



Autumn 2020

# Life Skills courses change lives in Madagascar



Discussion groups are invaluable

Despite the Covid-19 crisis:

- 6 courses this year, 66th since we began
- 107 students graduated so far this year
- On the September course, 19 of the 23 students became Christians
- Students range in age from 14 to 43
- 27 students are on the current course

Praise God for the recovery of Marcelin, a course tutor, from CV-19. Also, for the larger venue provided for the recent graduation for students & guests, allowing for social distancing.

# Life changing testimonies from graduates

Vanessa (20)- "I study at the university, but due to Corona we do not have class, so I join LS and it has helped me so much with all the topics, but the one that I want to mention is the Healing of the past. I used to keep anger in my heart. I used to have a bitter emotion to people that wrong me, so I was not a happy girl, but here I learned I have to forgive in order to have a clean heart, and I choose to follow that instruction. I see it is the best way to live the life, and I am really grateful about that."

Odilon- "I used to be naughty, only when things pleases me, then I do it, but during LS, I learned that my attitude was wrong, I have a new life now. Another teaching that touched my heart is, one day, I will meet God, the creator. I have Jesus in my heart now, I want to do only what pleases Him."



Sharing how they changed whilst taking the course

### Saving lives during the Covid-19 pandemic in India

We are working with our local partners, Light ministries, amongst the Dalit people in Andhra Pradesh, to provide essential food packages for some 178 children, 57 pregnant women along with another 700 elderly, single mothers and lepers during the lockdown.



#### Increased needs at Le Triomphe orphanage, Madagascar, due to Covid-19



Due to lockdown, the children can't attend school

In order to keep the children safe, hygiene has been improved with regular hand-washing. More soap has been bought and the children and carers given masks. Providing a healthy diet with more vegetables and milk has been costly. De-worming medication has also been needed by the children.

Our priority is to provide new beds for the children; they are in a very bad state. A partner has generously promised to match all donations towards this project, given before the end of November. This means that any gifts will, in effect, be doubled, enabling us to buy the six new beds, mattresses and protectors needed for the younger children. Please consider if you could change the lives of these children by sending a donation.

AFTER READING THIS NEWSLETTER, PLEASE PASS IT ON TO A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE. THEY CAN ALSO SIGN UP FOR A DIGITAL COPY OF FUTURE NEWSLETTERS.

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### Property Development- Update from 'Tana, Madagascar





The roofing project has been completed and the beds have transformed the lives of numerous families who survive on less than £1 a day. Thanks to the donation from Abbot's Hill school, UK, and our local partners Fiona, Narilanto and their team who completed the project despite Covid-19 challenges.



The old thatch, that was no protection during the rainy season, was removed. New timbers were installed and the walls built up, before cladding with corrugated steel. The families were truly grateful that they now have watertight homes. The mattresses arrived by local transport and wood was provided for a local carpenter to build a sturdy bed for each home.

#### More student testimonies from the Life Skills Course

CASINIES-"I found LS course on Facebook, a day before it started, and I am thankful they still welcomed me. The teaching about self-esteem, healing of the past and conflict resolution, have help me so much. I used to have a hot temper, I get mad easily, but now I improved my feeling. I can say it is much better. I am not satisfied yet but I can see a lot of change. Apart from that, the topic about leadership was helpful to me too, because, I am a leader of an association and there are many techniques I can apply with my team at church. One last thing I want to mention is, I gave my life to Jesus at LS; it is a real commitment."

VAENY- I was very happy to join this course; I love all the topic that we talked here. I am very happy with all the students too, but what I want to emphasize is the topic about communication. It has helped me a lot. I do not relate with many people because I do not have many friends. Here at LS I feel a big change. Another great point is, I am a church goer, but my motivation used to be wrong. Here I understand the real meaning of the relationship with God."

## 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Mission House Madagascar

Salama, the Academy Director, has planned a series of events to celebrate the milestone.

- There will be a parade through the town of all the graduates over the years, followed by a ceremony and worship time in the Town Hall
- A picnic and 4-day training camp
- 40 graduates have volunteered to assist with the organisation



Salama(centre) and the leadership team

Please join us in praying for:

- God's favour and guidance in planning the celebration
- Fine weather so many graduates join the march and engender excitement
- The Town Hall booking will be honoured and VIP guests (community officials and church leaders) will hear TMHM story and praise God
- God will send the right people to attend the camp to hear more of Him
- Networking opportunities for alumni that create jobs and business potential to impact the community