

MG9999-005 MMS February 2016

New Year, New Safaris, New Lives changed!

The First Madagascar Medical Safari of 2016

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Healing for those in Need

It's amazing how time flies: MAF has been organising Medical Safaris for almost 10 years now! The MAF Medical Safaris (MMS) are organised together with MAF's medical partners and with the authorisation and support of the government. The MMS are serving some of the remotest villages and areas in Madagascar where people are cut off from all basic healthcare services. Our medical partners are responsible for the medical work and MAF Madagascar helps to overcome the geographical boundaries by transporting the medical team to the remote village, and collecting them after they have finished their work.

Usually the MMS team spend between 5 and 10 days in an area and provide medical care for hundreds of patients and perform several surgeries. Many lives have been saved during these safaris within the last decade, with more than 30,000 patients having been examined and hundreds of people having had medical surgeries.

A New Strategy

Many of the doctors, nurses and other medical personnel are Malagasy nationals who have a job within the medical sector and are giving up their free time to help the people in the more remote areas.

In previous years we worked mainly with one particular partner organisation and we organised around 15 MMS's per year with the fixed- flight hours that were available. But for 2016, we have changed our approach: We will be working with more medical mission partners than before, so we can use our

plane a lot more efficiently. By teaming up with a second partner in a village not far from the first MMS outreach we can help more people in the same area. So this year it looks that we will be able to fly 22 MMS!

Fainana Be Dia Be (FBDB)

The first MMS in 2016 was organised with our South Korean partner organisation *Fainana Be Dia Be* (FBDB)¹. FBDB is a mission organisation doing several outreaches including both, medical work and evangelising. On 13 February 2016 MAF pilot Patrick Keller flew the FBDB team back from an isolated village called Anjabetrongo to Antananarivo, the capital city of Madagascar. They ministered in Anjabetrongo with mobile medical missions and ministries for children from the 3rd to the 13th February 2016. It is a great organisation to work with! Once, FBDB director and mission doctor Dr Lee even performed a minor surgery on MAF Madagascar Country Director Jan Bernard van den Bosch: He removed a painful ulcer from underneath Jan Bernard's armpit... But that is another story!

FBDB has been ministering in Anjabetrongo over the past 10 years to provide medical assistance, undertake programmes for children and to carry out community development projects.

A Great Partner

On the 4th and 5th of February 2016 the FBDB medical team have been supporting the healthcare of primary school children of Anjabetrongo by performing health check-ups for over 200 children. The team also provided medical assistance for the wider community, as well as for people from surrounding villages, from the 6th until the 12th February 2016. A total of 640 patients were treated. These included 589 consultation cases, 22 minor surgeries and 29 dental patients. Among these patients were 9 people with vital cases who were practically saved by the medical interventions.²

Apart from the medical assistance FBDB also helped to maintain a school compound by repairing cracked walls, sanitary facilities, and building a kitchen

¹ Unfortunately we do not know the exact date of the first safari, despite having contacted the Programme Manager

² FBDB, "Mission report: Anjabetrongo 2016," p.2.

for the school canteen. In addition, the FBDB team assisted the South Korean Juan Church and missionary and medical students from the South Korean Handong University to provide art classes and special evening programmes for children. The Evening programmes for the children focused on the theme: “Let us rejoice before God’s creation!” Covering Genesis 1 - 3 over 5 days, the children learned about God’s creation, Man’s fall and God’s salvation plan.³

Other than providing great support to the people living in and around the area of by helping with medical assistance, organising programmes for children and community development projects, FBDB are such great partners because they emphasise the role of the local people in shaping their own future. FBDB aims at empowering local Christians to take initiative in the projects and take responsibility for the transformation of their own community. Before they organise community development projects they undertake extensive research about how to help the community in a sensitive and effective way.⁴

Hope for those Living in Isolation

We are looking forward to the other 21 MMS this year and pray to see lives saved, faith restored, and people coming to know Jesus! Enabling fantastic organisations such as FBDB to do their work in isolated areas is a privilege and our new strategy for 2016 will help us reach even more communities who are so far from help.



³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.