

People Reaching People

A Ministry of Bishop Todd and Rev. Patsy McGregor

www.PeopleReaching.org

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ –

Less than two weeks after my election as the new Bishop of the Diocese of Toliara, the southern half of Madagascar sustained a direct hit from Cyclone Haruna, with heavy rains and 125 mph wind gusts. Many deaths and injuries have been confirmed due to collapsing structures and raging waters. Thousands of homes, schools, churches, and buildings are destroyed and critical crop lands remain under water.

Power will be out for some time, many roadways are impassable, and the water supply is disrupted. We are bracing for possible outbreaks of disease and illness, as well as hunger and homelessness.

Patsy and I weathered the storm at the Gathering Place, in Toliara, which thankfully sustained only very minor damage to our residence. Your prayers are sustaining us through this very challenging time.

Even in this destruction, we can clearly see God's hand at work. During a drive to the north yesterday, I found Christ Church/Andranovory had lost its roof, and the old church used for Christian Education was completely destroyed. An older woman came running into the damaged church and knelt down. She started weeping, asked for a blessing from me, and then shared her story about the cyclone coming and destroying her house. She went to a corner of the house to survive the storm and prayed for hours that the corner would not fall on her. The corner survived. I asked if she was afraid and she said "No" because she trusted in the Lord God to protect her.



What little faith I have and what great faith she has! My heart went out to her and to so many.

We are sending out this appeal to our many partners throughout the world for prayers and financial support for the reconstruction of lives and structures.

There are critical needs both short-term and long-term. Our short-term needs at this point consist of:

- ☞ Purchase of rice, water and basic food items
- ☞ Providing for basic utensils for cooking and food preparation
- ☞ Provision of basic medical assistance, sanitation and housing needs – including bedding and clothing for temporary housing



Longer term needs focus on repairing churches, rebuilding houses, and helping families cope with the rebuilding of their lives and livelihoods. We are currently assessing these types of needs and will report to you in more detail as soon as we have access to isolated locations.

Please continue to pray for the people of Madagascar and ask for God's comfort on the suffering.

Thank you, and may God continue to bless you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd and Patsy".

Bishop Todd and Reverend Patsy McGregor
Bishop-Elect – Anglican Diocese of Toliara

PRAY AND MAKE A DONATION FOR CYCLONE RELIEF ON-LINE

www.peoplereaching.org or www.samsusa.org

**Or Mail checks to SAMS-USA, PO BOX 399, Ambridge, PA 15003
Memo McGregor Cyclone Relief**