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Dear Friends

“Tsy miova ny omaly”. That is to say: “Yesterday doesn’t change”. In October 1993 we first arrived in Mandritsara after a 2-day drive by Land Rover from Antananarivo. At that time it was very dry, and there was no water in the taps all day, and just a little every second night. On Tuesday night this week, David drove into town at 3am to collect the operating theatre team for an emergency Caesarean Section. At every public stand-pipe on the way there was a group of weary-looking individuals surrounded by a large number of buckets – all waiting their turn to get water. The water only comes for a few hours at most each day – that is to say in the middle of the night! After 17 years “Tsy miova ny omaly”! We are grateful that at the hospital we have a borehole, and though it does not give enough water to have water all the time, it does mean we are not entirely dependent on town water. Thank you for your prayers for the Lord’s work here in Mandritsara. HE doesn’t change – He is the same Yesterday, Today and For Ever. And He is building His church, against which the gates of hell cannot prevail. Praise Him!

JEAN-JACQUES



In 1993 there was one small Bible Baptist Church in Mandritsara town. In the goodness of God there are now over 50 villages in the district with little churches or groups of believers that meet. They are like saplings, vulnerable and very weak – but if they are truly grounded in the Lord and rooted in His Word we know they will grow. Pastor Julien has been very concerned to send men to the Baptist Bible School in Antsirabe, south of Antananarivo, where he trained. On Saturday Jean-Jacques, a subsistence farmer who leads the little church in Ambodiadabo, a day’s walk from Mandritsara, left for 3 years in Antsirabe with his wife and 3 teenage boys. It was an emotional departure as they boarded the bus for Tana. The bus is a long converted truck with 66 very “economically spaced” seats! The roof rack was loaded high

with luggage, including most of Jean-Jacques’ worldly goods and the family bicycle. Baskets of live chickens and geese were tied on front and back – but these belonged to others! Last Sunday the church here took the united decision to commit the spare funds they have to supporting Jean-Jacques, and to trust the Lord for the rest of the funds needed. What a blessing to receive an email this week from a church in England which had received news about Jean Jacques in our weekly email. They wrote “we have been looking to increase our giving to local national Christians - particularly those training for leadership and wondered whether we could contribute to the support of Jean Jacques and his family for the next three years?” The amount promised will cover the outstanding support needed. What a confirmation this was of the step of faith the church has taken. Jean-Jacques’ training is really a missionary vision for the Mandritsara church – to the region of Ambodiadabo – the “Samaria” perhaps of Mandritsara.



DR ADRIEN



We are very pleased that Dr Adrien is back to health and strength. Thank you so much to all who have prayed for him following his heart attack in January. One of his major roles now is treating women with obstetric fistulae. These are often girls in their teens or early twenties who have had a very difficult and long labour with their first pregnancy – almost always ending in the death of the baby. The prolonged pressure of the baby’s head causes necrosis of the tissues of the bladder or rectum, leading to a permanent and continual leak of urine or faeces through the birth canal. Life for the sufferers is extremely miserable – daily life, social relationships, work, everything is difficult for them. The smell is unpleasant to those nearby, and when they are waiting at the hospital they usually stand up – sitting down leads to an embarrassing puddle.

The operation to cure them, which Adrien learnt at the fistula hospital in Ethiopia, is technically challenging and not always successful at the first attempt. But a successful outcome transforms the lives of these ladies as you can imagine. As at today, Adrien has 25 or so women, some from very far away, waiting nearby for a slot in the

operating programme. Please pray for success, and that many of these women might come to know the Saviour while spending time here. In December Adrien has been invited to attend the International Conference of Obstetric Surgeons in Dakar, Senegal. He hopes to combine that with a visit to France to see Nomanina, his eldest son, now studying in Bourges, and to visit supporting churches in Belgium and France.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

During the long holiday break, a most encouraging Holiday Bible Club took place in Ambalatrana, and follow-up work continues there. Sunday school has now reopened, and children have “moved up”. It is good to see several young people now training as assistant teachers. Jane is busy with all the preparations each week, and in writing the lesson guides. They are working through the Gospels – Jane has already prepared lessons up to mid February, and is working hard to complete enough to take the classes through to the end of the school year by the time she goes away in January (see below).



- Thank you for praying for the other aspects of the work, including **Ecole Bonne Nouvelle** (300 children have just started the new school year), the **School of Nursing** (8 students in their second year), the **Eye department** (**Dr Hanitra** hopes to do 500 cataract ops this year), and the **Community Health team** under **Dr Francis** (vaccination and health education trips, training village health workers, building latrines and much more).
- Contractors are busy building two family houses and a duplex near to our house. The foundations and floor slabs are done, and the walls starting to rise. We are so grateful for a large legacy which has paid for it all. We need the accommodation for the arrival of **Howard & Caroline Bunting** (eye surgeon/GP) with their two children, due to arrive in April, and **Matt and Sarah Sherratt** (anaesthetist/ teacher), also with two children who are doing French study in France and due to arrive here in September. The contractors are also building part two of the School of Nursing (library, study rooms, offices etc.)
- **Claire-Lise and Peter Judkins** have been here since May, studying Malagasy full-time. Peter (nurse) will start to work in the hospital in January, and Claire-Lise (midwife) will work part-time, whilst also caring for their children Keziah (just started in the first pre-primary class at EBN) and Naomi. We also have a French midwife, who visited Mandritsara earlier this year has applied to join us long term. We are hoping it will be possible for her to come early in 2011. If the Lord would raise up one more midwife we may be able to open our maternity block at last. It is greatly needed. Thank you for praying.
- The Voice of the Good News radio station. We praise the Lord that they now have new computers, a generator providing power to run the station each morning from 5am until 8am when the town electricity comes on, and that the transmitter has been repaired and is working well. The only problem now is the antenna which needs repairing or replacing – though the station is functioning reasonably with the old original antenna.
- We are grateful for a team of 9 strong men (plus one lady cook!) from Northern Ireland (LIFT team) – currently here to put the roof on the new Carpentry workshop. Next week Alan and Carol Breed – retired paediatric orthopaedic surgeon from USA – will be here for a month to operate on disabled children.
- **Mat and Katy Linley** are due back shortly from leave in UK. Mat, along with Pastor Julien, will be straight into a month of Bible teaching in November. 30 or so village church leaders will be coming in for this. David also has two courses to give – “The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible” and “The World of the Bible”.

FAMILY NEWS

Rebecca and Chris in Cambridge now have a little girl, Phoebe, who has joined David (3). Ruth and Neil in Grand Rapids USA with Ginny and Willow are expecting their third child in February. Neil is soon to become Assistant Pastor at their church, and to study part time for a Master of Theology. They hope to return to UK in 2013 – feeling the Lord’s call to pastoral ministry. Rachel and Kip are happily settled near Stoke following their wedding in June. Kip is an assistant at St James Church, Audley, and they are expecting a baby in May. Reuben and Hannah with little Henry, are in Basingstoke where Reuben is assistant minister. They are currently seeking the Lord’s way for future pastoral ministry. Jane is hoping to go to Grand Rapids to help Ruth with the arrival of the new baby. She will probably leave Mandritsara with MAF on January 21st. David hopes to join her in the UK on her return, probably in April or perhaps March. The Mandritsara Prayer Day is set for Saturday May 7th in London – please put it in your diaries now! We will need to return to Madagascar at the end of May or in June.

Thank you so much for your continuing prayers and support, With our love, David and Jane

To receive weekly email news please contact us or look at the website. Gifts for the project should be sent to: Bryan Lumb, “The Potter’s House”, 7 Hythe Road, WORTHING, W Sussex, BN11 5DA Tel. 01903 602727 Please make out cheques to “Friends of Mandritsara Trust” (F.O.M.T.) Gift Aid forms are available. Email: lumb@thepottershouse.co.uk