girl?" Well, everything was going fine until the photographer tells me we are going to do some pictures where the daughter shows her daddy what she looks like in the dress for the first time. I didn't bawl, but it was more emotional than I expected. She was beautiful and, after I regained my composure, I was able to walk her down the aisle.

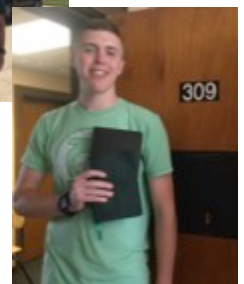
A few weeks later, it was time to move Gabe into the dorms at SBU. I had this great idea that we would move him in and before we left, I would present him with a journal full of challenge letters from different people in ministry who had poured into his life over the years, then pray over him before we left – very "Pastor-Dad" like, right? This was a great idea in theory, but reality would prove to be a different story. Everything had come together as planned. All the letters came in and Vala bought a really nice journal and pasted them to the pages; it looked amazing! So we got Gabe's stuff into his room, unpacked, went to lunch, and then went back to his room to present him with a new Bible and the journal. Again, in theory this was going to be a great beginning to the school year, but the reality was big, tough Dad could barely get through the presentation and prayer without losing it. But we know it's going to be a great year for him!

So now we are back in Madagascar and ready to get back to work, and we are so excited to update you on the purchase of our vehicle. At the beginning of June, we made you all aware of our need to raise funds for a Toyota Land Cruiser. It was amazing to watch God work through so many of you to make sure we could purchase the vehicle. If you remember, I was given until August to give those selling the vehicle an answer if we could buy it and, of course, God provided! So, Vala and I want to just say a big **THANK YOU** for helping us with this vehicle. The missionary in charge of selling it will be back next week. We will then make the purchase, get the appropriate paperwork done in country, and then we will have our first vehicle on the mission field. Once we have the Toyota, Vala and I will send out an update video letting you know everything is complete. It's been a long, exciting and emotionally draining summer, or winter depending on which side of the equator you are reading this from, and we are so thankful to know we have people like you praying for us. Thank you for all of your prayers and remember, we are praying for you.

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Top: Our whole family was together for church for the first time in a very long time.
Middle & Bottom: Matthew & Tabby's wedding



We dropped Gabe off at SBU and presented him with a new Bible and a journal full of notes

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