



# 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](http://www.Mad4Life.org)

December 20, 2020

Dear Pastors and Prayer Partners,



Bonjour and Salama Ireo from the Big Red Island of Madagascar! Well, 2020 has almost come to an end... Can I get an amen?! The truth is, even though we have had two different total lockdowns and people are still not allowed to come into or leave the island, God has blessed in a huge and exciting way.

If you remember our April-May update, as a result of a food distribution event, our church was launched. Things were going great until July when the island went into another quarantine. Our partners, the Brown family, and us did not let that slow us down. Even though we were not allowed to have church, we were allowed to go back into the neighborhoods to check on our people. Unbeknownst to us, this was a big deal. The people kept thanking us for not forgetting them.

You may also remember, we started a radio program so that the people in the church could tune in on Sundays during the confinement. As a result of the radio program, we received several e-mails and texts from people who did not come to our church, and, after the second confinement was over, one of the families who listened began to attend, and they have been there every week. Because that family has three teenage kids we began a youth group. Now, my Malagasy is less than great, so I told the students in our English outreach class that the lesson would be in both English and Malagasy.

One of the students in the English class who is a very bright teenager, by the name of Fitahiana, came the first week and afterwards asked a few questions. One question he had after listening to me teach about the first couple of days of creation was, "Did God create the sun, moon, and stars?"

I said, "He sure did, and if you come back you will learn about it next week." On week two, he again had some great questions. I felt like the Lord was leading me to give him a Bible to take home, so I offered him one. The look on his face... you would have thought I just gave him a bar of gold. Now that I think about it, the Word of God is far more valuable than gold. He has been faithful to come every week along with two other contacts from our English class. Now, after 14 weeks of youth we have grown to 15 students every week. We are also very happy to report that Fitahiana, as well as another man named Eurick, have accepted Jesus as their Savior.

In just a few short months the Lord has allowed us to start a church. We have over 30 adults coming every week and 60-75 kids every week. As a matter of fact, today we had an all-time high of 145 people at church. We had an all-time high of 20 students in our youth, and a new high in kids ministry with 100 children in kid's church! Our kids love church! I always arrive at the church early, and it does not seem to matter how early I get there, kids are always waiting on us. I may be a little bias, but I can tell you with confidence that we have the most beautiful kids on the island. Covid has obviously made this a very strange and difficult year, however God has clearly been at work.

We want you to know that everything that has been accomplished during this last year is because you all have been so faithful with all of your prayers and support. We want to say thank you for all that you do, and please remember, we are also praying for you. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

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