

PROVIDENCE CHURCH Prayer for the Nations

MADAGASCAR**General Information**

- In 2012, the population of Madagascar was estimated at just over 22 million, 90 percent of whom live on less than two dollars per day.
- Madagascar is the fourth-largest island in the world.
- Almost half the Malagasy are Christian, with practitioners of Protestantism slightly outnumbering adherents to Roman Catholicism.

**Challenges**

- Approximately half of the country's population practice traditional religion, which tends to emphasize links between the living and the *razana* (ancestors). The veneration of ancestors has led to the widespread tradition of tomb building, as well as the highlands practice of the *famadihana*, whereby a deceased family member's remains may be exhumed to be periodically re-wrapped in fresh silk shrouds before being replaced in the tomb.
- **Syncretism:** many professing Christians integrate their religious beliefs with traditional ones related to honoring the ancestors. That is; they may bless their dead at church before proceeding with traditional burial rites or invite a Christian minister to consecrate a reburial
- After International Mission Board President Tom Elliff called Southern Baptists in 2011 to “Embrace” the unreached, unengaged people groups of the world, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary endeavored to reach the Antandroy for Christ.

Pray For

- Southwestern’s first team of faculty and students carried the Gospel to this people group, Dec. 28, 2012 – Jan. 13, 2013. As a result, 180 men and women professed faith in Christ Jesus.
- Evangelistic campaigns to the remote city of Toliara where over 20 reported professions of faith occurred.
- Hundreds of people would gather around to hear the message of Christ, and many of them professed faith and provided contact information for follow-up.

Reference

- <http://www.swbts.edu/campusnews/story.cfm?id=0BDA4C5B-EDCD-A5C8-F436C728138A21E1>
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madagascar#Politics>