

Church Planting in  
**MADAGASCAR**

December 2018

Dear Co-laborer,

I know many of you have been looking for an update from us for a while now. Thank you for your faithful prayers for us! The past few months have been very busy for us with travelling and schooling. We had missions' conferences in South Carolina, Georgia, and Maryland; meetings in North Carolina; as well as a retreat with our mission board in Tennessee. We greatly enjoyed the time that we could spend with the many brothers and sisters in Christ as we gave updates, fellowshipped, and were uplifted by the preaching of God's Word. Thank you SO much for the kindness and love that you bestowed upon us. You blessed us greatly!

Amidst our travels, we had the opportunity to visit Washington DC for several days as a family and better understand the great nation of which we are part. We also had the opportunity to visit the Creation Museum and the Ark in Kentucky. I would highly recommend that you visit these places if you have the opportunity. The Creation Museum supports the Biblical account of creation and shows scientific evidence for the awesomeness of God. Our human minds cannot comprehend the enormity of the Galaxy in which we live much less the Universe! God's power and wisdom is beyond our imagination! The stars are so large compared to our sun, and there are trillions of them! The Bible almost tells of the creation of the stars as an afterthought on God's part "... He made the stars also." Genesis 1:16

The life size model of Noah's Ark in Kentucky showed conditions before and after the ark, a clear presentation of the gospel, as well as many other elements pertaining to the Ark. The Ark is the largest timber frame structure in the world. We know that the Bible is true and 100% accurate and that the flood really did happen and evolution is not a logical belief system in which to put our faith, but it is encouraging to see how science supports the Bible and how great God is. As in the days of Noah, a judgment is coming; there is one way to escape the judgment - Jesus Christ.

We have attended several funerals in recent months. Two special women died - our sending pastor's wife and Ruth's missionary aunt. Attending their funerals and contemplating their lives, makes me think, "What impact am/will I make for Christ on this world? What is important?" Having a nice life, job, house, etc. is nice. We as other people enjoy being comfortable, but what really matters in life? Who would stand up at my funeral and say, "This person was a friend of mine and pointed me to Christ." Or "I would not have been saved if she did not tell me." Or "This person encouraged me to live for God." The void that is left on the earth is determined by the impact that is made. If I want to be like

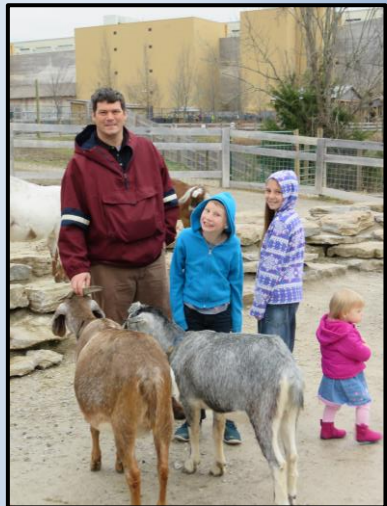




Christ, I will live my life how He lived His life – investing it in people. I pray that my life would glorify God.

We have a new prayer card and have put together an updated presentation. We will be putting the presentation on our website [www.mad4christ.org](http://www.mad4christ.org) where you can view it or download it to get a better understanding of the country and people where we are going to serve, hear our story, and hear a little bit of what we believe God wants us to do in the next years.

In the last prayer letter, we mentioned that we were planning to head to Madagascar at the beginning of this next year. Ruth's sister is having a baby at the beginning of March, so we plan to stay till just after that so that Ruth will be able to be at the birth. We plan to stop by Cote d'Ivoire (where Ruth's parents are missionaries) on the way to Madagascar and spend some time with our family there. In the mean time, there is so much to do in preparation for leaving the States! To pack for an extended trip is difficult, but it is much more difficult to pack up your life for the past years and try to plan ahead and pack for the years to come in a limited number of bags. We also have some paperwork that still needs to get in order before we will be able to travel. Thank you so much for your continued prayers for us! We pray that you would have a wonderful Christmas celebrating the birth of our Savior.



In Christ,

Richard and Ruth Jertberg

Matthew, Sarah, Nate, Abby, and Kezia



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