

Summer 2010



THE MISSION HOUSE

The Mission Post Newsletter

351 That's the number of lives you will have changed in Fort Dauphin, Madagascar by the end of the year, and by the way, that figure doesn't include sponsored children or the villagers at our most recent water well project or for that matter previously completed projects.

Together we have taken The Mission House to a whole new place. A very exciting and challenging place and so I'm delighted to welcome and introduce you to **THE MISSION HOUSE ACADEMY**

The vision of The Mission House is to change lives through the transformation of individuals and communities.

As well as community enhancement projects, this must be achieved by giving people the opportunity for the very basics of right education, the opportunity to learn who and why they are.

So, led by Mamitiana the Principal of the Academy, the end of last year saw the preparations completed on two core courses that are now the foundation of the Academy's curriculum.

The courses then had to be translated from English into Malagasy; volunteer staff recruited and if necessary relocated, premises acquired and the courses marketed.

Staff training took place from January to end of February and on March 1st the doors were opened to our first class of 31 students.

The foundation course is the Life Skills Course. It is aimed at young adults and apart from a small charge for the workbook the course is free.

The emphasis is on attitude. Students have to be eager to learn and grow to be a new person but even though students know that The Mission House is Christian the lectures are kept secular.

Does the Life Skills course deliver?

I have heard some amazing

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field"
Luke 10:2

Mamitiana and Nigel fielding questions during the official launch ceremony of

The Mission House Academy



testimonies from students about their lives changing for the better but perhaps the best endorsement comes from a local company.

One of their staff did our Life Skills course and because of the change in the individual the owner of the Company has asked us to provide the Life Skills course for his remaining 11 staff.

As this will be a bespoke course we have agreed to provide it for free, in the usual way, but have the agreement of the company that they will make an 'appropriate' donation at the end of the course.

So does the course deliver?
Absolutely.

The follow on from Life Skills is the Leadership for Community Development course. It is promoted during the last week of Life Skills and interested students may apply for admission.

Acceptance is by invitation only and successful students must be able to fund themselves for the twelve week duration.

The course content is very similar to Life Skills but at a deeper level and with a biblical overlay.

There is absolutely no coercion or pressure and yet most of the 53 students who have been through the course have come to faith at some time during the course.

After the six week residential period students rotate through projects, assist on the Life Skills course and go into new areas and villages to promote the Life Skills course.

Thus the whole process is self replicating.

The last week (week 12) is residential and is for reporting and reviewing.

This is the time when anyone wishing to continue with The Mission House as a full time volunteer makes the commitment. Again this is by invitation only.

All of this is only possible because of you.

Thank you for being part of The Mission House team.



Mamitiana explaining Life Skills course content to guests at official launch



Mamitiana and Academy premises

The Mission House Academy - Life Skills Course

The course is forty hours over one month and as well as the classroom content includes service to the community as part of a Mission House project.

It leads students through a process of examining their personal world and includes Vision and Goal Setting, Worldview, Healing of the Past, Volunteering/Community Involvement, Leadership, Relationships, Finances, Job Preparation Skills, Motivation/Self Esteem, African Renaissance, Personal Health, HIV/AIDS, Conflict Resolution, and Personal Development/Self Leadership.

Meet Julia

Last year two ladies from the medical profession came on a Vision Trip. They spent some time helping in a very poor rural clinic where they met Julia who was helping the doctor. Julia's real passion is mid-wifery but there was no way she could afford the training to become state registered and have a career serving women in rural communities.



The two ladies on the Vision Trip decided to sponsor Julia and she started in medical school last October. I saw her in June and she kept saying "I am so happy". Her studies are going well and her previous 'unofficial' practical experience is working to her advantage. She will graduate in two years and then be a significant force for good among the lives of countless rural poor women.

The Mission House Academy Students Graduated to July 2010

Life Skills (LS)	98
Leadership for Community Development (LFCD)	53
Total to July 2010	151
Expected intake (LS & LFCD) to end December 2010	<u>220</u>
Forecast Total of Students Graduated 2010	351

Growing Our Own Wood

Apart from giving people the opportunity for the basics of a right education there is another *very important* reason why The Mission House Academy has come into existence and that is to provide local (i.e. Malagasy) leadership for The Mission House. We have ambitious plans for engagement in community development and that requires people who speak the language and are totally familiar with the culture. So who better than Malagasy people to fill such roles? In other words we are 'growing our own wood'.



Overseas Volunteers

Now that we have an established local presence with our own management we will be able to receive and manage short, medium and long term volunteers from overseas. Interested? Email nigel@themissionhouse.org for more information.

The Mission House Academy The Future

The goal is for a self sustaining institution on its own property with revenue from an on-site social enterprise and chargeable courses.

The chargeable courses will be:

1. English Language Training
2. Computer Training in a fully equipped computer laboratory.
3. Business Management Training.
4. Micro Enterprise Initiatives.

Vision Trips

The purpose of a Vision Trip is to give a person an experience of mission and the local culture. It is typically 7 -14 days, includes visits to projects, local places of interest, enjoyment of the local culture and for those wishing for direct involvement there can be hands-on opportunities as well. As a result of the experience most people will want 'to do something' to help.

The MissionHouse

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