

Madagascar Matters

Apr 2022

“In his heart a person plans his course, but the Lord directs his steps.”

Prov. 16 v 9

Tentative plans

It feels as though it has been a long time coming, but it looks more and more as though I can return to Madagascar! My application for a visa for Madagascar has been posted and now I have settled down to play the waiting game. It feels as though I have been living the Proverbs 16 verse 9 scenario. It's hard to take life just one step at a time when you are someone who likes to plan! However, trusting in the Lord who determines space and time, I believe that He can also direct my steps in a much more perfect way than I can.

If all things had gone to my plan, I would already be on my way. The 1st of April was the first flight I booked. However, a delayed work permit put paid to that idea.

Now, my itinerary is as follows:

- 21 Apr PCR test
- 22 Early morning airport bus from Belfast to Dublin
Fly Dublin to Paris
- 23 Fly Paris to Tana

As of today, the Madagascar government has lifted the mandatory quarantine on arrival. Yeah 😊. When in

Tana, I will have to take my visa documents to our NGO (Non-governmental organisation) office so that the very helpful administrator there can begin to work on getting the 1-month visa extended to 1 year. Hopefully soon after that, I will be free to fly down to Toliara and re-join the team who are there.

- Please pray for a negative PCR test.
- Pray too for smooth connections and a trouble-free journey.

Looking further



I hope, in May to be able to travel to Mandritsara to work with the Tsimihety translation team there. They have been working tirelessly on drafting the gospel of Matthew and now Colossians.

I intend to stay there until the beginning of September and hope to finally check the entirety of their draft of Luke's gospel and begin to check their drafts of

the Wonderful Plan of God – a series of 7 booklets which outline the message of salvation.

- Please pray for a productive time in Mandritsara.
- Pray that there would be good communication within the team and with me as we check their translations.
- Pray that as they work on translation, that their understanding of scripture would grow and their walk with the Lord deepen.

Cyclones

I am thankful to be able to fly from Tana to Toliara because the cyclones which ploughed across the south of Madagascar left a lot of destruction.

This is a picture of where, before the cyclones, there was a bridge. This is on the main route from Tana to Toliara.



The cyclones also flattened crops and destroyed homes. There are many displaced

people who now have to begin to repair their homes and villages and rebuild their lives.

- Please pray that aid agencies would be able to get to the worst hit areas and to know how best to help the people there.
- Pray that there would be rapid and good repairs of the infrastructure so that aid and other materials can be safely transported.

Famine

In the last Madagascar Matters, I wrote about the severe famine in Southern Madagascar.



Thanks to donations from several churches, we (Together in Bible Translation) were able to send aid to the famine area.

This included food – a mix of maize, cassava and peanuts, seeds and seedlings.

The area which last year looked like this...



... now has seedlings growing!



So, I would like to say a huge thank you to all who donated.

- Please continue to pray for the people of this area. Pray that the aid we send and the aid of other organisations would reach the most vulnerable.
- Pray that they would have more rain, enabling their 1st harvest in 4 years.

Please note...

I would just like to point out a couple of admin-y type things. **First**, please note the new address for SIM-UK. Mail sent to their old address will no longer be received.

Second, I do not yet have a new Malagasy phone number. I will add it on the next newsletter. If you need to be in touch, please email me at madagascarmatters@gmail.com

Third, did you notice a new logo at the top of the first page? I am happy to be able to tell you that we now have a website.

www.togetherinbibletranslation.org

Please see the following "PRESS RELEASE" page for more details.

We would love for you to feel part of this ministry. You can do this in a number of ways: pray for us (see the Pray page on the website), support us financially (you could support a specific translation team, help towards the property we hope to purchase in Tana, or donate to general funds which help fund workshops), or you could visit and see for yourself how you can be Together with us in Bible Translation!

Finally

Thank you so much for reading this and continuing to pray for me and the work in Madagascar. I am thankful to God for the large network of people who pray for me. I could not think of going back without your support. Thank you!

Love,

Debbie

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Together in Bible Translation

an affiliate of OCDIAS

PRESS RELEASE

TOGETHER IN BIBLE TRANSLATION LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE TO SHOWCASE THE GROWTH OF BIBLE TRANSLATION IN MADAGASCAR

April 5th 2022

Together in Bible Translation (TiBT) also known as Fiaraha-miasa Lioka (FmL) locally, has been working in Madagascar for over 20 years and have now launched their first website. This website aims to raise awareness of the Bible translation needs across the country and celebrate the progress that has been made so far.

www.togetherinbibletranslation.org highlights the language diversity of Madagascar and the collaborative efforts of multiple church denominations, mission organisations and academics over many years.

"(...) before, I thought I had to use the "mizy" (the official Malagasy language) to pray. As if God did not understand or accept any other language..."

François Benolo, Ntandroy



TiBT is the first organised Bible translation effort into minority languages of Madagascar and hopes that every Malagasy person will have access to God's Word in the language they understand best.

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Based in Madagascar, Together in Bible Translation (TiBT) is a grassroots translation initiative, which emphasises ownership by each language community. The translators are men and women from all walks of life, who work in teams as they translate the Bible into their own languages, specific to their own cultures. TiBT has identified 22 language varieties with translation needs in Madagascar.