



July & August 2024

## A PRODIGAL RETURNS HOME

About four years ago a distraught single mom begged for help with her teenage son. Her son was in high school at the time. He was doing poorly in his academic work, and his behavior on campus was so unacceptable that the school was making plans to permanently expel him. The mom pleaded with the school for one more chance, explaining that she was seeking counseling for her son through our church. The school agreed to allow him to continue as a student so long as the church was providing help for the young man. That was the situation when I first met with the boy and his mom. We met a couple of times initially, so that I could assess the situation and report to the school that we hoped that the boy's behavior would change enough for him to continue his studies there. After his return to the school, his academic habits and behavior had improved enough to allow him to remain a student there. However, his spiritual life was another matter. He claimed to be a believer, however, he displayed no fruit of a true conversion. When I met with him, he was polite, but totally disinterested in spiritual matters. Although his mom was relieved with his improvement at school, she was burdened for his salvation. During his school breaks I would talk with him, but he was aloof and completely cold toward Scripture and church. His mom told me that his behavior toward her was one of rebellion and a rejection of Christianity. Whenever I saw his mom at church, she would always ask me to continue to pray for her son. Let's fast forward to today. Her son has since graduated from high school. A couple of weeks ago during a Sunday morning church service, this young man gave a stirring public testimony of his conversion to Christ. That was right before he followed the Lord in believer's baptism. After the service, this dear praying mother wept with tears of joy at the salvation of her prodigal son.

## A BITTERSWEET FAREWELL



One of the greatest joys for us as missionaries is watching the Lord raise up African missionaries from among us. Maureen is a Kenyan from our church that served as a single lady missionary in Mozambique for a time with several church planting families there. Tammy had the opportunity to counsel and mentor Maureen as she prepared for cross-cultural missions. Recently, Maureen met a young South African man named Lucky who was also ministering as a single missionary in the country of Madagascar. They began a long-distance relationship through writing emails and talking over Skype. They both were committed to serving the Lord as missionaries, and their friendship eventually turned into plans for marriage. Several months ago, this dear couple became husband and wife. After much prayer they believe that the Lord would have them serve in Madagascar where Lucky had already been serving as a single man. Please pray for them and for the needy country of Madagascar.