

August 8, 2023

The LONGS To Madagascar



Connect

- 📍 Phillipn Vala Long
- 📧 Mad4Life.org
- ✉️ Phil@mad4life.org
- 📍 PO Box 191
Springfiled, MO 65801
- 🏛️ Sending Church
Abundant Life Baptist
Lee's Summit, MO
Livingproof.co

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

Friends, I am excited to say we have had an extremely busy two months. In my last update we were just getting ready to start our first English outreach and a Saturday morning Kids' Bible Club. Then, two weeks later, we began meeting on Sunday morning for church. Since that last update we have had 3 different English outreaches. Two of those outreaches were done over a two-week period of time, where we did an English Holiday Bible Club for students on their school break. We had two mission interns, a team from our sending church, and a team from our first church across town who all came in and helped us make this happen. When we began these outreaches, we had no idea how much we would need their help. They not only helped us get our main room and the kids church room painted, but they were also a huge help to us with the outreaches.

The first day of the outreaches, we had about 40 kids for the elementary age portion in the morning and only 3 for the youth portion of the English class in the afternoon. It did not take long for word about the English classes to get around, and within a day or two, we were getting close to two hundred students each day. The Saturday Kids' Bible Club has been similar. Our first week we had a little over forty kids and now we are close to a hundred kids coming each Saturday to hear the Bible stories and memorize Scripture. Because most of the kids do not have Bibles, we have challenged them to memorize the books of the Bible in order so they can earn a copy of the Scriptures for their very own. Each week we have had kids say the books of the Bible and earn a Bible to take home.

For our first Sunday service, I was pretty nervous that we would not have anyone show up except our interns and our ministry team. However, we had 43 people the first week. We have been doing follow up after the outreaches, and we are already over 100 people every Sunday morning. It has been awesome to watch God move as we work to get this church started.

Thank you for all of your prayers; here is how you can be praying for us over the next several weeks. First of all, pray that we continue to have people filter into our Sunday morning services from the outreaches that we've had. Second, we have a few more outreaches coming up pretty quickly before the kids start back to school. Please pray that these outreaches will allow us to continue to draw the lost into the church so they can hear the preaching and teaching of the Word of God. Finally, the third area you can pray with us about is the beginning of a youth group - our goal is to start a Malagasy youth group in September. Again, we are so excited to see the Lord moving here. Thank you for all of your prayers and support, and please remember we are also praying for you.

Phil and Vala Long