

World Mission

Why Support Our Missionary Families? The Work of the Turks in Madagascar, Africa

The TANGIBLE FRUITS

We continue to be extremely grateful for the commitment and effort that Government Street Presbyterian Church puts into supporting mission work... Below is a write-up for the money provided last year as well as for money to be raised this year. Our sincere thanks to all who participate in the preparations for your mission events as well as for all who contribute financially. *In Christ*, Elizabeth and Dan

Project Request for 2010 Funds from Government Street Presbyterian Church

**I. \$3750 to environment ECO 047980
(Installation Fruit Tree Nursery and
Extension Program in Ranomafana)**

**II. \$3750 to health ECO 047979
(Assistance to HIV+ people and Peer
Educator Training)**

2010 Project Description - Detailed

**I. Installation Fruit Tree Nursery and
Extension Program in Ranomafana: \$3750**

For this year's Government Street Mission Auction, we propose that the money for the environment component go to the establishment of a tree nursery and preparation for a fruit extension project in Ranomafana, in SE Madagascar. Ranomafana is already home to the largest publicly-available collection of fruit trees, with 130 varieties planted on 2 hectares of land within the Ranomafana Arboretum. Although the first fruit trees were planted only 2 years ago, star-fruits and guavas are already starting to produce fruits. In 2009 PC(USA) helped purchase land for the church to set up a tree nursery to begin propagating promising fruit trees. A nursery worker was hired and given special training. Already, the nursery has produced over 200 marcotted litchi trees and many hundred tangerine trees. Most of the trees initially produced in the nursery will be kept for extension work to be started later in 2010. In the next couple of months considerable fixing up of the nursery will be required, including expanding the nursery area, putting in a parking area, and filling in a major ditch. All of the work

will be done with locally-available labor. In addition, many mother trees not found in the arboretum will be planted at the nursery site for getting propagation materials. About \$3000 is needed to fix up the nursery.

An extension project is being prepared for the Ranomafana area. This will involve working with 100 farmers all around Ranomafana National Park. Most funding hopefully will come from an outside funding agency, but \$750 is needed initially in the project preparation phase.

**II. Assistance to HIV+ people and Peer
Educator Training: \$3750**

Madagascar's HIV infection rate is still low (under 3%), but this is the time to concentrate efforts so that the rate stays low and the widespread devastation that is seen in mainland Africa does not occur here. The political crisis has severely curtailed the amount of funds available to help those living with HIV and AIDS. Since 2006, FJKM dispensaries in 3 regions have been caring directly for those living with HIV and AIDS. Because of the crisis, the government no longer has adequate funds for getting those living with HIV and AIDS the regular blood work that they need for monitoring when to give ARVs. In addition to providing support for those living with HIV and AIDS, the 3 FJKM dispensaries are now covering the cost of the lab work for the 3 regions they cover. The program needs an additional \$1000 to help cover these costs.

As we have mentioned before, youth are particularly vulnerable. This is even truer now as the social fabric has weakened greatly during the crisis. One of the most exciting AIDS prevention programs continues to be the peer educator project that the FJKM is doing with youth from local FJKM schools and churches. We would like to challenge GSPC to help us raise the funds to train 20 youth as peer educators. The next training will be in November 2010. The cost of training is @ \$3000.

continued on page 2

Use of 2009 Funds from Government Street Presbyterian Church

- I. \$3750 to environment ECO 047980 Orchard Installation & Support**
- II. \$3750 to health ECO 047979 (Ministry of FJKM AIDS Committee)**

2009 Project Description

- I. Environment 2009 funds for environment work in Madagascar: \$3750**

Assisting Orchard for Former Leprosy Patients \$1000

The money raised by Government Street Presbyterian Church will be used to support the installation and maintenance of orchards at 3 sites in the Moramanga area. A 100-tree orchard is being put in at Mahajery N of Moramanga. Mahajery is where families of former leprosy patients have settled with church help to farm the land. Most of the cost of the orchard is coming from a special grant from PC(USA) but \$1000 is needed for additional follow-up and training in 2010.

Orchards at Moramanga Synod & School and Antsapanana: \$2750

An orchard of 50+ trees is being planted next to the Moramanga Synod office of the FJKM church in Moramanga. This orchard has great potential because of the large number of people who will be able to monitor its progress. The Moramanga church tree nursery will benefit from propagation materials. Eleven mango trees will be planted at the Synod office from among the FJKM's 20 varieties from Florida. Further trees will be planted at the FJKM high school next to the Synod office including 7 carefully selected native trees. It is estimated that \$1000 will be needed to cover the planting of the orchard and maintenance for the year. The third orchard is at Antsapanana near Andasibe, not far from the most visited nature reserve in the country. About 200 trees have already been planted there with about a hundred yet to be planted. The remaining \$1750 will go for installation and maintenance of this orchard.

Background Description of Demonstration Orchards in Madagascar

For the past four years, the emphasis of the environment work of PC(USA)'s partner church in Madagascar (the FJKM church) has been on promoting fruit trees for income and nutrition as well as to

help stabilize agriculture and contribute to the conservation of Madagascar's unique biodiversity. Initially, the FJKM set out to assemble a collection of excellent fruit tree varieties with economic potential. This was done primarily by bringing in over 175 varieties of fruit and nut trees from Florida, including many of the best commercial varieties of mango, avocado, macadamia, canistel, mamey sapote, starfruit, persimmon, and low-chill varieties of peaches, nectarines, apples, and blueberries. Added to a good collection of citrus from local sources, the FJKM now has over 250 varieties of fruit and nut trees. In the past couple of years great strides have been made in the propagation of these varieties to the point where now many trees are available for planting out in demonstration orchards. In the past couple of years demonstration orchards have been planted at Ranomafana, Ivato, Ambositra, Isoavina, Mahazoarivo, Ambohimahaso, Fianarantsoa, Ambohimombo, and Andasibe. Most orchards are on land owned by the church and have over 50 trees each. Preparations for further orchards are in progress at Mahajery - N of Moramanga - and at the FJKM synod office at Moramanga.

The demonstration orchards serve several roles. First of all they are a testing ground to see which species and varieties have potential for commercial production. Secondly, they have an important educational role. Just as you may have never heard of a canistel or a mamey sapote, most Malagasy people don't know about them either. Labels with a paragraph about each species in three languages will help people learn that both canistel and mamey sapote are favorite fruits in Cuba, for example. Thirdly, the trees in the orchard will provide propagation material that will in most cases be used by church development department personnel to propagate the trees in nearby church-run nurseries. Finally, the orchards will provide a source of income and nutrition for the people growing them.

II. Ministry of FJKM AIDS Committee: \$3750

The FJKM church (The Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar- PC(USA)'s partner church in Madagascar) is very committed to fighting HIV/AIDS and has done a lot of good work since it began its AIDS program in 2001. Because of the crisis, funding has been very limited. Funds will be used to finance pastoral trainings (April, May, and June 2010); material publications as needed; trainings and follow-up in the synods and local churches (May-September); and administrative assistance.

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Madagascar, Africa
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