

April 30, 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!

This April is the 10-year anniversary of the first time Vala and set foot on the “Big Red Island” of Madagascar. In 2014, we were still on staff at our church and we were on a survey trip to see how we might be used once we moved here permanently. By the end of that survey trip, we were ready to make the move, but with missionary approval, deputation, and language school in front of us, we thought moving here seemed so far away. Yet ten years later, and here we are, almost a year into our second church plant, and we are still amazed at how God is working.

In our last update, I asked you to pray for us as we were going to be doing some teaching in preparation for the church’s first baptisms. The teaching went great! We did face some family opposition with a some of the people who were wanting to be baptized, but we are happy to report that seven people were baptized on Easter; one family had three generations baptized. One of our teenaged young ladies who recently accepted Jesus came to Sarah and I after church one Sunday and pleaded with us to baptize her without her mom’s permission. She said, “Momma has already said no because of some witch doctor things, but I told her I don’t do that anymore because I am a Christian.” We told her we still needed to talk to her mom to get permission. Sarah and I went and spoke with her mom and we explained baptism and what it means, then she agreed to let her daughter be baptized. The young girl beamed with joy all the way out to the car because she did not think her momma would say yes. Well, on Easter Sunday, Momma came with her whole family and some of the extended family to see her get baptized. It has been awesome watching this young lady’s life-change story play out. It was a great day for this new church.

Another thing that I asked you to pray with us about was our visa situation. For the last few years, the visas that have been granted to us have been getting shorter and shorter, which means as soon as we were finished with the paperwork for one visa, we had to start the paperwork for the next visa. It’s one of the challenges of missionary life, but it is also a lot of time that could be used to focus on ministry if we could just get a longer visa.

A few weeks ago, we received our latest visa and we were given ten-year visas! This is such a huge answer to prayer! We want to say thank you so much for praying for us over the past several weeks.

As we move into the next few months, please continue to pray with us as we explore some outreach opportunities into some new areas in our town. Ivato, where our church is located, is so densely populated with people that we have barely scratched the surface in reaching this community. Pray that we will be received and accepted as we continue our outreach into this community.

Thank you again for your prayers, and remember, we are also praying for you.

Phil and Vala Long

BBFI
MISSIONS

“I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” John 10:10