

Dear Friends and Family,

“Where’s my ‘bonne annee’?” We will hear this question quite a few times in the next month. Traditionally, in Madagascar, you give gifts for new year and not for Christmas. The kids get candy or a new outfit or shoes, women a new cloth or market basket and the men will get new shoes or other clothing. We’ve adopted the tradition and give our workers a gift and sometimes bake for our neighbors and church family. It is the *only* time of year when we will give a ‘tip’ to the officers who pull us over to check papers!

Speaking of gifts, you all have been so generous in your giving toward the **airplane overhaul**. We praise the Lord for His provision through you! The engine is still in the US and we hope to have it back in country sometime this month.

Last October, the government decided to switch departments for handling all foreigner’s **visas**. To complete this switch, we have all had to apply for a 30-day visa then transition to a long-stay visa with the new department. This means a ton of logistic work that takes away from normal ministry. Please pray that each dossier will be processed as smoothly as possible for us to be able to continue doing what God has called us to do here!

For nine years our congregation has been renting houses to meet in. When the contract ran out on the last rental, it seemed the Lord was leading us to begin **building a permanent structure of our own**. It’s been exciting to watch the believers show up every week to make gravel, mix cement, and haul rocks for the foundation. We hope to begin on columns soon then build metal trusses for the roofing. God has provided through several of you for this project as well. May the Lord bless you for your generosity!

As I write, there are New Year festivities going on all around our house. This year was our first holiday season as parents and we had fun with our 8-month old Eliana. We celebrated Christmas and New Year’s Eve with our church family here with over 100 in attendance Christmas day. Bobby encouraged us from Psalm 103, “bless the Lord, oh my soul, and forget not all His benefits.” We do not know what God has in our path for 2020, but we remember His blessings from 2019 and are thankful He holds the future.

Trusting Always in HIM—Bobby, Joanna and Eliana Burdett



**Thank you to everyone who gave us extra for Christmas!!!**