

PRAY WITH US:

Praise and Prayer:

Praise for the dedication of the Dormitory on December 4th and the church at Andronovory on December 25th.

Pray for the nine new student evangelists and four catechists who arrived for training in January.

Praise and thanksgiving for the training conference led by team leader the Rev. Dr. Alison Morgan from England who spoke on the theme “Rooted in Jesus” for clergy, evangelists, and lay leaders.

Praise Corbi is taking a few additional classes as prerequisites for a Master’s Degree Program, allowing her to then pursue a position as a Physician’s Assistant.

Prayers regarding finances. Last year, donations were down 30% from the previous year.

Pray for Charese’s final months of college. Yeah!!!! Charese will graduate in May. Please pray for guidance as she moves forward in her life.

Pray for Corbi and Joe’s continuing education. Joe started a Master’s program in Education. Corbi is taking a few additional classes as prerequisites into a Master’s program that would allow her to become a Physician’s Assistant.

Prayers for good health and strength, perseverance, and protection for Todd and Patsy in their daily life and ministry. Special Thanksgiving that Patsy is feeling much better after suffering with cigatara for the last nine months.

Prayers for raising up a holy and righteous team of Malagasy leaders in the church to multiply the efforts of evangelism, education, and economic development in southern Madagascar. Specifically pray for a Director of Economic Development and a Chief of Staff.



Bishop Todd during confirmation



Dedication of the new dormitory

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, McGregor Special Projects,

or Toliara Missionary Area (major projects)

By credit card or monthly electronic fund transfer at www.sams-usa.org

People Reaching People

A Ministry of Bishop Todd and Rev. Patsy McGregor

www.PeopleReaching.org

Spring 2012

Transforming Lives and Making Disciples of Jesus Christ by Serving the Poorest of the Poor in Eastern Africa through Evangelism, Education and Economic Development.



Bishop’s Gathering Place Dedicated

After several years of planning, fundraising, and actual construction, the completed Bishop’s Gathering Place in Toliara was dedicated to the glory of God on March 3rd in a joyous and emotional celebration. Several hundred enthusiastic Malagasy attended the dedication, which was led by Bishop Todd and Bishop Jaona from the Diocese of Antananarivo. Retired Archbishop Remi also traveled to Toliara for the dedication.



The Gathering Place



Staff meeting in the new space!



Todd and Patsy in their new home.

The two-story building contains multiple offices (including the Bishop’s office) and a large meeting space – which can also be used temporarily as a chapel – on the lower floor. This level will serve as the “welcoming center” as people come to meet, worship, and socialize with the McGregors in an atmosphere of peace and joy.

The upper floor is the private residence of the McGregors, with three bedrooms, private bathrooms (including a tub and shower in the master bath), kitchen, dining room, large open family room, and beautiful vistas from two outdoor porches with seating areas facing east and west. The building has full electricity, water and sewage, ceiling fans, and an abundance of windows for light and cooling breezes.

We give thanks to God and the many financial donors that made purchase of the land and construction of the Gathering Place possible. The McGregors have put out the “welcome mat” at the Gathering Place for all to come and experience the joy and hospitality of southern Madagascar.

Going Further Afield



Todd Walking to Services

The ministry of PRP continues to spread around southern Madagascar in villages with names such as Ambohitsabo, Tsimahavoakely, and Mahaboboka. Bishop Todd directs the work of evangelists in many remote locations, most only accessible by traversing dirt tracks, cart paths or on foot – and only during the dry months.

Recently, a simple solution presented itself: a missionary couple from Australia put their off-road motorcycle up for sale, and the McGregors made a quick purchase for the ministry. The two-wheeler, with a price tag of US \$4,000, enables Todd to now travel easily both on-road and off for visits with priests, evangelists, and villagers in rural areas.

The purchase of the motorcycle was not part of PRP's 2012 operating budget, and the Board is asking supporters of the ministry to make donations to the SAMS' "PRP Project Fund Account" to cover the expense. The villagers receiving the Gospel message are most grateful to now have visits from Bishop Todd on a regular basis.



Todd on the new motorcycle

A message from Bishop Todd:

God Uses Speed Bumps to Shape Us

Many of us have heard the saying 'all roads lead to Rome'. In Madagascar, our equivalent would be 'all roads lead to Antananarivo,' the capital, strategically located in the center of the country. Unfortunately, all the roads leading to Antananarivo are not in good condition. The four main roads leading into Tana are paved, but as one travels further away from Tana, many are just dirt pathways, creating great difficulty to travel, especially during the cyclone season (January-April). Most recently I had to drive through a river 200 yards wide to get to a village where we are starting a new church. I got nervous when our truck began to sink in the river and wondered what the river would be like during the rainy season. For us, this was a Malagasy speed bump.

As we move past Holy Week, I reflect upon an equivalent to 'all roads lead to Rome,' that being, 'all roads lead to Easter.' Our whole Christian calendar leads towards Holy Week; the celebration of Jesus' great entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the celebration of the Passover meal, the washing of the disciples feet, and the suffering of Christ on the cross. Jesus had speed bumps too.

Some roads of life are four lane highways, though I have found none of these in Madagascar. Others are muddy roads leading to a river leaving us to wonder how we will cross. Sometimes we arrive quickly at our destination; at others it takes great difficulty, pain, suffering and perseverance, toppling over many of life's speed bumps along the way. The difficulties of life build character in our lives. Like Jesus, we sometimes have to go through pain and suffering before we are able to celebrate the Easter Resurrection. Even though the road of life may be muddy, bumpy, and seemingly impassible, we know that with Christ, we can pass through it.

The process of completing the Gathering Place was a huge speed bump for us, causing us to wonder where God was leading us. But now, as the dedication was held on March 3rd and offices are getting set up and the way is moving forward, we rejoice at how much God has taught us. God uses speed bumps to shape us!

Serving Christ Together,

† Todd (*The Rt. Rev. Dr. Todd McGregor*)

Ministry Updates

We are happy to report:

- Church construction planning continues for Morombe, Motombe, and another site outside Ft. Dauphin.
- The Diocese of Albany is closing in on the \$20,000 goal for constructing a primary school and church in Mahaboboka.
- A team from Downline Ministries (Memphis, TN) arrived on March 1st to offer ministry training to clergy, evangelists, and lay leaders from southern Madagascar.
- Thirteen students are enrolled in the 2012 evangelist/catechist training program at the new Training Center in Toliara.
- A partnership is under consideration between PRP and Wheaton College for annual college internships in southern Madagascar. Interns would work on research projects to benefit the ministry in such areas as economic development, health, nutrition, and education.
- Bishop Todd and Board member Terry Davidson met with the African Director of Food for the Hungry International (FHI) in Nairobi, Kenya, to discuss a formal partnership with Madagascar and particularly the southern region (the poorest region in the country). FHI's mission is to work with churches, local leaders and families in overcoming all forms of human poverty by living in healthy relationship with God and His creation.
- PRP's Donor Relations Committee is working to set up "beta tests" of Skype-enabled ministry updates between U.S. parishes and the McGregors live from Madagascar.

Report on Malagasy Seminarians

Todd and Patsy recently visited with Nolavy and Zafy on the campus of St. Paul's University in Limuru, Kenya. Nolavy, a second-year Bachelor of Divinity student, was recently elected Secretary of the International Students and will shortly be elected as Secretary of the Anglican Communion. She has also been commissioned as a peer counselor after taking three weeks of intense training courses.

Zafy, a first-year Divinity student, arrived in Kenya seven months ago and found his first few months of theological study in the English language very hard. "I was not understanding anything – in class, on the football field, in the dormitory or in the cafeteria. I could not even ask the professor to explain what he was saying. I was too afraid to ask questions." The transition is now becoming easier, and he has made friends from Kenya, Uganda and Southern Sudan. Zafy is one of three keyboard players who play weekly for the student Sunday Worship Services and is in a small singing group which travels to other universities and Anglican churches. He also plays right winger on the traveling soccer (football) team.

Both Nolavy and Zafy report their spiritual life has grown at seminary - prayer groups, praying for the teachers and fellow students, and knowledge of theological studies. Please continue to pray for Nolavy and Zafy as they transition in a foreign country, study theology in a third language and miss their friends and family in Madagascar. As Bishop Todd explained to them, this is one of the sacrifices of serving Christ.