



the **JERTBERG** family



Church Planting in **MADAGASCAR**

Dear Praying Friends,

March 2026

We truly appreciate your prayers on our behalf!! We have so many needs. It seems like I want to put "Please pray for..." at the end of practically every paragraph.

As you enjoy the winter storms, we are enjoying the **humid and hot rainy season** (well, I guess that depends on the definition of "enjoy"). We do thank God for the sun and the rain. When your house is powered solely by solar power, you are thankful for the sun shining bright as this means that you have electricity. When you have a love for plants and trees and have many fruit trees, you are thankful for the rain and humidity. So, we are thankful! This doesn't mean that we aren't drenched in sweat many days or that we don't have heat rash or that our garage doesn't flood, and our roof leak, and the roads get bad when the rain comes; it just means that we are trying (not always succeeding) to focus our attention differently - to see the positive = **perspective**.

The day that Matthew and my sister Rebekah left was the day that I found out that I was **pregnant!** We had been praying for another baby for several months and God answered our prayer. We are so very thankful!! Though we are extremely blessed to have been given a baby, this does not mean that there are no hardships that come with it: the emotions of wondering if the baby is healthy or if a miscarriage is in the future and morning (all day) sickness and extreme tiredness and weakness. The **sickness** this pregnancy was not nearly as bad as in the past which has been a huge blessing. I think it may be the high protein, low carb diet I was/am on. I spent most of 2025 losing weight, and I will spend most of 2026 gaining.

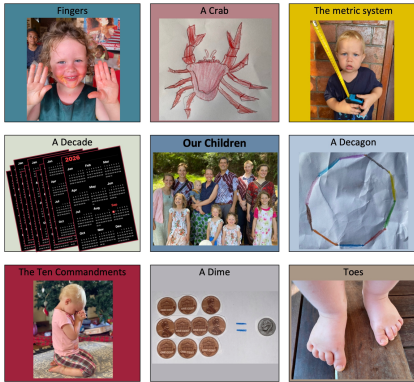
With Rebekah and Matthew gone and my being sick and tired, the three oldest kids have really stepped up in the ways that they help and have done it willingly and with great attitudes. I am so proud of **Sarah, Nate, and Abby!** They have helped watch the babies and take care of them: changing diapers, feeding them, playing with them, and cleaning up messes. They are becoming great cooks and can cook complete meals all by themselves from scratch (we don't have canned beans, canned sauce, packaged taco shells, seasoning packs, etc.). They can cook pizza, tacos, taco shells, naan bread, enchiladas, Mexican pizzas, chili, corn bread, roast, lentils, spaghetti, garlic bread, hamburgers, sauce for rice, fish, French fries, salads, bread, steamed vegetables, cake, cookies, and other desserts (and I am sure that I am forgetting some things, but this is the main things that we eat). I am so thankful for such sweet, helpful young people!

**January**, we started our **new school year**. Matthew started college in the States; Sarah is in 12th grade; Nate is in 10th; Abby is in 8th; Kezia is in 4th; Hadassah is in 1st; Moriah and Grace do pre-school stuff when I have a few minutes; and Jeremiah runs around and plays. Please pray for me and the kids as we do school that we would learn to follow the example of Jesus - being loving (even when the other person is frowning at us and not acting loveable), doing what is right even when we don't want to, having a good attitude, and the other parts of the fruit of the Spirit.

With Matthew gone, Sarah has started **teaching the kids class** at church. We are very proud of how Sarah has studied the language and started teaching in it even though she may not feel fluent enough! Teaching 15-30 somewhat rowdy kids for over an hour on a mat under a tree is not the easiest thing to do in your native language; she is doing it in Malagasy. Please pray that the kids would understand and get saved and grow and for Sarah as she communicates the gospel to them.



What do these have in common?





**February** continued with school, church, my feeling sick, and construction at the property. I had the privilege of **delivering Arnold's baby** and have enjoyed building a relationship with Arnold's wife through this. (Please pray that this family would be saved.) We also saw some **visitors to church** as the result of passing out tracts.

**March** continues the same schedule. Doing the same thing each day can feel monotonous, but it is doing the little things faithfully that matter. So, we continue on. The month of March begins the **birthdays** for our family. We have 1 to 3 birthdays each month for the next seven months, then one more in November!

**April** we will celebrate Easter with some fun and meaningful activities to help us remember the sacrifice that Jesus made for us. We want to make sure that the reason why Jesus came to this earth is not rushed past. That Jesus died for us – sinners – is the greatest act of love! After celebrating Easter, we plan a quick trip to the capital to go to a **missionary retreat**. Please pray for a safe trip over the long, long road and a refreshing time for us.

We are excited to finally have **electricity at the property** after waiting for about 6 months (and frequent visits to the office to find out what is going on as they initially said that it would be 3 weeks). Not having to use a generator for everything has been nice. Another step in the building process was the **pouring of the foundation** for the house! Because they don't have a cement truck, it took about 30+ men 39 hours (working through the night) to pour the foundation slab. Progress has been going very slowly due to the workers doing other jobs and the absence of the contractor for 2 weeks. When he returned, he came back with monkeypox virus (which means that he cannot really be on-site much to prevent spreading the virus). Please pray for a quick healing for him and that no one else would get sick!

Because Grace had a fever and a headache for a few days then had a sore throat with some bumps on her tongue, we thought that she might have caught monkey pox. We were quite distressed at this **possibility as Mpox** has a quite high miscarriage rate in pregnant women! We thank God that Grace is doing better, and it seems as though she does not have the virus – just a passing something. People here in Madagascar get sick frequently and easily because of the community setting in which they live and the poor hygiene and poverty. They often do not go to a doctor unless the sickness is quite bad (because they don't have the means to do so). Also, when people here get a fever, strange rash, or cold, they typically do not stay home from church (especially if they are a child); which means that sicknesses pass from child to child and family to family quite easily. **Please pray for the health and protection of our family!**

We have what eventually will be a car port built and plan to start using this area for **Bible and English classes**. There are so many people interested in coming. I am not sure if they are interested because of the white people or for the English or for God's Word; but we pray that whatever the motive, they will come and get saved!

With **Easter** in just a few weeks, we are planning to do an **outreach** at the property for the workers and the people in the area. We will show a film and present the gospel. Please pray that people will come, and that God will work in people's hearts. Also pray for us for the words to say. The Malagasy language here is quite a bit different than the official Malagasy that we were learning. We are still in the process of **learning the dialect** here, and we are not good at it yet. We want to understand people and be able to communicate to them effectively.

Thank you again for praying! May you have a wonderful season celebrating the resurrection of our Savior!

In the service of the risen Savior,

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

#### Prayer Requests:

- Health for Ruth and growing new baby
- Kids and I as we do school
- Matthew in college
- We would learn this Malagasy
- Salvation of Arnold and family
- Preaching, teaching, and classes would be well understood
- Outreach during Easter season.
- People would be saved
- People would grow
- Health, strength, and protection
- Construction to be fast and done well
- Bible and English class
- Safe trip to missionary retreat

#### Praises:

- A baby on the way
- Kids that can cook and who help with a great attitude
- The safe delivery of Arnold's baby
- Electricity and progress on construction
- Grace does not have Mpox
- Health and strength and healing
- The privilege to serve God here

#### *Sending Church*

North Point Baptist Church – 4980 University Pkwy – Winston-Salem, NC 27106 – (336) 767-8297

#### *Mission Board*

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

#### *Contact Info*

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