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## Welcome and Introduction

Welcome to a potentially life-changing opportunity to see how God is at work in the unique country and island of Madagascar! If you join with others on a short-term mission's trip, you will likely personally experience the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of many people, including yourself.

A mission's trip like this is not for everyone. There will be logistical challenges, unplanned schedule interruptions, and significant diet, climate, and cultural differences. But it is for those who are open to learning from Malagasy people who have few material possessions, but may be filled with joy. It is for those who want a glimpse of God's eternal plan for the inhabitants of planet Earth. And it is for those who desire to grow in their own personal faith journey. A sense of adventure, flexible spirit, and openness to change will also be helpful qualities!

Todd and Patsy McGregor will introduce you to a world that is quite different than life in the west. In fact, after a visit to southwest Madagascar, you may have a better sense of the world that Jesus walked in than if you embarked on a tour of modern Israel. As Bishop Todd reminds us, if Jesus walked today on the shores of Madagascar, calling the fishermen and their families to Him, He would likely state "I am the RICE of life!"

In the following sections of this short-term mission's kit, you will find many resources and much information to help you plan for a trip. However, do note that specific details and information can be dated quickly, with no warning or logic from a western perspective. This adds to the sense of adventure as travelers become more dependent on God's provision and direction rather than their own planning. It also extends one's cross-cultural comprehension. While this does not negate careful planning and coordination beforehand, it does call us to hold these plans lightly, and being willing to adjust as needed.

Whether you travel alone or with a large group, a key to the success of your trip will be the prayer support you experience. So begin now by asking the Lord Jesus Christ to allow His Spirit to guide you as consider joining this trip. Pray that others will support you with their prayers before, during, and after the trip. And pray that through this opportunity, God's will is accomplished in your life and the lives of those who travel with you.



## Madagascar Country Information



It is difficult to keep updated information on Madagascar, so you will be directed to a number of current links that should provide helpful information as you plan.

In general, note that Madagascar is a very poor country with little infrastructure beyond the capital city of Antananarivo (often abbreviated as

Tana). It is also a beautiful country with many species of plants and animals unique to this island. The lemurs, popularized in the movie *Madagascar*, are the most well know endemic animals. The people wear colorful Malagasy clothing (lambas) although western dress is becoming more common in the cities.



The U. S. Department of State offers relatively current information about Madagascar with background country information and specific information for those who plan on traveling there. This helpful website is located [here](#).

Travel Madagascar contains a thorough travel guide for tourists. With sections on planning your trip, places of interest, and parks and reserves, it offers both historical information and practical tips for travelers. Access this resource at <http://www.travelmadagascar.org>

Some of these sites are likely to mention rising crime rates and political unrest. These are present realities. However, in comparison with many other African countries or with large cities in the United States, Madagascar remains relatively safe. One would be wise to stay with your group when on the streets and keep valuables in secure locations. Once with the MacGregors, they will provide an orientation that will help you reduce risks.



The most recent edition of the travel book *Madagascar*, by Hilary Bradt is recommended.

## **Ministry information & Contacts**

People Reaching People is an organization that advises and supports Rt. Rev. Dr. Todd and Rev. Dr. Patsy McGregor in their ministry in Eastern Africa. The McGregors have served primarily in Madagascar since 1991 along with five-years in Kenya. They reach people for Jesus Christ through economic development, educational opportunities, and evangelistic missions. You can read more about the McGregors and their ministry on the [People Reaching People \(PRP\) website](#).

The mission and core values of PRP are [here](#). These are reflected in the missionary's covenant and rule of life conveyed in this kit.

Bishop Todd's email is: [bishopmctodd@yahoo.com](mailto:bishopmctodd@yahoo.com)

Rev. Patsy's email is: [revpatsy@gmail.com](mailto:revpatsy@gmail.com)

Their mailing address in Madagascar is:

P.O. Box 408

Ankilifaly

601 Toliari Madagascar

Snail mail typically takes six or more weeks before it is delivered.

## **Rule of Life/Ethics/Missioner's Covenant**

The following two pages describe the community rule of life and code of ethics that reflect how a short-term mission's team ideally function. This is how Todd and Patsy seek to live in their community and model this for others.

Read the missionary's Covenant, found on p. 6, and if in agreement, sign and return it to the trip leader. It is not to be taken lightly as it helps establish a commitment that enhances the effectiveness of the entire community involved in the mission's trip.

The application and forms that follow are also to be completed and turned in to the trip leader.

## Miaraka Community: Rule of Life

Rule of Life I: We affirm that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the foundation for the Community and ultimately guide our beliefs, values, attitudes and behaviors.

Rule of Life II: We will seek to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace, and in gentleness, patience and humility, accept one another in love.

Rule of Life III: We will seek to become involved in ministering and serving the needs within and beyond our own community in the areas of evangelism, education and economic development.

Rule of Life IV: We participate in disciplines and behaviors that will lead us closer to God, including: 1) daily devotions 2) giving 3) obedience 4) fasting 5) discipleship and 6) evangelism.

Rule of Life V: We will seek to practice an attitude of hospitality, recognizing that at times our personal rights and preferences must be put aside for the sake of others and the good of the community.

## Miaraka Community: Code of Ethics

Code of Ethics I: We will seek to foster the development of spiritual maturity through maintaining a personal prayer and devotional life (6:00 a.m. daily), continuously worshiping together and studying the scriptures through small discipleship groups throughout the week.

Code of Ethics II: We will seek to respect and encourage our uniqueness in Christ, which includes our diversity of race, culture, experience, passion, talents, gifts and goals.

Code of Ethics III: We base our attitudes on the most important commandment: “To love the Lord God with all our heart, all our soul, all our strength and all our mind and love our neighbor as ourselves” (Luke 10:27) regardless of race, gender, academic or socio-economic status.

Code of Ethics IV: We renounce behaviors that oppose the Scriptures including deception, falsehood, adultery, fornication, quarrelling, drunkenness and stealing.

Code of Ethics V: We will seek to encourage the cultivation of such spiritual attitudes as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.<sup>1</sup>

## **MISSIONER'S COVENANT**

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<sup>1</sup> Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, Statement on Community Life

I, as a member of the Short Term Mission Team, covenant the following:

1. To prepare for the experience by participating in team orientation sessions.
2. To prepare spiritually for such a mission.
3. To represent my church as honorably as I can.
4. To uphold group spirit by cooperating with group decisions and by obeying the few, necessary directives of the team leader.
5. To participate in daily devotions with team members.
6. To share my faith in an appropriate manner while on the mission.
7. To prepare myself physically for the mission.
8. To return to church and community and give as freely as I can of my time in interpretation of the mission experience to our church members who were unable to go on the mission.

I, in return, as part of the covenant, expect:

1. To grow in my Christian experience and commitment.
2. To experience life as other people live it.
3. To realize a valid contribution to those who need help.
4. To share joy of service with a group of Christians.
5. To feel the support of the other members of the work team.
6. To enjoy the work experience.
7. To appreciate my church, my home and my community.

(Add any other expectations you have with respect to the mission)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

## **SHORT TERM MISSION TRIP APPLICATION AND INFORMATION**

Destination: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Approx. Ind. Cost: \_\_\_\_\_  
Trip Leader(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Trip Leader Contact Info: \_\_\_\_\_

PERSONAL INFORMATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Middle) (Last)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PARISH \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE-AM (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE-PM (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

PRIMARY EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ SHIRT SIZE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_ GENDER \_\_\_\_\_

MARITAL STATUS: Single \_\_\_\_ Married \_\_\_\_ Divorced \_\_\_\_ Separated \_\_\_\_

SPOUSE'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CHILDREN NAMES:

PASSPORT# \_\_\_\_\_ PLACE OF ISSUE: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPIRATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU HAVE AN IMMUNIZATION CARD? (Yellow) \_\_\_\_\_

- PRAYER PARTNERS 1.)  
(From page 10) 2.)  
3.)

## Questions for Mission Team Members

Please write responses to each of these questions and be ready to share your printed/written answers at the designated short-term mission trip team meeting.

1. Describe your past and present journey with Jesus Christ and His Church.
2. Why do you hope to participate with this short-term mission team?
3. What short-term experience or teams have you served on before? Where and when?
4. Describe your leadership roles in your church, professional life, volunteer groups, etc.
5. What cross-cultural encounters have you experienced? Where? What did you learn from them?
6. What experiences have you had in sharing your faith with others?



## INVENTORY OF SKILLS, TALENTS, AND GIFTS...AND PASSIONS

**The purpose of this inventory is to create a conversation among team members in order to build the profile of the team. Through this process we will be able to identify the skills, talents, and gifts the group can offer as a mission team. Bring this completed form to the appropriate team meeting.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

What is your ability in languages other than English? (rudimentary, functional or conversant)

---

Check any that pertain to your skills and gifts. Give further explanation if helpful.

### MEDICAL

- Physician (specialty?)
- Nursing
- Dentistry
- Nutrition
- Other (name it)

### CONSTRUCTION

- Carpentry
- Masonry
- Plumbing
- Electrical
- Other (name it)

### TECHNOLOGY

- Programming
- Multi-media
- Word Processing, spread sheets
- Other (name it)

### BUSINESS

- Accounting
- Management
- Marketing
- Other (name it)

List type of Computer:

### PERSONAL MINISTRY

- Bible Study Leader
- Evangelism
- Singing
- Musical Instrument (name them)
- Other (name it)

### OTHER

- Agriculture
- Arts/Crafts
- Food Service
- Horticulture
- Other (name it)

### SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- Wisdom
- Prophecy
- Speaking in Tongues
- Interpretation of Tongues
- Healing
- Discerning Spirits
- Knowledge
- Faith

Please identify any other skills, gifts, talents or passions that you can offer to the team:

## Prayer Partners

Prayer is the foundation for any and every mission trip that has as its purpose to glorify God. Spiritual warfare is real and often more visible in places where the spirit world is a major part of the culture. It is essential that each mission trip participant is supported by spiritual mentors and prayer partners who will pray frequently and fervently for you. These prayers begin long before the departure date, extend through the actual mission's trip, and continue after the return. With this prayer support, you will be better prepared and able to face the unknown elements of the trip, will be more dependent on the Lord each day of the experience, and the impact and growth will extend further into your life after returning.

With this in mind, prayerfully identify at least three individuals that can support you in this way. Keep them informed of how they can pray for you before leaving. As you are able and have access to technology while on the trip, provide brief updates so they can continue to pray for specific needs. After the experience, their prayers will help you process the experience and your sharing will likely encourage them, too.

Include the names of these three people on the application (page 7)

1. Name:

Mailing Address:

Primary Phone:

Primary Email:

2. Name:

Mailing Address:

Primary Phone:

Primary Email:

3. Name:

Mailing Address:

Primary Phone:

Primary Email:

## Emergency Contact, Health, and Insurance Information

Participant's Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(street address) (city) (state) (zip code)

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Telephone (daytime): \_\_\_\_\_ (night): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Primary Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Personal Health History

To be completed, signed and submitted to team leader. A copy will be sent to the McGregors so they will be prepared for health situations that may arise during the mission trip.

1. Do you have any physical impairments or learning disabilities that might restrict your mobility or require special facilities or assistance while you are on an off-campus program? Please be as specific as possible:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Are you presently, or have you been in the last twelve months, receiving medical treatment of any kind? If so, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Do you have any significant chronic medical conditions requiring ongoing medical supervision or treatment, or have you had in the past any significant condition that is currently in remission? If so, please describe:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you have any emotional, physical, or medical conditions, past or current, that would cause discomfort or problems during travel, change of climate, change of diet, or strenuous activity? If so, please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you have allergic reactions to any of the following?

Aspirin  Bee sting  Codeine  Penicillin  Sulfa Drugs  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you need to carry an:  Epi pen  Inhaler  Other:

6. Please list any special dietary needs you have (i.e., intolerances, vegetarian, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Have you consulted with a knowledgeable physician on the immunizations required for travel to this part of the world? \_\_\_\_\_ Date of last Tetanus shot: \_\_\_\_\_  
Have you received all necessary immunizations? \_\_\_\_\_ If not, when? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Are you currently receiving, or have you received in the last two years, treatment for any emotional problem, eating disorder, drug addiction, alcoholism, or psychiatric condition? Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. What physical, emotional or other conditions do you presently have, or had in the past that would be critical or helpful for the mission's team leader to know? (include considerations such as personal/family illnesses or losses, or other family history that might be significant): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **Medical/Hospitalization Insurance Coverage Information**

I understand that I must hold health insurance for the duration of the mission trip. Please check to verify that your policy covers you outside the United States and for the entire length of the mission trip.

My insurer(s) are as follows:

Name of Policyholder: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Group number, if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Company Emergency phone number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

### **Assumption of Risk, Release and Participation Agreement**

I certify that all the responses made on this Health Information are true and accurate, and I will notify the team leader of any relevant changes in my health that occur, either prior to the start of the mission trip or during it.

While the McGregors will do all they can to reduce foreseeable risk, I understand that international travel can be risky. I accept responsibility for any personal loss due to travel risk, whether through personal insurance, personal funds, or other personal sources. I agree that the McGregors and People Reaching People have no liability for such loss.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Participant)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date Signed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Witness)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date Signed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Parent/Guardian if Participant is a minor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date Signed)

## Financial information

### *Transportation*

Madagascar is located away from many heavily traveled international routes. Therefore flights to and from Madagascar tend to be expensive. On-line research as well as travel agencies that specialize in international travel can be helpful for specific flight options. Check on flights through South Africa as well as through Europe to explore different routes that can vary in pricing. The flights over and back are the largest expense for the mission trip. Ground transport in Madagascar varies widely. While in-town taxis and between-town buses are relatively inexpensive, your group may need to rent a vehicle and driver for trips beyond the major cities, a more expensive, but safer option.

### *Fundraising*

Fundraising can be an important faith-building experience. Experiencing the provisions of the Lord through his people is both humbling and thrilling. See the next page for ideas for fundraising along with some sample fundraising letters.

### *Record Keeping*

Depending on the size of your group and other factors, your trip leader may provide some assistance to track funds that are donated or provided on your behalf.

### *Ministry Fee & Wiring Funds*

Fifty dollars (\$50) per participant is required and will be sent to the Diocese in which Todd and Patsy McGregor minister. These funds help cover incidental costs and support the administration of the ministry in Madagascar. Prepaid funds are to be wired to the McGregor's church account. The trip leader will contact the [People Reaching People](#) trip coordinator to obtain the information to wire funds to this Madagascar account.

### *Lodging*

If staying at a hotel in the diocese, such as the Victory Hotel in Toliara, the McGregors can make the reservations while you will pay the hotel for your lodging and any hotel meals. Visa accepted, but not MasterCard.

### *Excursions or Prearranged Side Trips*

Based on the plans of the mission's team, the McGregors may also make arrangements for other excursions or lodging during your visit. Often they will need funds in advance to cover such reservations.

### *Meals*

Rice, rice, and rice. The Hotel restaurants serve a variety of Malagasy dishes and depending on the location, other restaurants may be in the area. Food is substantially less expensive than in the United States. Typically each person pays for his/her own meals.

### *Payment and Exchange Information*

Visa debit and credit cards are accepted in major cities and businesses. Many cards may charge a 3% foreign transaction fee. Money can be exchanged at the Antananarivo Airport. ATM machines are located at many banks and other locations.

## Fundraising Suggestions

As stated on the previous page, fundraising can be an important faith-building experience. As a participant in a short-term mission's project that is traveling almost half-way around the world to share with the body of Christ, others may appreciate the privilege of supporting you in this endeavor.

### *Churches*

Many churches have funds designated for missions and specifically for short-term missions. They tend to be more supportive of members of their own congregation or parish that are involved in these ministries, so this is an excellent place to start.

### *Individual Donations*

Friends, family members, co-workers and others in your community may be receptive to an invitation to participate in your trip through supporting you in prayer and through finances. Of the two, prayer is more important! Communicate with individuals and groups that can be invited to consider joining you in these ways. A template of important aspect to communicate is included on the next page. Communication can be through phone calls, formal letters, emails, social media (Facebook, LinkedIn, blogs), texting, etc. Consider your audience and preferred communication styles. Some churches will manage designated donations, providing receipts to the donors and using the donated funds to underwrite the cost of your trip.

### *Grants and Foundations*

Check with businesses and organizations that offer grants for employees, volunteers, and community members and others. Sometimes they will match donations or provide a one-time grant to help underwrite the cost of a trip such as this. Other organizations have funds designated for similar purposes but may end up not allocating the funds because no one asks for them. So do not hesitate to request sponsorship.

### *Personal Donations & Resources*

If you are in the financial position of being able to pay your entire trip expenses with your personal resources, consider raising funds to help others on your team who will have difficulty paying for the mission's trip. This investment helps build community and interdependence on the short-term mission team. Also consider raising funds for the ministry in Madagascar. These donations are leveraged to build new churches, train church leaders, and support economic development in the economically-challenged country of Madagascar.

## **Fundraising Template for Communicating Key Information**

In communicating with others about your participation on the mission's trip, keep in mind the preferred communication media or style of those with which you share. Some would love to hear about your plans while sipping a cup of coffee in a local coffee shop. Others prefer reading about it on your Facebook or blog. Still others may prefer a letter or phone call. Regardless of how you communicate, some essential components should be included:

### *Why are you going?*

Why would you take personal or vacation time to travel to one of the poorest countries in the world, thousands of miles away from home? Your motivation may include serving others, learning from others, seeking to understand how God is working elsewhere, worshipping with the world-wide Anglican communion, seeing the McGregors in action, or many other possibilities. But clearly explain why you are taking the time and utilizing the resources to do this audacious trip!

### *What will you be doing?*

This relates to the first question, but is often more difficult to answer. Some of you may be teaching English or working on a specific economic project. For others it may be more of an introduction to the work and mission in another part of the world. Be confident of this, the McGregors will find ways in which you can serve others and be a help to their ministry! It may be through mundane tasks or through sharing your spiritual journey through a translator. Your skills, gifts, and experiences will be offered and through the discernment of God's spirit, they will be used for His glory. This is difficult to articulate to people who are task oriented and bound by lists of things to do. The African way of life is quite different. People are more important. So accept the ambiguity of what you may do and anticipate more being and less doing.

### *Who is going with you?*

Describing the group helps communicate the credibility of the trip, whether a church group, family, or professional group. Depending on your audience, sharing how you came together is sometimes an interesting development in itself.

### *What else?*

While not trying to overwhelm others with all the particulars of the trip, it is important to share when you will be on this trip, the expected cost, noting the high air fares to this part of the world, and any other particulars that would be relevant to the one with which you are communicating.

### *Can they help support you?*

Finally, ask them if they would be willing to be support you in prayer and if possible, with financial support. Explain how this can be accomplished. You may need to get their contact information so you can communicate and report on the trip as it unfolds and upon your return. Feel free to refer them to the People Reaching People web site.

## Passport/Visa/Airport Information

### *Passport*

A valid Passport is required for all international travel to Africa. At least two blank passport pages will be necessary. Make sure your passport is not due to expire either during your trip or shortly afterwards, in case there is a delay in your return. Passports for adults are valid for ten years. The U. S. Department of State handles passports for U.S. citizens and their on-line passport information is found here:

<http://travel.state.gov/passport/> If you need a passport, you'll need a check for the fees (usually \$110), proof of citizenship (certified birth certificate), photo ID, and two passport photos. Processing can take a number of weeks so plan ahead. Expedited passports are possible and more expensive. The passport office can also be called 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 1-877-487-2778, but to speak to a representative, you must call Monday-Friday, 8 am-10pm, EST.

### *Visa*

Most African countries will require a visa. These can often be purchased at the airport when entering the country. Check ahead to see if any of your destination countries require a visa in advance.

The Madagascar Consulate states that they require an entry visa for all foreign visitors. Generally, they offer 1-month visas and 3-month visas (\$35 and \$84 respectively in 2010). Longer visas are issued by the Ministry of the Interior in Antananarivo and can be filed there or at the Embassy of Madagascar in Washington, DC.

Occasionally and to encourage more tourism, Madagascar suspends their 1- tourist visa fees. This free of charge, 30-day tourist visa is available at the airport upon arrival. Have the trip leader check ahead so that you can be prepared for purchasing a visa if this is not available or if you are staying longer than 30 days.

### *Airport Information*

The airport of entry (Antananarivo in Madagascar) is where visa's can be obtained or purchased if needed. French is the official language of business but some English may be spoken. Security varies but avoid delays by packing wisely. If you are flying through to Toliara, you'll need to pass through security again. If you are staying in Tana, taxi cabs can take you to the main hotels. Hotels such as Cheval blanc offer airport pickups. Find out the cost of the ride to your destination before getting into the vehicle.

Bartering is typically part of the culture, although in the capital city, fares can be more standardized than in areas beyond the capital. Money can usually be exchanged at the airport (dollars into Malagasy Ariary).

### *Internet Availability*

Internet access is often unreliable and slow. Some motels have it available for an added fee, but the download speed is quite variable. Mobile phones with international text capabilities are more dependable.



## Packing Suggestions

These are suggestions based on numerous past trips to southwest Madagascar. Circumstances and conditions may change, so check with the trip leader regarding any updates. The leader should be in communication with the McGregors or PRP volunteers for more current suggestions.

If your airline allows two checked pieces of luggage, pack two suitcases, each weighing less than 23 KG (50 pounds). One suitcase should contain your personal items while the other would be filled with items that the McGregors could use in their ministry or are difficult to obtain in Madagascar. If you are able to use in a trunk that can be left, they would be able to use the trunk as a storage container. Airlines have changed baggage requirements and many international airlines now charge for a second checked bag. Check on the websites of the airlines on which you will travel for specific information on limitations and fees. Your name/identifying information should be clear on each piece of luggage.

Bring older clothes that you can leave. Choose colors or outfits that are interchangeable so they may be worn in multiple combinations. This reduces the number of items you need to bring. If your skin is sensitive to the sun, choose light fitting clothes that cover a majority of your skin. This area of Madagascar is warm to hot, dry, and sunny. Find weather forecasts for that area to help you as you pack.

Your carry-on bag should contain anything that you can not lose, such as prescriptions, documents, essential toiletries, and if possible, one change of clothes. Consider what you should have with you if your luggage is lost or delayed for a day or two.

### *ESSENTIALS:*

Passport, with photo copies of your passport in each checked suitcase  
Driver's license for additional identification purposes  
Trip itinerary or documents (health information, overseas contacts, emergency info)  
Yellow Immunization card: MMR vaccine, DTP vaccine, Hep. A, Hep. B, Typhoid, Malaria (see travel physician for specific requirements and suggestions for when you travel)  
Small Bible & journal & writing instruments  
Small flashlight or head lamp along with extra batteries  
Sunglasses and hat for sun  
Zip lock bags for separating items or packing small things  
Inexpensive watch  
Money Belt for carrying cash/credit cards, passport securely)  
Small back pack, or shoulder bag, or man bag, or fanny pack for day trips  
Contact information of your supporters  
Book or reading material for long flights

### *Toiletries:*

Brush/comb  
Deodorant and soap and small bottle of anti-bacterial gel for hand sanitizing

Skin moisturizer or hand cream  
Tissues/Kleenex packets or handkerchiefs  
Small towel and/or washcloth  
Toothpaste/brush  
Shaving razor or shaver with adaptor  
Shampoo/conditioner  
Sunscreen  
Prescriptions (including anti malaria pills) in original containers  
Anti-diarrheal tablets  
Insect repellent

*Optional:*

Family or home pictures  
Camera w/ extra batteries  
Binoculars  
Mobile phone (check on international service beforehand)  
Ear plugs, eye covers for sleeping  
Prescription glasses, extra contacts & solution  
Laundry soap for washing clothes in sinks  
Motion sickness pills, Antacid tablets  
For electronic devices, converter for 220-240 Volt, 50 cycle, 2 pin Europlug or Schuko

*Items that should be packed for and carried by the group, but not needed individually:*

Small sewing kit  
Small First Aid kit with assortment of band aids and antibiotic cream  
Benadryl tablets, Tylenol or Advil  
Anti-bacterial gel  
1 Roll of toilet paper (in zip lock bag)  
Extra Kleenex packets

*Clothing*

*Men:*

2 pair comfortable pants (khaki works well!)  
1-2 pair comfortable short pants (cargo pants with zip-off legs work well)  
Belt  
Swim suit (modest, please)  
4-5 pr underwear & socks (can be hand washed and dried fairly easily)  
sleepwear  
3-4 T-shirts  
2 long-sleeved shirts  
1 tie (just in case)  
1 pr comfortable walking/tennis shoes  
1 pr dress shoes (optional)  
1 pr sandals/teva/croc  
1 light weight sweater, jersey or fleece  
1 light jacket for cool mornings or evenings (layering is most effective)

*Women:*

Make-up and jewelry should be kept to a minimum. Keep it simple. If you must bring a hair dryer or curling iron, be sure to bring or share an appropriate adapter, too.

1 church outfit- conservative skirt & blouse

2-3 comfortable pants/capris/khakis

1 pr modest short pants (check with Patsy about where appropriate to wear)

Belt

4-5 tops/shirts that can be used interchangeably with the pants/capris

1-2 long-sleeved shirts

4-5 pair underwear and bras and socks (can be hand washed and dried fairly easily)

Pajamas (modest, please)

Bathrobe (lightweight, optional)

Swim suit (modest, please)

1 pr comfortable walking/tennis shoes

1 pr comfortable dressier shoes

1 pr sandal/teva/croc

1 light weight sweater, jersey or fleece

1 light jacket for cool mornings or evenings (layering is most effective)

*Other Items appreciated by the McGregors for ministry use:*

Hard to find snacks such as almonds, granola, cranraisins, healthy snack bars, oatmeal, pepperoni or summer sausage, parmesan cheese, snickers bars, peanut butter, nutella

Other ministry items such as zip lock bags of all sizes, English Bibles, children's books, balloons for kids, dry erase markers, 4x6 cards, materials for church banners

Items for the Gathering Place such as matching towel sets, linens (twin or double, white or cream colored)

Check ahead with the People Reaching People contact person and the McGregors for other ideas of what might be helpful to bring.

## Group Orientation Suggestions

Establishing a common goal and building community among participants prior to the mission trip is essential for the success of the trip. Team-building exercises may be helpful, depending on the previous interactions and relationships. If the participants are already quite familiar with each other, it is suggested that the responses to the six questions for mission team members be shared. These questions are found after the application earlier in this document.

Another topic for building community is identifying and discussing the various gifts, skills, talents, and experiences possessed by each participant. A major part of building community results from how the various members of the body of Christ can serve each other, using spiritual gifts, skills, and previous experiences. This information shared prior to departure can reduce stress during the actual mission trip. Furthermore, communication of these gifts, skills, abilities and experiences with McGregors will aid in their preparation for the group's activities and ministry once in Madagascar.

It is very helpful to know beforehand as much about the people, culture and climate of your destination. Travel information found in books, brochures and the on Internet are a good start. Patsy McGregor's books on Madagascar (*A Guest in God's World*) and Kenya (*The Detour*) provide an eyewitness account of life and ministry in those regions. Traditional African life is quite different than many Western ways. An understanding of these differences and their origins helps participant adjust more readily during the journey and may provide the basis for a deeper appreciation for the strengths and weaknesses of each culture.

Discussing fundraising ideas, strategies, and contacts can be encouraging for those who are less experienced in this. Crafting prayer letters can be part of the exercise as well as praying for courage and clear communication of the trip to others.

Many logistical questions will need to be discussed and are often the first questions that emerge during orientations. While these are important details and careful planning and background information leads to more realistic expectations, keep these details in perspective with the over-all goal and purpose of the mission trip. Travel dates, travel documents, transportation options, possible expenses, financial plans, housing arrangements, dietary information, appropriate clothing and behavior, potential side trips or excursions, and other aspects of the trip are likely to be covered. As questions arise for which answers are unknown, feel free to contact the People Reaching People mission team liaison. But understand that there are always unknowns and a certain level of ambiguity in places that are not constrained by standardization.

## Debriefing Suggestions

Upon your return, the value of the mission's trip can be maximized through one or more debriefing sessions with the trip's participants. Deeper understanding emerges from thoughtful reflections and interactions with other travelers on your journey. Those of us who have traveled before find these sessions to be helpful in making sense of what we've seen or experienced. These are also times to celebrate God's faithfulness, His answers to prayers during the trip, and updates from Madagascar and trip participants since returning to one's home.

Reviewing the trip goals and purpose is a strong starting point. How did the team work together toward these goals? To what extent were these goals realized? Were the goals realistic? What information would have better prepared us for the trip?

Considers sharing responses to individual questions such as: How did God reveal Himself to you before and during the trip? What have you learned about God since returning? What did the trip teach you about yourself? What was the hardest part of the trip for you and why? What part(s) of the experience brought you the most joy? How might this experience impact your life now that you have returned?

For further follow-up, keep in mind how you might support each other in maintaining new perspectives, attitudes, and habits. Also consider how you might continue to be involved in the ministry of Todd and Patsy McGregor and/or other missionaries and ministries like People Reaching People. Some possible suggestions follow on the next page.

## **Further Opportunities to Participate with PRP**

It is likely that your experience on a mission's trip to Madagascar will open your eyes and heart to needs and opportunities that existed only in theory prior to this trip. How can you continue to partner with the McGregors and People Reaching People in East Africa after you have returned to your native country?

There are many ways to keep informed and participate. Some of these are listed below, but you will likely think of others that would be appropriate, too.

Prayer! The McGregors covet your prayers more than anything. They are involved in spiritual battles and need to be undergirded by the prayers of others. Pray specifically, regularly, and fervently.

Sign up for the McGregors news letter so you can pray with specific situations, issues, and needs in mind. Go to the Contact Us part of the [PRP webpage](#) to sign up or read their latest updates in the news and updates section.

Bring the McGregor prayer needs before your small group or church and invite others to support them in prayer.

Offer to provide a testimony at your church or small group, describing how you saw God at work while on your trip. Include specific answers to prayers.

Organize a reunion group for those who traveled with you and while you reminisce, strategize how to continue to partner with the ministry in Africa.

Host a dinner to share with others who might be interested in supporting the McGregors and the ministry of PRP.

Pledge to donate monthly toward the McGregors and the PRP ministries.

Skip a meal each week and donate the saved funds to PRP for economic development in Madagascar.

Sponsor a child in East Africa.

Become facebook friends with Todd McGregor and others supporting the McGregors in their ministry.

Organize another trip to Madagascar to follow up from your this trip and to introduce others to God's work in that part of the world.

## Additional Resources

### Books

- Bonk, Jonathan. *Missions and Money*. Orbis Books. 2006.
- Corbett, Steve & Brian Fikkert. *When Helping Hurts: How to alleviate poverty without hurting the poor and yourself*. Moody Publ. 2009
- Lederleitner, Mary T. *Cross-Cultural Partnerships: Navigating the complexities of money and mission*. InterVarsity Press. 2010.
- Lutz, Mark. *Unpoverty: Rich Lessons from the Working Poor*. 2010.
- Maranz, David. *African Friends and Money Matters*. SIL International. 2001.
- Myers, Bryant L. *Walking with the Poor*. Orbis Books. 1999.
- Reese, Robert. *Roots & Remedies of the Dependency Syndrome in World Missions*. William Carey Library. 2010.
- Rowell, John. *To Give or Not to Give. Rethinking dependency, restoring generosity, and redefining sustainability*. Authentic Publishing. 2006.
- Schwartz, Glenn J. *When Charity Destroys Dignity: Overcoming unhealthy dependency in the Christian Movement*. World Mission Associates. 2007.
- Stearns, Richard. *The Hole in Our Gospel: What Does God Expect of Us?* Thomas Nelson. 2009.

### DVD Short-Term Missions Training

- Go Prepared*. Teams Commissioned for Christ International. [www.tcci.org](http://www.tcci.org)
- Round Trip*. A Short-Term Missions Documentary and Curriculum. Christianity Today. [www.RoundTripMissions.com](http://www.RoundTripMissions.com).

### DVD on Poverty

- Hear our Voices: The Poor on poverty*. Global Vision, Inc.