

We enjoy dressing up for the occasion when we share about Madagascar!



Pray for these men as they lead the church



In our last letter Joanna wrote on what the Lord has been teaching us about his goodness. As I re-read that letter I am convicted. Often while preaching across the States and Canada I mentioned how God has been teaching us not to despair when he changes our plans or brings us to an “unforeseen detour.” As I think on those messages I am challenged.

Our Maintirano ministry team is at one of those “unforeseen detours.” Our co-workers, Richard and Charity Jertberg, are currently packing up their house and setting things in order to return to the States this Saturday as Charity has been diagnosed with cancer and must return for immediate treatment.

We, on the other hand, are now re-organizing our schedule and making plans for an early return to Madagascar to help cover the ministry needs in their absence. Though chaotic it may seem at the moment, I am reminded by my wife’s last letter that “God is still good.”

I am grateful for the men in the Maintirano church who are stepping up to help continue the ministry in our absence. I am thankful that the same Holy Spirit who worked through Richard and Charity is continuing to work through the Malagasy believers while they return.

I don’t enjoy it when my own sermons come back to rebuke me, however Joanna graciously reminded me of my preaching that “this is the Lord’s work from the beginning of time. It did not start with me, and it will continue after I am gone.” All too often I make the mistake of thinking how important I am, when in fact it’s God who is important. I am just privileged to be used of him.

As of now, our plans are to return to Madagascar some time around the end of February. Please continue to pray for our team.

Pray for the Jertbergs as they travel home.

Pray that they would quickly be able to get in with the right doctor and that treatments would go well.

Pray for the family as they make the transition from Maintirano life to Atlanta and hospitals.

Also please **pray** for us as we shift our focus to purchasing supplies, packing, obtaining visas, and changing tickets. Pray for us as we say goodbye to family and friends a little sooner than expected.

Pray for the ministry as, at least for the present, we will need to live and minister in Maintirano without the presence of our friends and co-laborers Richard and Charity.

Pray for the church in Maintirano. I am sure it is with some fear and trembling that these relatively new believers take on leading the church (not to mention the emotional hardship of saying goodbye to the Jertbergs for now).

Thank you all for your faithful prayers and support. A special thanks to those pastors and churches who allowed us to reschedule our meetings in order to make it back to Madagascar sooner. We could not do this ministry without you!

“Known unto God are all His works from the beginning of time!”

~Acts 15:18

Trusting always in Him,
Bobby and Joanna Burdett

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