

Dear Friends

I am writing to you to share the happy news that on the 27th of January, 25 children from Akany Avoko were baptised in the FJKM Church, Ambohidratrimo (where the children worship every Sunday).

Baptism is of course a very important part of any child's spiritual development and, in Malagasy society, the special clothing, service and celebrations are always organised by the child's family. As few of our children have families that they can depend upon many of them have not been baptised. It is therefore an important part of our responsibility as carers at Akany Avoko to organise their baptism for them and ensure that all of them have an opportunity to participate in this most significant of days.

In the ceremony members of staff became godparents to the children, ensuring both a lifelong bond between them and the children and also ensuring the children will never want for guidance.

After the service the children returned to Akany Avoko for a celebration party. This was attended by all the staff and children of Akany Avoko and also the church committee who oversee the work of our centre.

The children were clearly very moved by the service and really enjoyed the celebration afterwards.

As great friends of Akany Avoko we really wanted you to share in some of the joy of the day so I have attached some photos for your enjoyment. The work that we do here would not be possible without your support.

With love from all of us at Akany Avoko

Simon



**Baptism, Akany Avoko, Madagascar
27th of January 2008**



