



THE CASURELLAS



December 2011



PARTNERING TO PROMOTE
CARE FOR THE BODY
HEALING FOR THE HEART
HOPE FOR THE SOUL
HEALTH FOR THE COMMUNITY.

It's been a monumental year for our family.

We made it to Madagascar! Ten years in the making, it is a dream come true and we are grateful to be here. We often say the journey thus far has been harder than we could have imagined **and** there is no other place we would rather be. A paradox for sure.

Learning the ropes of living in Madagascar and taking on two languages in two years has been wearisome in many ways. We have faced new levels of stress and exhaustion. However in our weakness we have also discovered new depths of faith, hope and love. It has certainly been a year of growth for the Casurella's.

Alex has seen more of the world in his year and half of life than many will see in a lifetime. He is an adaptable little guy who finds joy and gives joy wherever he is. He loves to sit and color and play rowdy with his older brother. His words are still few, but his expressions endless.

Oliver has grown leaps and bounds this year. He turned three and started attending the French school in town. Soon he will surpass his parents in his newfound language

abilities. A broken arm handicapped him for a few weeks this fall which was a scary event for the whole family. However now he is back to his "super speed" self, as he likes to call it, and living life to its fullest.

Jonathan has had his share of brokenness as well thanks to a soccer incident that left him with a broken nose. He is exploring the + and - of developing-world healthcare and is also carrying the responsibilities of World Venture field leader. His passion for rural health development through the training of village health aides is coming to life.

Mandy keeps busy making sure the family is fed and relatively sand free when its time to go to bed. This year she has taken an active part in planning field conferences for World Venture, with a particular focus on addressing issues of stress and relationships. She is also finding ways to serve some of the "least of these", the mentally ill in Madagascar.

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The Tree of Life

Leaves containing protein equivalent to an egg, three times more iron than spinach, seven times more vitamin C than an orange, four times more vitamin A than a carrot, four times more calcium than milk, three times more potassium than bananas..and the list goes on...oil for fuel, seeds to purify water. What am I? The moringa tree.

WE SEE OUR ROLE AS COMING BESIDE THE STRENGTHS AND NEEDS OF THE MALAGASY PEOPLE.

We believe in transformation through collaboration with the resources that already exist within Malagasy culture. The moringa tree is one such resource. During a village trip to Mahabana Jonathan had the opportunity to teach villagers about this tree of life which exists all around them. We helped to dispell the dangerous myth that eating the leaves of the tree would make one weak. On the contrary, this tree has the power to strengthen the body in life saving ways and to prevent life-threatening illnesses. And we know that as hunger pains give way then there is energy and strength to address the deeper hunger of the soul.

FOR HE SATISFIES THE THIRSTY AND THE HUNGRY HE FILLS WITH GOOD THINGS. PSALM 107:9

We are in a process of discovery. Partnering with Malagasy people to discover the rich resources that already exist in their land and in their culture. Seeing how we can come alongside these resilient and resourceful people in discovering God's rich and far-reaching provision for their body, mind and spirit.



PASTOR TOVO

A MAN WITH A HEART FOR HIS PEOPLE. PASTOR TOVO PARTNERS WITH US IN THE VILLAGE OF MAHABANA. WITHOUT A DOUBT HIS MINISTRY IS THE MOST POWERFUL OF ALL. DURING DAILY CHURCH GATHERINGS AND HOME VISITS HE SPEAKS STRAIGHT TO THE HEART OF MATTERS. "DO NOT BE AFRAID" HE CHANTS REPETITIVELY DURING A SERVICE.

WORDS THAT, WHEN BELIEVED, HAVE THE POWER TO SET CAPTIVES FREE FROM FEARS THAT GOVERN THEIR ENTIRE EXISTENCE. WILL YOU COME ALONGSIDE PASTOR TOVO IN PRAYER FOR HIS WIFE WHO IS BATTLING CANCER AND FOR HIS MINISTRY?



MAMAN' I EBY

A WOMAN WITH HEALING IN HER HANDS. MAMAN' I EBY IS BEING TRAINED AS A VILLAGE HEALTH WORKER IN MAHABANA. SHE ASSISTS IN CLINIC VISITS AND ATTENDS REGULAR SESSIONS WHERE SHE IS BEING EQUIPPED WITH BASIC TOOLS AND KNOWLEDGE TO TREAT AND PREVENT ILLNESS. THE LIGHT IN HER EYES, STRENGTH IN HER

HER HEART MAKE HER A TREMENDOUS STRENGTH AND RESOURCE TO HER PEOPLE. WILL YOU PRAY FOR HER IN HER WEEKLY STUDIES AND FOR HER ROLE IN CARING NOT ONLY FOR A LARGE EXTENDED FAMILY BUT FOR HER VILLAGE AS WELL?

2011 has been full and '12 will follow suite. Here is a snapshot of our upcoming travel schedule. We hope to see you in one place or another. We will provide more details about places and dates of gatherings when we are in your area. We look forward to seeing you face to face and our deeply grateful for your partnership with us.

February 5- Alaska	May 10- 27- Texas
March 19- Southern California	May 28- June 7- Denver, CO
March 22- April 9 Portland, OR	August 11- Madagascar

Tracha Kristmasy, Joyeux Noel, Merry Christmas! Love, the Casurella's