



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



March 18, 2020

Dear Pastors and Prayer Partners,

Bonjour and Salama Ireo from the Big Red Island of Madagascar! One of the things I have learned through the study of two languages in preparation for the mission field here in Madagascar is that the English language has multiple words for everything! For example, because of a pain that I have had in my hip over the last several months, one of the Malagasy words I have become acquainted with is the word "marary." It means sick, but can also be used for hurt or pain. The problem is, to me, there is a definite difference between hurt and sick, and I have had a hard time getting my small mind around the idea that it's the same to Malagasy. What's the difference for me? It's the difference between wearing a bio-chemical suit or just being careful not to bump into someone, not to mention it just seems weird to me to say, "Yes, my hip is a little sick," when people ask why I am limping.

Speaking of "marary," it's been all over the news about the corona virus that is affecting you all back in the States. While there are no "confirmed" cases here yet, people are very concerned. The President of Madagascar has officially suspended all air travel for passengers, but we can still receive cargo. **As of right now, we are healthy and staying put in Madagascar.** Also, **know that we are praying for you all in this challenging time.**

It has been a busy time for us as we have been working on what seems to be never ending government paperwork for our Visas, and also the first phase of our future church plant. We moved our co-workers into the new area where we will begin working. He has made the introductions with all the officials, which is a must do when you relocate here in Madagascar, and we have been given permission to start an English course at one of the local schools. If you remember, the English classes we teach are not only effective outreach tools, but they are also necessary for maintaining our Visas. **It has been our prayer that we will be able to start our first Bible study in this area out of the English course we just started last week, so please be praying for us as we start this class that we can not only educate our students in English, but that they will be impacted with the Gospel.**

One last thing; **we ask you to continue to pray with us about our Visa situation.** We were disappointed to find out that we were only given a six-month Visa, which means we have to renew again before May, but there is a provision that may allow us longer Visas next time. **Please pray that we will be given favor at the government offices and receive the longest possible Visa available.** Thank you again for your prayers and support, and know we are also praying for you.

Phil & Vala Long

Contact Us

Mobile: (816) 651-0622,
phil@mad4life.org
Mobile in Madagascar:
+261.32.12.669.94

Address:

Villa No 2
Domaines les Pines
Mandrosoa, Ivato
Antananarivo 105
Madagascar

Sending Church

Abundant Life Baptist
414 SW Persels Road
Lee's Summit, MO 64081
(816) 554-8181
www.abundantlifels.com

Missions Agency

Baptist Bible Fellowship
PO Box 191
Springfield, MO 65801
(417) 862-5001
www.bbmissions.com