



## Introduction

We're Adam, Lora, Matimu, and David Willard and we're missionaries to Madagascar, the fourth-largest island in the world, located just off the southeast coast of Africa. As missionaries, we're part of YWAM (Youth With A Mission) Madagascar, pioneering a new work to the unreached Antakarana people in isolated northwestern Madagascar. Our primary home/sending church in the US is Sanctuary Church, located in Tulsa, OK. We're currently in the beginning stages of a new work based from Ambilobe, the primary geographical center of the Antakarana people. This is a continuation of the past five years we've spent in outreach to the Antakarana on the remote island of Nosy Mitsio. All of this work stems from a vision that God gave Adam nearly two decades ago to serve God on the island of Madagascar.

We strongly believe in the incarnational reality of Jesus, our God who became a man like us in order to bring new life to the world. We strive to model ourselves after him, "becoming all things to all people so that by all means we might save some." (1 Cor. 9:22) To us that means speaking the local language (Malagasy) and dialect (Antakarana) and partnering in works with the local Malagasy people that are formed in such a way as to be both recognizable and deeply challenging to the culture they live within. We work together to spread the Kingdom of God in Madagascar and bring the abundant life of Jesus to those who've never known it or even heard of it.

Adam and Lora have lived and worked as missionaries in Madagascar since 2011. Upon first moving to Madagascar, we completed a half-year of intensive Malagasy language training and now use the Malagasy language to interact and develop relationships on a daily basis and to share the Good News of Jesus. We've also worked with YWAM Tamatave on the east coast of Madagascar, participating in a church-planting Discipleship Training School, lived in a rural village, worked in health/sanitation development, and started multiple Christian fellowships among rural villagers who had never heard the Good News of Christ before. We contributed a small part to the work of the YWAM Tamatave team, who have started over 45 churches and 30 rural clinics, all of which are led and managed by the villagers themselves.

The most recent stage of our ministry included spending the last five years on the small remote island of Nosy Mitsio, where we led a team of new missionaries to bring the first Gospel witness that the island has ever received. The Antakarana people are one of the least-reached tribal groups of Madagascar and historically resistant to outside influence. We spent our first year and a half alone on Nosy Mitsio, to prepare the way to bring a team to join us in ministry. When our team arrived in late 2014, we spent the next two years training them in an intensive language, culture, and ministry training program (TIMO). Our team's ministry efforts on Nosy Mitsio consisted of three primary areas: We developed an

evangelistic Bible story set of 16 Bible stories in the Antakarana dialect, which we often shared several times a week through Discovery Bible Studies in multiple villages there. We also engaged them through basic healthcare training and provision in direct cooperation with the local communities. And we also shared Bible stories and songs at the local primary school.

At the completion of the two-year training program at the end of 2016, most of our team members left the ministry to serve in other areas. We returned to Nosy Mitsio with one other family of teammates for the following year. However, the team ministry on Nosy Mitsio ended in mid-2018 and we transitioned from there to the town of Ambilobe. Though the people of Nosy Mitsio have been resistant to the Gospel during the five years we spent with them, many good relationships were built and many seeds were sown and we have hope that what God has taught us and done among them can be used to reach the Antakarana elsewhere on the mainland of Madagascar. Ambilobe is the primary geographical center of the Antakarana people, being the place where their head king lives, it's the principle market hub for the area, and it's also the primary crossroads for the major towns and cities in the far north of Madagascar. We expect to grow a new ministry team in this area, made up of national Malagasy Christians and any other workers that God has called to this long-term work. We hope that from this central location, renewed efforts can be made to reach the Antakarana people through holistic community development and a disciple-making movement. The latest updates for our ministry can be found on our website.

As we make these ministry efforts and demonstrate a life of faith lived alongside our neighbors and friends, we expect to show the Antakarana people the possibility of life lived with a personal, intimate, loving, and all-powerful Creator, known in Jesus, who is with them in the hardest times, who takes an interest in their quality of life, and who, through his Holy Spirit, can protect and empower them in the spiritual warfare they encounter on a regular basis. Our vision and our goal is to see the Antakarana people take ownership of the work of Christ among them and we want to be catalysts to a self-sustaining church-planting movement that will continue to multiply throughout northern Madagascar.

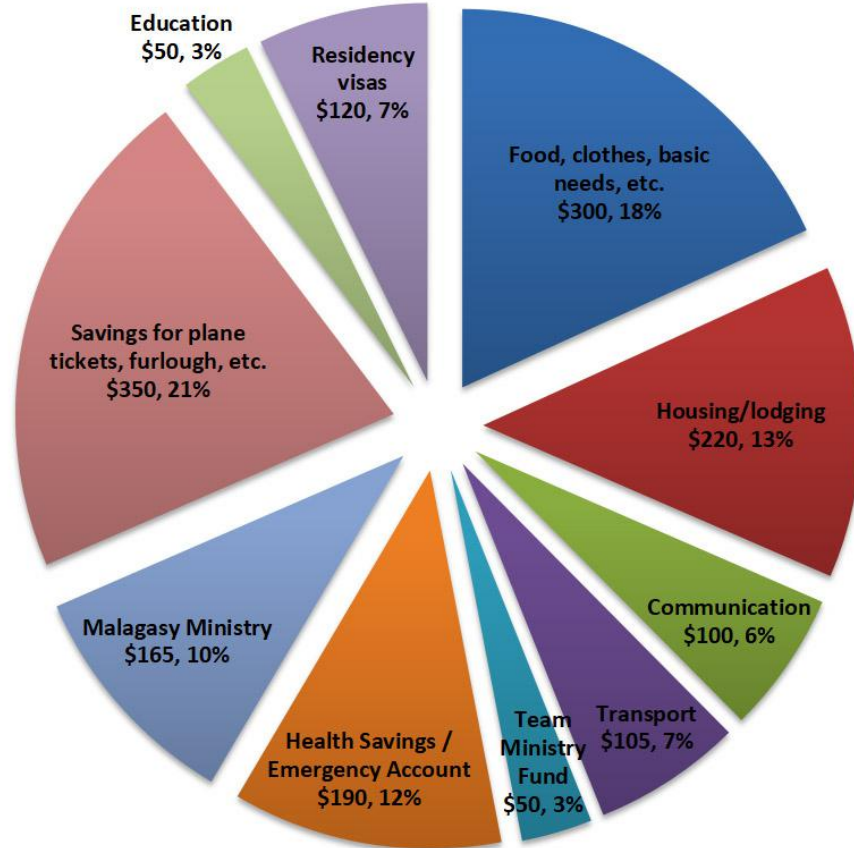
## **Prior Experience / Qualifications**

Adam has a bachelors degree in both French (one of the national languages of Madagascar) and Pastoral Christian Ministries: Missions from Oral Roberts University. Lora has a bachelors degree in Speech/Theater Education from Northwest Missouri State University. Previously, both Lora and Adam were certified public school teachers in the Tulsa, OK area, teaching everything from preschool to high school between the two of them. Adam has also been an adjunct professor at Oral Roberts University and a child welfare specialist for the state of Oklahoma. Both Adam and Lora are ordained ministers by Emmaus Road Church (a daughter church of Sanctuary Church) in Tulsa, OK.

Both Lora and Adam have also spent two and a half years as US Peace Corps Volunteers in South Africa (from 2008-2010) where they lived and worked in a rural community to develop the local primary schools and educational resources of the surrounding area. Together and with the help of excellent co-workers in South Africa, they accomplished such projects as creating two libraries, two computer labs, an after-school art program, a literacy curriculum for the youngest grades, and plenty of teaching and training to improve the skills, teaching quality, and effective use of available educational resources of their South African counterparts.

We believe that our skills and our experiences, and most importantly our willingness, have been developed by God to be greatly used in the island of Madagascar, to serve him by “knowing God, and making him known.” (The YWAM motto)

## Monthly budget for Ambilobe Antakarana Ministry



Our monthly budget (\$1650 total) includes all costs needed for travel to/from our place of ministry, ministry on location, and our family's regular needs for lodging, food, healthcare, etc. We're able to keep our monthly budget so low due to the very poor economy of Madagascar as well as our own desire to live a simple incarnational lifestyle at a level very similar to those to whom we're ministering. More detailed information about our budget can be found on our website.

Our finances are managed by Sanctuary Church in Tulsa, OK. All donations made to our work through them are 100% tax-deductible. Simply write the check out to Sanctuary Church, but be sure to write "Willard Missions" on the memo line. Online giving (credit card) is also available through our website.

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