



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! If you have ever studied a second language you probably already know the first words you learn are hello and goodbye, please and thank you, and, of course, one of the most important phrases is, "Where is the bathroom?" Here in Madagascar when you thank someone, you can either say, "merci beaucoup!" which is French for thank you very much, or, if you really want to impress the Malagasy people, say thank you in their heart language of Malagasy, "Misaotra" (me-soh-cha) (*thanks*) "Betsaka" (Bet-sa-ka) (*much*)! Thanks much, or as we would say it in English, thank you very much! That is exactly what Vala and I want to say to you; merci beaucoup, misaotra betsaka, thank you very much!

The truth is, Vala and I both know that things have not been easy for our churches and partners back in the States. People have been quarantined and out of work for two months and longer and churches have not been able to physically meet together for several weeks now. We had no doubt that the Lord would provide, however we assumed we might take a hit in our support level, but we have not. As a matter of fact, we have received our normal support as well as some special gifts, so we want to say, "Misaotra betsaka!"

Because of your faithfulness in giving in spite of what is happening around the world, Vala and I and the other missionary family with whom we are working pooled some of our resources for an outreach in the bush and the community where we are now working. With your help, **we were able to provide enough rice and beans**, which in a normal part of the Malagasy diet, for 2 to 3 days, **a face mask, soap and a gospel booklet for over 800 families in need**. With the help of one of our friends who is a national pastor, everyone who came heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. Through this outreach we were able to introduce ourselves as well as the work we want to do in the area. We were able to partner with the local government officials in the area, which will really help us with our credibility with the people in the community. **Finally, one of the biggest positives to come out of this outreach is that it pushed up our timeline to launch our church**. There were so many people wanting to know where the church is that the other missionary, our national pastor friend, and I locked on a building to begin meeting for Bible study, and, as long as it is legal, **we plan to meet for the first time this Sunday**. So again, we want to say, "Misaotra betsaka," thank you so much for supporting us with your prayers and support during this time when the whole world is struggling to navigate through this global pandemic. Know that we love you all, and please remember, we are also praying for you.

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