

# People Reaching People

A Ministry of Bishop Todd and Rev. Patsy McGregor

[www.PeopleReaching.org](http://www.PeopleReaching.org)

Summer 2014

## *Transforming Lives, Making Disciples of Jesus Christ and Serving God's People through Spiritual, Pastoral, Financial and Professional Support*

### **THE LORD IS WORKING OVERTIME!**

✦ This spring, Bishop Todd visited numerous churches in four parishes in the diocese, confirming and baptizing the growing number of parishioners. At the Cathedral complex he confirmed 103 candidates. The singing of the congregation lifted spirits during the 4-½ hour service.

✦ Out in the bush among the Mahafaly, where Todd placed a new Evangelist 18 months earlier, fellowship has grown from one church with 3 members to 5 churches with over 700-800 worshippers! In May the Bishop baptized an additional 195 parishioners.

✦ The ceremonial ground breaking for the new Cathedral to be built in the Diocese of Toliara was held on May 17th. Prayers were offered that God's hand guide the construction and raising of the additional funds needed to complete this project. Afterwards there was a formal signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Diocese of Toliara and the PRP, with a reception following. Representing PRP was board member Ed McNamara.

✦ In Mahaboboka, St. Paul's Primary School was dedicated on May 18th with over 400 people in attendance. Along with the clergy and the mayor, Ed McNamara and his grandson, Gordon, participated in the ceremonies. The school was partially funded by Ed's church, Trinity Church, Potsdam, NY. The opening has ignited other Deaneries to consider establishing schools.

✦ Rebuilding continues from Cyclone Haruna. The old church in Andranovory and the rectory in Sakaraha were both completely destroyed; new buildings are being constructed.



Groundbreaking for the new cathedral



St. Paul's Primary School



Ed McNamara with the children

## IMPRESSIONS FROM SERVICES AT BETIOKY

*John Griffin, Treasurer of PRP*

During a recent visit I accompanied Bishop Todd to Betioky and I'd like to share this account of my weekend travels with you. Inspiring but tiring!

☞ First we went to a village called Andohasatra just outside the town of Betioky, a 4.5 hours drive out of Toliara, with only the first hour on pavement. The dirt road is okay when dry, but impassable when wet.

☞ The Saturday service started at 11:00 and went on for 3 hours. Everyone met under a tree. Todd, the priest and the evangelist had a sunshade made from corrugated iron. Church pews were 2 poles driven in the ground with a rough plank nailed across. A few lucky candidates had benches brought from the school! Most sat on the ground.

☞ In total 115 people were baptized, a mix of young and old, male and female, from the village and from the village next door.

☞ There are no hymn books or bibles. The evangelist shouts the words just before the congregation sings the line.

☞ All this in a place where there was no church community until very recently - with a single evangelist in Betioky town. As Todd put it - 'The lord is doing something here - we're trying to keep up!'

☞ After lunch with the parish, we drove on to the town of Betioky, around 13 km further along the dirt road.



Service under the tree



Altar and Pulpit



Bishop Todd Baptizing

## A BLESSING FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM

An anonymous legacy gift was made to PRP, the McGregor's Ministry, from a person in the United Kingdom. The gift of \$377,404 will be used for the construction of the Cathedral, the Miaraka Guesthouse in Anakao and other projects. The McGregors feel very blessed that the Lord has provided this gift for the new diocese.

## PHOTO HISTORY OF THE NEW DIOCESE

Have you been to Madagascar? Have you experienced what awesome things God is doing in the Diocese of Toliara? If so, please share your photographs with us. Patsy is making a photo album of the History of the Diocese of Toliara. If you have any photos you want to pass along, please send them to: Audrey Cox, 2223 Woodlands Way, Deerfield Beach, FL 33442.

## IMPRESSIONS FROM SERVICES AT BETIOKY

*John Griffin, Treasurer of PRP, continued*

☞ The church community meets on a rented plot where the evangelist lives.

☞ Since many had come from the next village, they stayed the night sleeping on big tarpaulins on the ground.

☞ The following day the 4 hour confirmation and communion service started around 8:30. The tarpaulins people had slept on were transformed into awnings to keep off the sun.

☞ The confirmations – the first in that church – just went on and on – 120 were confirmed, again young and old. Each one was given a certificate and a bible.

☞ They have to pay 1000 ariary (just under 50 cents) for the certificates. Compared with an income of 1 or 2 dollars a day it is a lot!

☞ Again the songs with no hymn books, and the service with no prayer books... it didn't reduce the sense of worship!

☞ After the service we had lunch with the evangelist and then looked at a plot of land next door that's for sale. Todd paid a deposit. The land will cost around \$2000 and \$10,000 to \$15000 for a church. There's no doubt it is needed!

☞ All this in a place where two years ago there were less than five worshippers – now there are well over 200 who regularly attend.

☞ When everything was finished, we drove back to Toliara, complete with a goat that the congregation had given to the bishop!



Candidates for Confirmation



Bishop Todd Conducts Confirmation



The youth singing

## 34 CHURCHES AND GROWING... CAN YOUR CHURCH HELP?

The Diocese of Toliara has added 34 churches in just 6 years! Many of these new churches do not have vestments, altar cloths or liturgical pieces. Does your church have unused articles that could be donated to the new Diocese? They are in need of the following items:

Altar cloths ☞ Albs ☞ Cinctures ☞ Cassocks ☞ Cottas ☞ Choir robes  
Communion cups ☞ Cruets ☞ Patens ☞ Altar candlesticks ☞ Crosses

Items received by July 15th will be transported to Madagascar by sending them to St. Gregory's Church, Madagascar Mission Team, 815 Wilmot Rd, Deerfield, IL 60015 Phone: (847) 945-1678

After July 15th donations should be sent to Betsy Wenzel, Madagascar Mission, 485 NW 6th St., Boca Raton, FL 33432, Phone: (561) 368-4246.

## **PRAY WITH US:**

**Praise** for the newly baptized and confirmed in the Diocese of Toliara, including the 103 confirmed in the Cathedral Parish and 319 in Betioky.

**Praise** for the debut performance of *Miaraka: A Time to Dance*, May 30th in Mauritius, written by the Rev. Patsy McGregor.

**Praise** for the launch of Patsy McGregor's book, *Miaraka: A Time to Dance*, Devotional and the upcoming CD.

**Praise** for Corbi Sandoe's completion of course work for her MA in Public Health from Rollins School of Medicine, Emory University.

**Praise** for the Dedication of the Mahaboboka Primary School.

**Praise** for the symbolic ground breaking for the new Cathedral.

**Praise** for the Reception of People Reaching People's official partnership with the Diocese of Toliara.

**Praise and prayers** for Simon and Sue Babbs, Dick and Ann Tullie, Lisa Gustinelli and Ian and Polly Montgomery, and St. Gregory's Mission Team partnering with the McGregors over the summer.

**Prayers** for the McGregors as they travel, explore partnership development, and vacation, that they may return rested and renewed.

**Prayers** for continued partnership development and growth within the Diocese of Toliara.

**Prayers** for finding an Economic Development Coordinator and other mission partners to serve in Madagascar.

**Prayers** for the remaining funds (\$60,000) for the construction of the new Cathedral in Toliara.

## **HOW CAN YOU HELP? • PRAY! • PARTICIPATE! • DONATE!**

**Partner with us by donating to our work:**

**Mail checks to SAMS-USA**

**Attn: Denise Cox, PO BOX 399, Ambridge, PA 15003**

**MEMO: McGregor Ministry or Diocese of Toliara**

**By credit card or monthly electronic fund transfer at [www.peoplereaching.org](http://www.peoplereaching.org)**

### **WE HOPE YOU WILL CONSIDER BECOMING A MONTHLY GIVER – IT'S EASY:**

Just go on the web site at [www.peoplereaching.org](http://www.peoplereaching.org) and click on the Donate on-line button.

Follow the prompts and sign up for a reoccurring gift. Thank you so much for your support both financially and spiritually. We could not do our work without you.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO INCLUDE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS AS IT WILL HELP US ELIMINATE THE COST OF PHYSICALLY MAILING THE PRP NEWSLETTER. THANK YOU!**