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Tongasoa eto Madagasikara

Praise God that we had a smooth journey here. Joel even got a certificate for his first flight and most of our luggage arrived with us even with a tight transfer in Paris. We are grateful for a lovely house and compound and a very warm welcome from the MAF team and other missionaries.

Life in (An)Tana(narivo)

We have spent the first 2 weeks familiarising ourselves with the local shops and fruit market. We have tried some of the unique malagasy vegetables with red rice as our househelp cooks lunch for us a couple of days a week. We enjoyed time in our garden seeing lizards, brightly-coloured birds and butterflies, and even saw our first chameleon. We also have a water-tower and generator in our garden as we only get a few hours of mains water a day, so have to store water for use during the rest of the day.

We have driven around over some brand-new tarmac roads through the rice fields as well as over the dirt roads full of potholes. Our compound is in a beautiful suburb of the city, with the built-up areas of coloured houses surrounded by bright green rice fields. But we have noticed a lot of contrasts here in Tana; there are western-style shopping centres next to poorer areas where people are searching through the rubbish heaps.

What are we doing

Last week we started language learning which is intense, as the words are not pronounced how one might expect. It has been helpful for learning the culture as the appropriate response to 'how are you' is similar to the British 'I am fine', regardless of how you actually are.

Nathanael has also started a few days a week in the Hangar in preparation for a 200-hour inspection on the new Caravan which will start on the 13th. And his trip to Cape Town, South Africa, for an engine training course is now scheduled for June.

In the background the MAF logistics department has been working hard on our long-term visa application as well as helping us get set up here and preparing to ship some of our belongings from the UK.

Praise

- Safe arrival.
- Warm welcome.
- Beautiful house and garden.

Please pray

- Malagasy language learning.
- Building relationships with colleagues and friends in Madagascar.
- Application for our long-term visa.
- 200-hr inspection.
- Choosing a church.



Newcastle airport at 4 am. Ready to go!



Two hours to Paris, then eleven to Tana.



16 hours later, feeling welcomed and tired.



Can you name all the fruit and veg from the market?



Tana suburbs.



Rice fields.