

July-September 2024

the BROWNS to MADAGASCAR

WINTER VACATION

After living in Madagascar for more than seven years, it is still difficult to get used to the term “winter vacation” in June, July and August. Because we live in the southern hemisphere, our seasons are opposite meaning these three months are the coldest of the year. They are also some of our busiest months as we focus on kid and youth ministries. We thank the Lord for a very fruitful “winter vacation” this year.

Kids Camp

All kids love summer (or winter) break. In Madagascar, we have an expression that describes kids during the winter break: *milalao vovoka* (playing in dust or not doing anything productive). For this reason, we started a kids ministry in July and August. We modeled the ministry after Master Clubs and Awana and created books for the kids to study and memorize verses.

Each week, we averaged 100 kids (one week with a high of 200) and more than 20 adults and youth who gave of their time to help lead this ministry. The kids worked hard at memorizing verses, completing their books and bringing friends throughout these two months. The leaders also did a great job coming alongside the children and teaching them the Word of God. At our last Wednesday afternoon meeting, we did a review game for the older kids. We were encouraged to see that many of the children remembered the verses they had memorized months prior. Our prayer is that the truths that were imparted during these two months will have a lasting impact in the hearts and lives of each of the children who came.



Teen Camp

This year, we participated in our seventh year of camp. Because of rising prices and in effort to keep camp fees low for the people, we opted to buy and bring all of our own food for the week which largely consisted of rice. We now know what 400 pounds of rice looks like (and no, there was no rice left over!)

We were encouraged by the response of our teenagers to the preaching of the Word of God. On Wednesday, Dan preached a salvation message. When the invitation was given, many indicated they had already accepted Christ as their Savior previously. While we are always happy to see young people accept Christ as Savior, we are also glad to know of those who have already trusted Christ and are growing in Him. We praise the Lord, however, that there were about ten teenagers who placed their faith in Christ at camp this year.

Baptism

Since returning from furlough, we have been working on becoming more organized with our church membership at church. In July, Dan preached a simple message on the requirements for church membership: salvation and baptism. We did not expect the response. Eight people responded to the need for baptism. Here is a summary of some of their stories: two were saved this year and have been attending church faithfully; one received assurance of salvation in July; one accepted Christ when he was thirteen but just now agreed to be baptized; one we have prayed for for four years and finally, he decided he was now ready to follow Christ and take this step. We were also thankful that Hannah, our second daughter, was baptized!



Land

For years, we have been praying as a church for land. Since our church's inception in 2020, we have met in a private school and God has steadily built His church there. We praise the Lord that we have now found some land and Lord willing, will be closing on it this month. We would appreciate prayers for wisdom and guidance as we navigate the final steps of purchasing the land and then begin the process of building a church! We will certainly keep you informed of this exciting project.

The Brown Family

"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

Romans 6:4

PRAYER

- For the growth and discipleship of those who were baptized.
- For souls to be saved and added to the church.
- For wisdom and God's leading as we seek to buy land.

PRAISE

- For our summer activities: kids and youth outreaches.
- For the eight individuals who followed the Lord in baptism.
- For the ten souls saved at youth camp.

CONTACT INFO

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SENDING CHURCH

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