

Africa Inland Mission's Prayer Sheets



002-October 2020



Who are the Tanala people?

The Tanala people, also called Antanala, live in the inland forests of southeastern Madagascar. Their name actually means 'people of the forest'. With a population of 1,200,000 the Tanala represent 6% of the population of Madagascar. They are skilled woodsmen, food gatherers, and hunters. They trade beeswax, honey, and other forest products and grow rice as a staple food. Their traditional 'slash-and-burn' agricultural methods are being discouraged by the central Madagascan government, instead they're being encouraged to use more modern methods to grow corn, yams and coffee. Living conditions in the smaller villages can be very difficult. Many of these small villages are hard to reach and often people are suspicious and afraid of foreigners, as well as of Malagasy from other people groups.

The Tanala trade forest products like honey and beeswax with other people groups



They live in the inland forests of



southeastern Madagascar

They are being encouraged to use modern methods to grow corn yams and coffee.



What do they believe?

The Tanala hold deeply to their traditional religious practices, which are based on animism and ancestor worship. They believe that there are spirits all around us in nature and that people must try to please the spirits. Like most Animists they live with a certain amount of fear that a spirit will be unhappy with them.

What is being done to reach them?

The Tanala are considered to be one of the least reached people groups in Madagascar. However, recently three Malagasy missionaries have begun sharing the gospel in Ikongo (a Tanala settlement) and have already had the joy of baptising new believers. The Hofmann family from the Netherlands moved to Sandrohy in 2017 to live among the Tanala with the hope of planting a church among them.



The Tanala live in the forest and believe that there are spirits around them in nature.

Give thanks:

- * For Malagasy missionaries Melias, Thadee and Haja. Working among their own people is proving enormously effective. They are well received and are gaining the trust of the people.
- * More than 82 Tanala people joined the newly organised Sunday services, and more than 24 of them meet to do Bible studies. Praise God for such an amazing development over just a few months, and pray that God's word would take root in their lives.
- * Recently 16 Tanala people have been baptised. Pray for them, that they would be disciplined well and equipped to live Christlike lives.

Please pray:

- * The Hofmann family moved to the Sandrohy area in February 2017 and have established relationships and learnt the Tanala dialect (they already speak some official Malagasy). Pray that their work in translating and sharing the gospel would have a big impact among the Tanala.
- * For financial support for Melias, Thadee and Haja as they are currently underfunded.
- * Poor hygiene is causing many easily avoidable diseases among the Tanala. Pray that along with the good news of Jesus, they would also accept healthy lifestyles.

Who is AIM?

Africa Inland Mission is a missionary organisation that helps churches send gospel workers to work among African people. **TIMO (Training In Ministry Outreach)** is a two-year cross-cultural training programme to equip people for a life-time of ministry.

If you are interested in going yourself, giving to help send gospel workers or want more prayer info, please feel free to contact us.

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