Madagascar remains one of the world’s poorest countries. Ninety-five percent of its population lives on less than $2 per day. Located in the Indian Ocean 250 miles off the eastern coast of Africa, Madagascar is the world’s fourth largest island and is home to many unique species of mammals, birds and plants. The Malagasy are thought to be the descendants of Africans and Indonesians who settled on the island more than 2,000 years ago. In January 2009 the country’s elected president was deposed by a military coup d’état. Andry Rajoelina assumed power with the military’s backing. Roughly half of Malagasies are Christian, 7 percent are Muslim and the remainder adhere to traditional beliefs.

Partner with Presbyterian World Mission in Madagascar

Working together with our partners in Madagascar

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is partnering with the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar on an education project that shows much promise for boosting achievement in schools operated by the Malagasy church. Mission co-worker Jan Heckler, a veteran educator, has helped the church’s school system implement a successful test project using Evidence-Based Methods of Instruction (EBMI). Now she is involved in efforts to extend EBMI to all 700 schools run by the church, which is commonly known by its Malagasy acronym, FJKM. More than 107,000 students attend FJKM schools. Students in the test project using EBMI showed significant academic improvement. “With EBMI, learning occurs more quickly, reaches higher levels, and is sustained longer,” Jan says. “Students actually learn to learn.” This, she adds, develops their learning abilities both in the classroom and in the everyday situations of life. Improving education is one of the primary ways the FJKM and the PC(USA) address the root causes of poverty in Madagascar.
Meet your mission co-workers

Janice Heckler
Jan works with the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar, facilitating strategic planning and organizational development with a particular focus on helping the education and women’s departments as well as the church department that serves marginalized people. She entered mission service in 2012 and brings experience from the fields of education, public health, mental health, and social service. Her background includes service with a nongovernmental organization devoted to improving education in the developing world. Home presbytery: Greater Atlanta; E200490, D507556

Dr. Douglas Tilton
As regional liaison for Southern Africa, Doug facilitates the PC(USA)’s partner relationships, supports other mission personnel, and works with presbytery and congregational partnerships. He also has responsibilities for facilitating PC(USA) World Mission advocacy efforts in Africa. He works in Madagascar, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Mozambique, and South Africa. “I am excited and grateful when we are able to help each other discern and apply our respective gifts to strengthen our mutual capacity to do justice, to share the good news of the gospel, and to promote reconciliation so that all may enjoy life in fullness,” Doug says. Home presbytery: Heartland; E200416, D507200

Dr. Daniell Turk and Elizabeth Turk
Serving in partnership with the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (FJKM), Dan and Elizabeth work to improve the lives of the Malagasy people. Elizabeth trains village health workers, helps communities develop safe drinking water sources, and educates church leaders and youth about AIDS prevention. Dan has helped the FJKM develop an extensive fruit tree program that greatly improves food security and nutrition in a country where poverty indexes are plummeting. He also works in environmental education, helping people live in harmony with God’s creation. Home presbytery: Central Florida/Western North Carolina; E200418, D507218

To support mission workers with your financial gift:
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• send a check to
  PC(USA)
  P.O. Box 643700
  Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700
  (congregations may mail to your normal receiving site, which is usually your presbytery)

To support the general sending and support needs of Mission Personnel:
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• On the check’s memo line simply write E132192
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Presbyterian World Mission brings God’s global family together to heal the wounds of poverty and violence and proclaim God’s saving love in Jesus Christ.

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