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The LONGS To Madagascar



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

I hope you all had a great Christmas and a Happy New Year. For us here in Madagascar we have started 2025 on the move. We can't wait to see what God is going to do through the ministry this year. So far, we are finishing up discipleship with some of our Malagasy friends and are looking forward to taking some new Malagasy believers through the discipleship program in 2025. We are also excited that some of those who have finished discipleship will be taking others through as well.

One area you can be praying for Madagascar is for rain. I know it may sound strange to ask you all to be praying for rain, but we are more than half way through our rainy season and it has not rained much at all, at least on our portion of the island. Because rain has been so scarce, the capital has had to endure water cuts. Our water usually comes on once a day at about 03:00 and is off again by 04:00 to 04:30. Sometimes we can go a few days without water. We are the blessed ones because other areas have gone weeks or even months with no water, and have had to pay for lake water to be trucked in. The lack of rain is also affecting the power grid here because the only power source is hydro-electric, so multiple power cuts a day are a regular occurrence. The truth is, this is just life on the Big Red Island, but my biggest concern if we don't get more rain is the health and well-being of the Malagasy people that already struggle to provide for themselves.

On a different note, we just want you to know how much we love being here as missionaries. One of the things I love the most is introducing people to the Word of God for the very first time. A few weeks ago at youth, I began teaching the stories from the book of Daniel. As I began to teach chapter one, I stopped and asked our teenagers if anyone had ever heard this story before. Besides our ministry team, one person raised their hand. The truth is, it is not just the kids and the youth that are hearing most of these stories for the first time; the same can be said for most of the adults as well. I love that the Malagasy people are hearing and learning so much from God's Word for the very first time, and I want you to know that we could not be here to teach God's Word if it were not for all of you who pray and support us to be here. So, thank you for always supporting us and praying for us to make this happen, and we want you to remember that we are also praying for you.

Phil and Vala Long