



“FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU,” DECLARES THE LORD, “PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU, PLANS TO GIVE YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE.” JEREMIAH 29:11

MADAGASCAR

DID YOU KNOW?



Norwegian and American Lutheran missionaries arrived in Madagascar in the 1860s. From the beginning, they worked together to develop the church, healthcare and education simultaneously, which led to the formation of the **Malagasy Lutheran Church** as we know it today.

The **Malagasy Lutheran Church** (Fiangonana Loterana Malagasy) is a member of The Lutheran World Federation. Madagascar is home to 18 official ethnic groups. The two primary languages are French and Malagasy, and the culture is primarily a mix of African and Asian. The island nation off the southeastern end Africa has a population that is 42 percent Christian. Of that, some four million are Lutherans- that's one of the largest Lutheran populations in the world. The average person lives on \$2 per day through fishing, mining and tourism jobs. The Great South of Madagascar is currently rife with an unprecedented drought called KERE. 900,00 people are affected by an advanced famine.



Lutheran Disaster Response has provided \$ 30,000 in 2021 to contribute to this humanitarian crisis. Covid-19 has impacted the overall health and economy of Madagascar, with only 380,000 doses being delivered so far in a population of 27 million. In 2021 Lutheran Disaster Response has granted \$ 40,000 in 2021 toward COVID-19 prevention.



The Malagasy Church:

..HAS a deep commitment to providing a comprehensive education and training for its church leadership, including catechists, evangelists, pastors and female theologians.

..HAS a large health care program, including both hospitals and dispensaries. Community-based primary health care is foundational, and special projects include a school of nursing, child survival, family planning, and AIDS prevention. The ELCA supports the most underserved rural areas, where travel by vehicle can take up to 6 hours on unpaved roads for people to get to the clinics. **The Ejeda hospital** (founded in 1964 by American missionaries), is supported by the ELCA, with a strong emphasis on maternal and child health and maternity waiting wards that provide safe haven for women during pregnancy. **The SALFA health care system** is run equally by the Malagasy Lutheran church and the Madagascar government and includes 10 hospitals, 40 clinics (all connected to hospitals), a nursing program, and spiritual healing/mental health programs.

..MINISTERS to the spiritual, mental, emotional and physical care of people who suffer from physical illness, mental illness or demonic oppression. Some villages are set aside to provide compassionate Christian care as well as instruction in the Christian faith.

..HAS vibrant women and youth programs at the national, synodical and congregational levels. A National Youth Center for the church is located near Antananarivo. A Women's Training Center called ILOFAV receives students from across the island and provides vocational education.

WHAT DOES YOUR GIFT OF HOPE DO?

Through many **social ministries** your gift empowers young women, supports impoverished elderly and educates underprivileged children through vocational training supplies, food packages and elementary school fees.

Through **medical programs** your gift supports the church's effort in maintaining a qualified work force at the health care centers, including medical supplies for Ejeda hospital, nurses training, services for delivery of babies and a midwife training program. Your gift empowers young women, supports impoverished elderly and educates underprivileged children through vocational training supplies, food packages and elementary school fees.