

**Bobby and Joanna Burdett** serving in

# Madagascar

May, 2014

**Easter Monday:** Our annual church picnic is held every Easter Monday. This year we enjoyed a day of games, food and fellowship on the shore of the Mozambique Chanel. What gave the day a special happiness was that on Easter Sunday eight people trusted Christ as Savior! Some had been attending since the beginning of the work here but as yet had not put their faith in Jesus. Most of them are now attending baptism class and are becoming involved more in the ministries of the church. *Pray for these new believers to be firm in their faith!*

**New missionaries:** We are always happy to have visitors, but many who come to Madagascar cannot make it as far as Maintirano. Our new friends, Phil and Vala Long braved the trip less than 24hrs after landing in Mada! They were able to participate in village outreach, soccer outreach and our Thursday night prayer service. They savored a few Malagasy dishes and even got in a hike through the brush to find baobabs. We are so grateful God is leading them to our island and can't wait to see what great things He will do through them! *Pray for them as they travel gathering partners in ministry!*

**Church in the middle of the mud:** Last year sometime, Bobby began doing evangelism in some villages north of here. We are teaching systematically through the Bible emphasizing the substitutional sacrifice for sin. Lord-willing, before we leave, we will reach the story of Jesus being the sacrifice for our sin. This last week we helped some men of the town bring palm fronds from another small village we are teaching in to "Marompaniry am-pieliam-potaky" ("Many Growers in the middle of the mud" really is the name of the town!) to be attached to the basic structure that will be their church. Of course, our truck got stuck in the mud a kilometer away and the bales had to be hand-carried the rest of the way. It is convicting to see these people work so hard to have a place in which to learn about God. *Please pray that each person will understand the lessons clearly and that they will be convicted by the Holy Spirit to salvation!*

**Between two worlds:** I think any missionary out there will attest to the fact that as a missionary you are regularly facing transition and change. The past couple of months have been especially challenging in this regard. In the end of July we head back to the States for eight months of furlough. We are especially looking forward to seeing family and friends, sharing what God has been doing here, hitting some of our favorite restaurants and having a selection to choose from when we go shopping! However, some things here in the ministry are finally getting going. This balance of focus and energy is both exciting and exhausting! *Please pray that we will finish our time well to the glory of God!*

Trusting always in Him, Bobby and Joanna Burdett

Bobby and Phil on return trip to Tana



Church group on Easter Monday



## PRAYER REQUESTS:

Salvation: Pierrot, Prisca, **Baban'i Jim**, Razaka

Paperwork for NGO renewal and visas to come through!

Health and strength to complete projects before furlough

Discipleship studies with: Agnes, Tariandry, Tony, Jean-mark