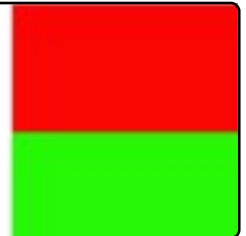


The Judkins Journey

September 2010

Serving at the
Good News Hospital,
North Eastern Madagascar



Dear Friends & Family,

We've realised that every month so far has been very different from the previous one since we've been in Madagascar. The big difference this month has been the absence of our language teacher, Bako. She was great and did a whole range of recordings for us to work on. It was a lot of work for her, and we have really appreciated it! It has kept us busy over the last few weeks. Whilst we don't feel that we have made massive progress, we still have had a chance to get to grips with more vocabulary, and consolidate on what we have learnt. It's also been a chance to go and meet people a bit more and chat to them. We are really looking forward to her coming back next week, and starting formal lessons again!

The highlight of this month has been the holiday club. Every year, the church organises a holiday club for children in one of the surrounding villages. This year, it is in Ambalatrana, a village 1hr walk away from Mandritsara. Around 300-400 children have gathered every Saturday under the massive mango tree outside the village school, to play games, sing songs, and hear the Gospel message. It's been amazing to see them paying close attention to the stories, the Bible memory verses, learning songs about God's love. They've been split into 3 groups- the smaller kids (around 100), teenagers (around 20) and the rest (impossible to count!). There was also some teaching for the adults that came, going over the basics of the Gospel. It's been amazing to see how far some of the kids have walked to get there!

In the main group, they are looking at the wordless book- it is a book with coloured pages, where each page represents a message from the Bible- Yellow is for the Glory of God, black is sin, red is the blood of Christ that saves us from our sin, white for justification. and green for growing in the Christian life. On the last day (this coming Saturday), they will each go home with a book so that they can then also tell the story to their family and friends!.

We've enjoyed being part of this. We've walked there every week with some other missionaries, and had a picnic on the way (which Keziah and Naomi loved!).

Another big event has been registering Keziah to start school in September! On the 27th of September, she will start in the "petite section" at the Good News School, a school founded by the hospital for their workers, but also open to others. As we've mentioned already previously, this school has got a very good reputation in Mandritsara, and although it is explicitly Christian, with daily Bible teaching, many people from the town send their kids there, even from other faiths.



Teaching the children at the holiday club

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We were privileged to have one of the 10 hospital places. Other people had to queue up to get their children into the school. People are so anxious for places that the first people reserved their place in the queue 3 days before, and at 4am on registration day, there were already 20 people waiting! Many more were turned away, but put on a waiting list.

Keziah will be one of the youngest in her class. Please pray that she will adapt well, and enjoy learning not only to read and write (and sing, and colour in...), but also about God! As you can imagine, we are like all the anxious parents around the world dreading the first few days...



Under the mango tree

On the 5th of September, we'll be going back to Ambodimadiro, the village we visited end of June. Peter will be preaching from Ephesians 2. Please pray for this little church and our possible involvement with it in the future. Some of the members have recently been at a gathering of all the churches in the area. May that be an encouragement for them to see the wider picture of the Gospel work around here.

Praise God:

- For good health since we've arrived in Madagascar
- For all the children who have been coming to the holiday club in Ambalatrana
- For Keziah's place in the school

Please pray:

- That God would save many of the children who have heard the Gospel and for the follow up in Ambalatrana
- For strength and peace for Keziah (and us!) as she starts school
- For renewed vigour in our language learning for the last 3 months
- Please continue to pray for friends for Keziah and Naomi

Lots of Love,
Peter & Claire-lise Judkins



There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

Acts 4:12