



Twenty-third Annual Report

concerning the financial year 26th Sept. 2008—25th Sept. 2009



Children in a cyclone affected village where MfM funded emergency food distribution.

FOREWORD

The violent overthrow of the legally-elected president in March 2009 was a traumatic event for the Malagasy nation. All the big funders—the EC, the World Bank, the USA and others have frozen or withdrawn all but essential humanitarian aid until democratic government is restored. Tourism dropped initially to almost zero and has been very slow to build up again. It is estimated that over 500,000 jobs have been lost and even those who previously considered themselves to be comfortably off are suffering—there is no unemployment pay in Madagascar. According to the latest available figures over 70% of the Malagasy population is now surviving on less than \$1 a day. At the time of writing there is still no political settlement in sight.

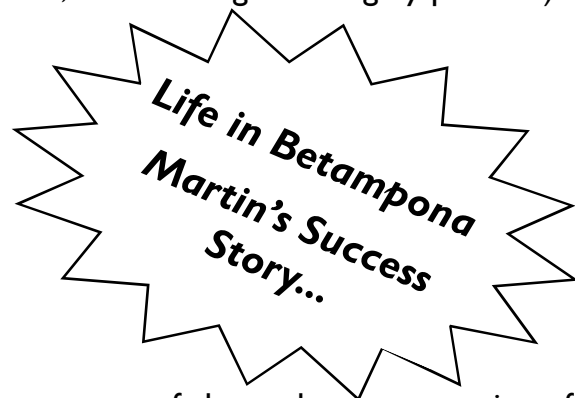
Happily, **MfM** projects have been able to continue more or less as normal, and our modest financial support is hugely appreciated by the recipients. We can never replace the big international funders, but “Small is Beautiful” and the impact of our work is out of all proportion to the relatively small amounts of funding involved. When people are given the opportunity to do their own thing and take an active part in raising their own standard of living then miracles can and do occur.



Martin and his wife with their new plantation in the background.

BETAMPONA

MfM has been funding a wide variety of work in this area of the eastern rainforest for over 20 years now. It is still remote and very difficult to reach due to the appalling state of the roads and bridges, but the lives of many of the people have been immeasurably improved by the help given by the SAF team. (SAF is the Development Department of the United Protestant Church, and our largest Malagasy partner.)



Martin Rakotozafy and his wife, pictured left, are one of the real success stories of this project. When Martin first asked for help in 1996 he was married, with three children, and was recovering from tuberculosis. He had barely enough strength to cultivate his rice and struggled to feed his family. He scratched a living growing and selling breadfruit, bananas and a little coffee.

Now, cured of his TB, and thanks to the training offered by the SAF team, he grows a wide variety of vegetables which he sells in local markets; he has three fishponds and raises baby fish which he sells to other fishpond owners; he keeps bees and poultry; he has an orchard and has also planted quite an area with trees for timber and fuel.

Martin still grows some rice the traditional way, but also grows irrigated rice and now has enough to feed his family and a surplus to sell. He has managed to educate his children and is currently paying for his eldest son to lodge in the main port town of Toamasina in order to study for his baccalaureate. Martin now has sufficient income to pay others to do the hard labour in his ricefields—not bad for someone who used to be a subsistence farmer !

*A typical bridge
on the way to
Betampona.*



Martin is not alone. Another Betampona farmer now has a plantation of trees sufficient for the building needs of five villages. With the profits from sales of his timber he is able to buy rice to feed his family and to educate all his children. Yet another is successfully growing fruit on a commercial scale. There are many, many other stories of success—not as spectacular as these, but remarkable none the less because they show how people’s own initiative coupled with hard work and some technical assistance can raise whole communities out of poverty and give hope to the next generation.

MfM funds a team of agricultural and forestry experts who give practical help and advice to any who request it. The fact that the programme has been running for over twenty years means that there is trust and consequently a greater willingness on the part of Betampona people to try out new ideas than is often found elsewhere. In an ideal world the people would be expected to pay for the advice they receive, but the difficulty of getting their goods to any but local markets means that their income is just not high enough to make this possible. Unlike most other funders who rarely consider funding a programme for more than three years, MfM is unapologetic about being there for the long-term. In our experience it pays big dividends.

FIVE A DAY?

This group of women can certainly get their five a day easily enough because they have planted over 1,000 fruit trees.

MfM gave them a small grant to buy the saplings and to pay some men to dig the planting holes.

In this dry part of central Madagascar it takes a lot of compost and a lot of water to grow fruit trees successfully, but these

women are determined to succeed because selling fruit is one of the few ways open to them to have a regular income in the future.



Watering on your own is hard work, but in company it can be fun!

THE SISTERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

MfM has supported the Sisters' very successful pre-school programme for street children for many years. Another 80 children will enter state primary school in September who, without this preparation and support, would probably never have gone to school at all.



The child in pink was grossly malnourished when he first came to the Centre. Now aged three, he is just learning to walk.

The Sisters also have a programme of support for some of the poorest families in the capital. Many of the mothers are illiterate, homeless and malnourished. Their children are often grossly malnourished.

The first priority is an emergency feeding régime to bring the children back to a normal weight for their age. After that it is important to give the mothers the means to earn some money so that they are not forever dependent on charity.

MfM funds craft and needlework training for these mothers and a number of them are now independent and able to support their families from their embroidery sales .

AKANY AVOKO CHILDREN'S HOME

MfM continues to have close contacts with Akany Avoko and we are happy to transfer funds that have been raised independently for agreed projects. A separate report is included with this mailing.



CYCLONE RELIEF

The east coast is in the direct line of the majority of cyclones that come in from the Indian Ocean and the people are used to occasional bad storms in the rainy season. Unfortunately one of the effects of global warming seems to be that severe cyclones, which bring very high winds and widespread flooding, are becoming much more frequent. In one village visited by

the Co-ordinator they had had to rebuild their church four times in the past few years. Some of the funds that we sent last year were used for immediate relief, but a proportion went to construct solid buildings that can serve as refuges during cyclones and as churches / schools / village halls during the rest of the year. The unfinished building in the picture shows a typical example.

BELO-SUR-MER

In February 2009 Cyclone Fanele struck the town of Belo-sur-Mer on the west coast of Madagascar. Winds gusting to 180m/h managed to overturn and lift boats weighing more than 15 tons. Many buildings, including the hospital, were completely destroyed or very badly damaged.



MfM ran a special appeal and, thanks to many generous donors, we were able to send sufficient funds to re-roof and repair the hospital.

Before the cyclone the hospital staff had been concerned by bats that roosted in the roof and made an insanitary mess on the floor below so they took the opportunity to put some translucent panels in the new roof because bats do not like roosting in the light. We hope that the idea has worked!

MAINTIRANO



The large **MfM** funded tree-planting project in the far west of Madagascar has been going for just over two years, and in that time the two women's groups concerned have planted 10,900 saplings that they have grown themselves from seed in tree nurseries. As can be seen in the picture, the survival rate for these trees is commendably high.

The women have planted a mix of native species, including rosewood and raffia palm, plus some eucalyptus.

The latter grows quickly and provides useful timber for building while most of the native species are slower growing but will provide materials in the future for craft work and essential oils.



A member of the FIVEMI women's group and her baby



Two attractive items made from recycled plastic bottles and bags.

THE EAST COAST

An astonishing variety of work, from vegetable growing in the coastal villages to public toilets and showers in the town, is undertaken by the SAF Unit based in Toamasina on the east coast. **MfM** gives them an annual grant, and this year they have done a lot of work with groups of adults and schoolchildren to try and address the appalling and ever-growing problem of rubbish.

The problem is twofold—the seeming inability of the local authorities to manage rubbish effectively, and a general ignorance as to what can be composted.

Re-use is no problem for the poor—everything possible is recycled into something useful or saleable. There is as yet no organised system for sorting the rubbish, but the people are encouraged to do everything possible at the household level. Free compost is one valuable result.

More News from the East Coast



Showing off the new latrine!

Another focus of attention in this area is sanitation. Latrines are still not universally used (and in fact are taboo in certain parts of the country), but SAF is working on it. When the co-ordinator visited last year there was much banter, and considerable pride, when the inhabitants of one village showed her the new latrine that they had built behind their church. Local pastors are proving great allies in this campaign.

Literacy and horticultural work continues at the prison, but the emphasis has now shifted to the training college for prison officers where SAF personnel have had some useful input into the curriculum and good relations have been established with some of the town's churches.

Well-trained prison officers who have the respect of the outside world can only be good for Madagascar's prisons, and the prisoners held in them, in the future.

ISOTRY CENTRE

The little child in this picture is one of five hundred or so street children who come to the Isotry Centre every Wednesday for a nourishing meal, some medical attention if necessary, and some basic teaching in hygiene and appropriate behaviour.

It is a great meeting place for the children, and the noise is deafening! Some of the older children are quite cheeky and streetwise, but they take great care of their younger siblings and make sure that even the smallest one gets a fair share of whatever food is offered.



MfM has funded this part of the work of the Isotry Centre for the past fifteen years.

BEHORIRIKA CENTRE

The Behororika Centre is situated in a poor part of the capital. Prostitution, drug and alcohol addiction and violence are endemic in the slums of Antananarivo and it can be a dangerous place for youngsters. Staff at the Centre have been providing training in craft work and other skills for young girls for over 50 years.



Until the present crisis the Centre was self-supporting. Income from sale of craft work and catering for marriages and other family celebrations was sufficient to cover the basic running costs. Many of the girls went on to get jobs in the clothing factories. Sadly, since the crisis erupted in March 2009, the factories have all closed, there are few tourists to buy the craft work and people have no money to pay for lavish wedding parties, so the Centre lost all its sources of income at a stroke. **MfM** gave them an emergency grant to allow them a little time to look for new sources of income.



Students at Coleg Elidyr in Wales presenting a cheque to the Co-ordinator for work at La Source.

LA SOURCE

La Source is a school and training centre in the capital for young people with a learning disability. **MfM** has supported them for many years with one-off grants for various capital projects such as a water supply, and we give them a regular grant to pay the salary of one teacher.

Coleg Elidyr in Wales is a college for young people with a learning disability and for the past three years their students have taken part in all

sorts of activities to raise funds for La Source. Coleg Elidyr staff and students regularly raise between £400 and £600 a year. Congratulations to them all !

We are currently seeking sponsorship for youngsters at La Source because many of their parents have lost their jobs due to the continuing political crisis and are unable to afford the (very modest) fees for their children.

For details see our website www.moneyformadagascar.org/appeal or contact us at info@moneyformadagascar.org .



La Source students at work in the school garden there will soon be bananas for dessert !



Trustees: Stuart Cassie
Mike Cherry
Gwen Evans
Theresa Haine
Philip Jones
Bernadette and Tim King
Jan Kirby
Chris Sewell
Martin Wilkinson

Patrons: Lord Anderson of Swansea
Hilary Bradt MBE
Sir Mervyn Brown KCMG
Dr Lee Durrell
Baroness Kinnock
of Holyhead
Barbara and Allan
Prys-Williams

As with many other charities, the worldwide recession over the last eighteen months has seen a drop in donations as well as a substantial decrease in investment income.

As a result, the amount we have been able to transfer to Madagascar has been less than last year. Another reason for this is that the Madagascar Development Fund has now set up a separate mechanism for the transfer of their funds to Madagascar and no longer needs the services of MfM. However, when like is compared with like, the decrease in income is of the order of 17%. In terms of applying that income, the modest strengthening of the value of the pound against the Malagasy ariary has marginally compensated for this decrease. Our overhead costs have been a little lower than the previous year but in any event they have always been comparatively modest.

Following last year's coup d'etat and at a time of political unrest, instability, and rapidly increasing poverty, our partner NGOs in Madagascar value and appreciate more than ever the help and support we are able to give now that major international donors and many foreign governments have felt compelled to withdraw all but essential humanitarian aid.

We know that a little can and does make a difference to the lives of people in one of the world's poorest countries. Despite the current downturn, the Trustees are very much heartened by the continued goodwill and generosity of our donors and supporters comprising many, many individuals, Charitable Trusts, schools, churches, and Quaker meetings.

Thank you all.

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