

January 2025

the BROWNS to MADAGASCAR

I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH

One of the greatest promises in the Bible, at least for a missionary, is found in Matthew 16 when Jesus simply stated, *“I will build **my** church”* (emphasis added). It is **His** church and **He** is building it for His glory, and it is our privilege to be part of it wherever we may be found in this world.

This promise has become more meaningful to us in this new year as we have recently started to physically build the church in Ambohitrarahaba. With God’s help, we started our church in 2020 during the global pandemic. Since then, we have been meeting in a private school which charges \$10 a month in rent. This has allowed us to both lay the spiritual foundation of the church as well as save money to buy land in the future. For the last two years, our church has prayed for God to provide land in a visible location at an affordable price. The Lord answered our prayer in October last year. We purchased half an acre of land a quarter mile from our current location.



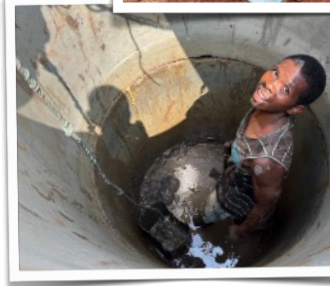
As in any country, completing paperwork and acquiring permits seems to be harder than the actual building process. For the last two months of 2024, we signed and submitted countless papers (many trees were harmed in the process), and on December 24th, the Lord gave our church a wonderful Christmas present when the government allowed us to move forward with the building process. With permit in hand and a trusted contractor employed, we broke ground on January 17th to enclose our property with a necessary perimeter wall.

We praise the Lord for His provision which enabled us to purchase land and construct the perimeter wall with money we have saved for several years.

While we currently have some money already allocated for the building, it is not sufficient. We are now sending out a request to you, our faithful supporters. We have tried to be careful in the past never asking for little needs knowing that many of you are already making great sacrifices to financially support the work here in Madagascar. We are truly grateful for this sacrifice. Now, as we look toward the future, we want to make you aware of the financial need for building materials and labor costs. If you are interested in taking part of this project and sense the Lord leading you to contribute, we would be most grateful.

Before ending this letter, we want to mention that the members of our church have already begun taking special offerings to help contribute to this project. Furthermore, since October of last year, the men and women of our church have designated their Saturdays to work on the property. They have dug **by hand** the footers for the wall (nearly 600 feet long and 5-8 feet deep) and a well 20 feet deep. Their efforts have already helped save much time and money and more importantly have demonstrated their commitment and involvement in this project.

In closing, we ask all of our faithful prayer supporters to keep this major project in prayer. We have already seen a number of visitors in church and some even helping us on the property since this project began. We believe God is working and it is exciting to have front row seats once again. Please pray that God would continue to use this project to open doors for the spread of the Gospel in our community of Ambohitrahaha as well as around Madagascar. May God continue to bless you as much as you have been a blessing to us.



digging a well

The Brown Family

“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

Matthew 16:18

PRAYER

- For the 15 individuals going through our discipleship program.
- For souls to be saved and added to the church.
- For God’s provision for His church here in Madagascar.

PRAISE

- For God’s provision allowing us to purchase land.
- For the continued growth (spiritually and numerically) of our church.
- For the diligence of our members to take part in the building process.

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