



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,

Salama from "The Big Red Island" of Madagascar! In the Marine Corps we used to have a saying that went something like this, "Hurry up and wait." If you are a veteran, I am sure you have heard this before. The reason for this saying was we were always in a hurry to get some place and, although our leaders were communicating that we should have a sense of urgency, it seemed like every time we got to where we were going, we would spend what seemed like an eternity waiting around. As a matter of fact, now that I think about it, maybe my MOS (*military term for job*) was not Presidential Guard, maybe I was a professional hurry up and wait guy; it seemed like that's what I spent most of my time doing. Anyway, the reason I bring this up is because there was a huge sense of urgency to get our paperwork turned in with our temporary visas so we could then receive our one-year visas. Well, we hurried as fast as we could to get everything turned in and began what they said would be a two-week wait for the long-term visas. Hurry up and wait! Hurry up and wait! The two weeks came and went with no visas. So we waited. A month passed, and still no long-term visas. One person said they should be ready at the beginning of August. The first week of August came and we thought, "Hey, our visas should be ready," but the office who deals with this had run out of stickers, so they were not ready yet. We thought maybe we could go buy them the stickers to make it go faster, but were advised not to offer. You know, I used the GI Bill to get my college education because I did 4 years of hurry up and wait, so I think I can wait for them to get some stickers. Well friends, I'm glad to inform you that after almost eight weeks, we are now "official." We have our one-year visas and, I must say, it's good to have them! A couple more weeks and I think I would have had to go buy the stickers. Let me pause to clarify, we are not only staying one year; the visas have to be renewed every year.

Anyway, I know for most of you this time of year is when school is kicking off and it's always a busy and exciting time. Vala and I will begin school on September 11th with the second stage of our language training. We use French on a daily basis, but now it's time to focus on the national language of Madagascar, which is called Malagasy. Our boys have also started a new school year; Gabe is in his senior year of high school and Deacon just started his freshman year. As a matter of fact, because this is Gabe's senior year, he needs to take his ACT so he can apply for college and scholarships. Typically, the ACT is given at the beginning of May in Madagascar, but that will be too late for the college deadlines. We have found an inexpensive flight to Ethiopia in October when the test is offered there, so Gabe and I will make a quick trip. We don't plan on staying long, just long enough for Gabe to take the test and hug a few of our fellow missionaries.

I know this is a busy time of year for everyone, but I just wanted to check in and let you know we are doing well and continuing to move forward in the work here in Madagascar. Thank you for all your prayers, and remember, we are also praying for you.

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Praises & Prayer Requests

- (Praise) Received long-term visas
- (Praise) Container has shipped
- (Prayer) Arrival of container soon
- (Prayer) New language study
- Susan Long (Phil's mum) - healing