



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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Praises & Prayer Requests

(Praise) Tabitha's
engagement
(Praise) Safe travels for
Phil while traveling for
Mum's funeral

(Prayer) Malagasy
language study
New English classes
starting soon

(Prayer) Gabe as he
applies for scholarships

January 23, 2019



Dear Pastors and Prayer Partners,

Salama from "The Big Red Island" of Madagascar! I actually wanted to get this update out a couple of weeks ago, however we hit the new year off running by finalizing the calendar for next year with our fellow missionaries with whom we partner in the NGO, which allows us to stay on the Island. We have also started back into the second semester of our Malagasy language training and we had some dear friends come all the way to Madagascar to visit. Everything was going well until a few days ago when we hit a brick wall. Out of nowhere, we got sick. We have lived on the island for over seven months and this is the first time we have been sick, but now we are back on our feet.

I don't want to get too far in my update without saying thank you. If you remember, I sent my last update just as I was leaving for the United States to join my family as we buried my Mum. The trip back to the US went smoothly. My dad and little sister did a great job planning the funeral, and Pastor Phil Housley made sure to give the Gospel as we said goodbye, which I know Mum would have definitely wanted. It was so good to see my family, especially my daughter Tabby, and meet face-to-face with her future husband. By the way, he is a great guy who loves the Lord and is also pursuing full-time missions. As nice as it was to see family, I was so glad to get back home with Vala, Gabe and Deacon in hot Madagascar. So thank you for your prayers and encouragement during that time.

There are quite a few things coming up in the next several weekends, and I want to give you a couple for which you can be praying with us. First of all, our English classes start up the first week of February. You may wonder why we are teaching English, and that is a good question. Our English classes are one of five social betterment activities we do with our NGO in order to maintain our visas. With that said, Vala and I and our fellow missionaries are all on the same page in that we want to use each activity as an outreach tool to filter Malagasy people into the local church. Please be praying that the classes will fill up and we will be able to have an eternal impact in the lives of our Malagasy students.

The other thing coming up is more of a personal note. As many of you know, Gabe will be leaving us for college next fall to pursue a degree in inter-cultural studies, or what used to be called a missions degree. He has been awarded several scholarships from the university that he is most interested in, and he has an interview with the university over Skype to try for another substantial scholarship next week. We ask that you pray for Gabe and his interview; that the Lord would grant him confidence and clarity in speech and thought as he communicates.

As I finish up, I just want to say again thank you for your continued prayers, and remember, we are also praying for you.

Phil & Vala Long