

the JERTBERG *Family*

Church Planting in MADAGASCAR



Dear Praying Friends,

December 2025

I hope that each of you had a wonderful time of thanksgiving. I sometimes find myself falling into times of complaining – something is not going how I hoped it would go or we are struggling with a situation or people are sick or God is saying “no” or “wait” to something that I want right now. If I stop and give thanks for what God has done and what He has given to me and direct my focus back on God, I will not be able to complain anymore. **GOD IS SO VERY GOOD!** Instead of focusing on my situation, I need to focus on God. I pray that He will be the focus of this Christmas season – when Christ came to earth!



Grace had her 3rd birthday

We finished up our school year and started a much longed for break! Everyone has been enjoying having more time to read and do things that they haven't had time for during school.

With so many people in the family, it seems like someone is always dealing with some kind of **injury or sickness**. In September, Moriah was diagnosed with typhoid and was sick for a little over 3 weeks. We praise God for her healing and recovery; she has regained her figure after the weight loss of the sickness. We also had two visits to the main hospital about a possible broken bone. The first visit was a failed attempt because there was not enough electricity to power the x-ray machine; we had to return the next day. We were able to give out gospel tracts and have some long conversations with several people while we waited to be seen. Thankfully, it was a hairline fracture and did not need treatment. Richard and almost all of the kids are currently dealing with sores that don't want to heal. Please pray for our health and protection!

Above: At the wake
Right: burial a few days later



The **little son** of one of the leaders of the church **died** after being sick. He had some kind of handicap and was around 6 or 7 years old (but looked like he was 3 yrs. old). The custom here when someone dies is to be present for the family. Family, friends, and neighbors gather at the house and sit around outside all day and all night for several days. The women cook food for all the people, and the men cut firewood or haul water or do what is needed. We went to the wake one night and sat for a while, ate food, and went to where the body was lying and sang songs from 9:10pm to midnight. We were sore from sitting on the ground and from singing for so long, but it was a good time together with the church family. Side note: while at the wake, I asked for some soap to bandage a child's sores. They said that they did not have ANY soap! – no bar, liquid, or powder. We all ate off of spoons that were not washed with soap? at a wake where the body is lying just inside...

The church did a musical outreach with another church. Each church shared some music and there was a preaching message. We are encouraged by the faithfulness of the church people and the visitors who come, but sometimes we are discouraged with the slow growth. We must not lose heart! Please pray for the **growth of the church** here and for the preaching and teaching.

At the beginning of the year, Richard and I started a diet to lose weight and get healthier. We praise God that we have **lost a little over 100lbs** between the two of us! A goal might look too big, which can make us discouraged from even starting; but if we take one step at a time – just do what is right today, we might be amazed at how far we can go. With anything in life, we need to walk in the Spirit and draw on His power.





House construction project



Rebekah and Sarah playing music for church



Prayer Requests:

- Preaching, teaching, and classes would be well understood
- People would be saved
- Salvation of Arnold and family
- People would grow
- Kids and I as we start a new school year in January
- We would learn this Malagasy
- Health, strength, and protection
- Healing for sores
- Honest and good workers
- Construction done well
- Our hearts and adjustment without Matthew and Rebekah
- Bible and English class

Praises:

- The privilege to serve God here
- Weight loss
- Health and strength and healing
- Good overseer for construction

Temperance/self-control is a fruit of the Spirit. "Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?" Galatians 3:3 I cannot do it in my own will-power; we need to be walking in the Spirit!

We are well on our way into the **hot rainy season**. We appreciate the rain and how it helps the plants and trees to grow, but rain also means LOTS of mud! We are thankful for the warm weather because it means that the beach is warm, but it also means heat rash! Perspective. We celebrated Thanksgiving with a walk on the beach. The sunsets here are gorgeous!

There are many more things that we could talk about – Malagasy class, contacts we have made, a family tea party, the house building project, electricity problems, our cat almost dying, car troubles, family projects, etc. Richard took a **bus to the capital** (about a 29-hour trip) to buy building supplies and have them shipped up here. As with most things, it takes longer than expected to do what needs to be done. We have been missing him while he is gone (especially with several of us not feeling well).

We have less than **3 weeks left with Matthew and Rebekah** before they both leave!! There are so many things that we still want to do with them! Time is racing! We are excited for them to have the opportunity to grow, but we are NOT looking forward to them leaving. I cannot express how many things that they do and how much help that they are! Our hearts are going through a struggle!!

We have been asked by many people in our area about where the church is. When we tell them where the church is (that we are going to), it is way too far for them. There are many who have expressed a desire to know what the Bible says and many who want to learn English. I have talked to many people who have been in a church of some kind or another for 20-40 years, yet do not have a Bible. These people only know what has been told them – if they have never been told the truth of the gospel, they are still in the dark, unsaved, and on their way to Hell! Setting up a tent and starting a **Bible class and an English class** here in our area is in the plans for starting this coming new year.

Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and support! May we all keep our eyes on the goal and the reason why we are on this earth!

In the service of the King,

Richard, Ruth, Matthew, Sarah, Nate, Abby, Kezia, Hadassah, Moriah, Grace, and Jeremiah



Left: Matthew teaching the kids. Right: Preaching the church service

Areas to Pray For:

(Each one of these is so important!)

- We would stay close to God in our private fellowship with Him.
- God to send more laborers for the harvest. There is so much to do here, and we can't do it all.
- Good communication skills (both in language acquisition, the way things are said, and understanding what is said).
- Souls to be saved. Boldness in going.
- Wisdom and the leading of the Holy Spirit in all areas of life: ministry, parenting, planning, etc.
- Diligence and good time management.
- Protection.
- For physical health, strength, and energy
- Finances.
- Things not to break (It is difficult to prepare lessons and messages when your computer is not able to connect to the internet. It is difficult to do business and life with a broken phone. It is hard to get around when the car doesn't work. It takes lots of extra energy to function when the solar panels don't work or the washer doesn't work or the stove doesn't work; and the list can go on and on!). [Many of these both happened recently.]

Sending Church

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Mission Board

Baptist Missions to Forgotten Peoples, Inc. – P.O. Box 219 – Kernersville, NC 27285 – (904) 783-4007

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