

Call to prayer for Madagascar

The people of Madagascar will vote in nationwide mayoral elections on Friday, July 31, 2015. Further elections for the national Senate are scheduled for August. These will be the first national ballots since the December 2013 presidential poll that restored the island's democratic government following the March 2009 coup d'état that toppled the country's last elected president.

This week's poll will provide an opportunity to strengthen Madagascar's still-fragile democratic institutions, to enhance the credibility of electoral procedures, to entrench a culture of participatory democracy, and to advance the process of national reconciliation championed by the Christian Council of Churches in Madagascar (FFKM).

Please pray that:

- the election will be credible and fair, allowing the people of Madagascar to make their voices heard in choosing their public officials and shaping government policy;
- candidates will conduct their campaigns with dignity, humility and fairness, focusing on policy debates and the continued quest for national unity and reconciliation;
- winning candidates will govern with sensitivity, responsiveness and accountability, while losing candidates will accept defeat graciously and seek ways of working with elected officials to promote the public good;
- God will strengthen and inspire religious leaders to continue to provide both courageous and prophetic witness to the nation and compassionate pastoral care to politically diverse congregations.