

**Latest Newsletter from Jacky Lowe,  
SAMS Missionary in the Diocese of Toliara.**

**Thessalonians 5:16-18** : *Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*



*The room where I live.*

I am very thankful for all my blessings: a home here with a kitchen, bathroom, electricity, running water and food, the basics for life but which many people here in Madagascar do not have. I am also thankful for the ants who never stop working. They tell me I'm alive as they tickle my skin if they get lost on you. I am also grateful to the mice that sometimes come to visit they are so cute, and I've devised a way to catch them without killing them. I am even grateful for the flies as they were created by God for his purpose, but I do kill them. These small animals were created by God and everything He created is good.



*Seliny & Lucia making jewelry with paper beads.*

A group of women continue to make crafts at the center. They make the beads at home and then come to the center and create the jewelry.



*Dola at her work station to make Days for Girls Kits.*

A different group of women make the Days for Girls Sanitary kits, they have passed a sewing skills test to indicate that they can sew the kits as they must be of a high standard.



*Mbiny working at her sewing machine making kits.*

Getting to know Dola and Mbiny in preparation for this newsletter has been an important learning experience for me and makes me very grateful for all that I have.



*Dola, in her home, with 2 grandchildren*

Dola is 53 years old,. She lives in Andranomena has never been married. She has 5 children aged 25 to 16 (1 boy and 4 girls) and she has 6 grandchildren. They all live with her and she is the only person working.



*Dola's house*



*Dola's cooking and eating equipment.*



*Dola's flowers and storage area.*

The eating and cooking area are outside the house. Dola has electricity in the house but no running water, they must walk to a well to get water. Dola has been a member of the Anglican Church since 2013 and she is grateful to God for all that he provides for her and her family.



*Dola in her house*



*Dola cooking beans for dinner which would be served with rice.*



*Dola and her neighbor*

Mbiny is 50 and she has never been married and she has always lived in Andranomena. Her house is small about 10ft by 10ft and is made of grass and has a dirt floor. She has a table with a suitcase on it where they store their clothes. There is a rush mat on the floor and they sleep on the mat.



*Mbiny and her grandson*



*Mbiny's Table and storage*



*Mbiny with her daughter and some of her grandchildren*



*Mbiny cooking beans*

Mbiny has 4 children from age 35 to 6, and 8 grandchildren. The cooking and eating area are outside the house and there is a table where Mbiny's daughter sells coffee, tea and fritters to the people who live in Andranomena. Mbiny is grateful to work at the women's center as then she can feed her family. She is the only one who works outside the home. Mbiny has attended the Anglican church since 2008 and she is thankful for all that God has provided for her and her family.



*The table where Mbiny and her daughter sells coffee and food*



*Mbiny and Dola's pig*

Dola and Mbiny have bought a pig with the money they have earned at women's center and eventually it will provide meat for their families. They also have chickens.



*The well to which Mbiny and Dola walk to get their water*



*Carrying water from the well*



*Mbiny's grandchildren*

Dola and Mbiny's children do not attend school, so the cycle of poverty continues as they are the only members of the family who work. There is a small market in Andranomena where Dola and Mbiny can buy meat, rice, beans, fruit and vegetables. The larger markets are in Toliara and they would need to take a pousse pousse into town.



*The meat market in Andranomena*



*The village of Andranomena, there is no garbage collection*



*Lychees for sale in Andranomena*



*Charcoal and vegetables for sale in Andranomena. The women cook on burners outside using charcoal.*

Dola and Mbiny work very hard and can feed their family and they are very grateful for their homes. They always have smiles on their faces and rarely miss a day of work. Please think of ways you can help those who are less fortunate during this Advent season as we wait for the coming of the Lord.

Please consider participating in the child sponsorship program to help break the cycle of poverty in Madagascar. Send an email to [toliarachild@gmail.com](mailto:toliarachild@gmail.com) if you want more information.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter it took me five mornings to complete it as the wifi takes a long time to upload the photos. I return to the US on January 13 for a break and later will return to Madagascar for the third year of the mission.

**Psalm 107:1** Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

I would love to hear comments or notes of how you are doing, you can send them to [jacquelinelowe51@gmail.com](mailto:jacquelinelowe51@gmail.com). Thank you.