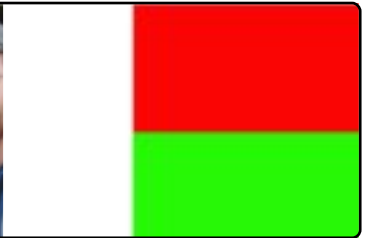


The Judkins Journey

January 2011
Serving at the
Good News Hospital,
North Eastern Madagascar



Dear Friends & Family,

We hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas and been able to focus and rejoice in our Saviour's birth! We are well and enjoyed our 1st Christmas in Madagascar. Highlights included the visit from Claire-Lise's parents, a traditional English Christmas lunch with our missionary family, listening to Handel's Messiah by starlight whilst watching the moon rise, having a party for the hospital staff during which each department presented one or two songs and traditional Malagasy dances, and going to church on Christmas morning. Despite it being very different, especially with the heat and no snow, we feel we have been able to celebrate and thank our heavenly Father for sending His Son in such an incredible manner!

One of our best Christmas presents has been running water! As of this week there is now water in our taps all through the day! Small rains have come to Mandritsara, bigger ones in the surrounding regions, so the work in the fields are now starting for the next 4 months. We've been told that this means the hospital will be a little quieter than usual during this period as the people go to their fields and also don't have much money left from last year's crop. The good side of this is that we'll have a gentle introduction to work! There still isn't enough rain though and people are getting anxious about this year's crops. Please pray that the proper rains would start and there would be enough.

We've been very pleased with our orientation round the hospital and Peter is already settled into his new role of charge nurse of the ward. He also chose (!) to do a couple of night shifts, which he almost regretted, but then after having good conversations with staff and patients, he felt it was worthwhile! In particular, there was a child who was quite sick on the ward. "His father asked the staff if the child was going to survive. We tried to reassure him that we knew the disease and we were treating it, that he needed to wait for the medicines to take effect. We also encouraged him to wait upon the Lord, to trust and pray. A few minutes later, he came to find me, and asked me how can he pray to Jesus. In my limited Malagasy, I was able to tell him to believe in Jesus and just talk to Him. After that I offered to pray for him and prayed a simple prayer in Malagasy for the child, but also so that the family would be saved. It was a

great opportunity, that I never had in the NHS! We were also able to give him a tract entitled "4 things that you need to know", in Malagasy, which clearly outlines our need and the means for salvation." We are so pleased to be able to work in a place where the main focus of everything is the Gospel.

Working with 'real' patients has made our limited Malagasy even more obvious! This is a humbling experience and although we sometimes feel discouraged, we try and stay upbeat about it and ask even more for God's help! During our 6 months language learning, we mainly learnt the official Malagasy, but actually, the language spoken here is the Tsimihety.



Christmas Festivities with Phoebe and Jonah Linley

Useful Contacts:

Peter & Claire-Lise JUDKINS

Hopitaly Vaovao Mahafaly
BP12
415 Mandritsara
Madagascar
pmjudkins@yahoo.fr
clairelisejudkins@yahoo.fr
Tel: +(261) 337300243
or +(261) 325726587

SIM (UK)

Wetheringsett Manor,
Wetheringsett,
Stowmarket,
Suffolk
IP14 5QX
<http://www.sim.co.uk>

It's a dialect, so some things are similar, others are completely different, like the pronunciation and the sentence structure. Fortunately we are still able to carry on with our lessons, Peter once a week, and Claire-Lise twice a week.



Working on the wards



Claire-Lise doing language learning with Bako

At the moment, we are on holiday in Diego for a week with Claire-Lise's parents. We're enjoying some time away, especially the beach.. Please pray that we would have a relaxing time and that we would come back restored and refreshed despite the long drive home (17hrs)!

Thank you once again for your partnership in the Gospel.

Lots of Love,
Peter & Claire-Lise Judkins

Praise God for:

- Gospel opportunities on the ward
- Running water!
- A great 1st Christmas in Madagascar with Claire-Lise's parents

Please pray:

- For the family mentioned above and others like them, who we often meet in desperate times
- Continued progress in Malagasy, especially Tsimihety to be able to work and communicate the Good News
- Peter to be settled in his new role, Claire-Lise as she sets up antenatal clinics twice a week.

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2v10-11