

# People Reaching People

A Ministry of Bishop Todd and Rev. Patsy McGregor

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

May 2013

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

## THE MAN IN THE ARENA:

**The Enthronement of Bishop Todd McGregor as seen through the eyes of his daughter, Corbi**

It was a true honor to be a part of my dad's dream and attend his enthronement on April 21, 2013, as he became the first bishop of the newly formed diocese of Toliara. My father has always had his eyes on the goal and not on the circumstances around him. Not every person is willing to walk hundreds of miles, drink curdled milk and stay in difficult accommodations to preach the gospel. After so many years of perseverance and dedication, it was evident that his hard work reaped many benefits.

*"The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and knows great enthusiasm, the great devotions and spends himself in a worthy cause; who at best knows the triumph of high achievement; and who at the worst if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."* – Teddy Roosevelt



Enthronement:  
Bishop Todd Preaching



Enthronement: Bishop Todd with the Bishops

with an elaborate canopy, made flower lays for the guests, stuffed pillows for visitors, cooked for 500 attendants and graciously gave gifts. Extremely obvious was the dedication, excitement and love the people have for Bishop Todd.

As my father continues to emphasize, the formation of the new diocese and his enthronement would not have happened without God. April 21, 2013 was a day, which gave me, as well as the Malagasy people, hope for a good future and remembrance that God, who receives all the glory, is in control. I am truly thankful for my dad for being such a good leader. He is the man in the arena.

My father has always exemplified determination in daring greatly and today he was acknowledged for his high achievement of making an impact in the lives of the Malagasy. The Malagasy people adore my father. They showed their love and dedication to my father in many different ways this weekend. Eleven people drove in a five-seater car for 30 hours straight to arrive on time for the ceremony. A local youth group composed songs to honor my father and the newly formed diocese of Toliara. All the clergy of the diocese of Toliara stood behind my father in support as he talked to the congregation. Others designed a bishop's chair

## HE HAS RISEN! ALLELUIA!

### *A Report on the Cyclone Relief Effort*

I want to give you an update regarding the cyclone. We received funds to begin distributing rice and over the past several weeks 15,000 lbs. has been distributed to 1,500 people in 14 church communities. Pots, pans, utensils, buckets, student notebooks, and a washing basin for the Ambohitsabo Church have also been provided. At St. Phillips, we were able to give over 250 lbs. of clothing and shoes. These Christian brothers and sisters had lost everything when their huts flooded. As you can imagine, the Cyclone Relief Committee has been very busy.

It was precious to see the smiling faces as people received their distributions. I used this opportunity to have a short worship service and shared with the people from 2 Corinthians 8 about the fact the early church had a similar situation. The church in Jerusalem was going through a famine and those living out in the provinces were asked to assist those in need.

I thank the Lord for all the generous donations from our worldwide partners, specifically those in the USA, ENGLAND and MAURITIUS. I believe the reason you gave generously was because you have given yourselves to the Lord. Thank you for being an example to us in Madagascar. This is what makes us unique as Christians. I have challenged the Malagasy to also give generously

It is a great joy to have a short-term missionary come from Mauritius for three months to oversee the church reconstruction, which has already begun on the church in Ambohitsabo. The roof and toilets are repaired and we are now waiting for the waters to recede and the church wall to dry before painting, building a retaining wall and replacing the destroyed fence.

On behalf of the Malagasy, we want to thank all of you who have donated. We have received \$57,000 to date with pledges for another \$23,000. An additional \$20,000 is needed for church property repairs and emergency relief. Please inform your friends and churches about this opportunity to help the Malagasy in southern Madagascar, one of the poorest countries in the world.

Serving Christ Together, † Todd (*The Rt. Rev. Dr. Todd McGregor*)



Cyclone relief: rice distribution



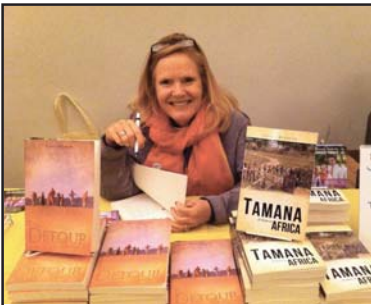
Hut destroyed by the cyclone



Your \$100 donation built this new house where 8 people live

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## **NEW WINESKINS AND PATSY'S BOOK SIGNING**



Book Signing

In early April, Todd, recovering from typhoid, and Patsy were able to “cross the pond” and attend the New Wineskins conference in North Carolina. New Wineskins is a network for Anglican missions and missionaries, held every three years. Todd and Patsy reviewed connections with friends and supporters and were speakers in separate breakout sessions. Todd was also asked to be on a panel of bishops from around the world to discuss what God is doing in their dioceses.

Patsy debuted her third book, *Tamana, at Home in Africa*, with a book signing. Patsy's books are available on Amazon.com.

One of our students who is training to be an evangelist in Toliara Diocese testifies how the Lord has been teaching him new things since he joined our training centre.

Being single now and raising two children from his former relationship, his family then arranged to have one of his cousins be his wife. In his absence but with his consent (since it seems as a good idea) two bulls were offered as sacrifice. One bull was to sanctify the lady and cleanse her of any taboo that might arise and the the second bull was to solemnize the marriage. Meanwhile, he completes his study here in Toliara then he joins his 'wife' later in the year.



Evangelist, Nestor, is 4th from left

As different studies continued, it then dawned on him that Christ's sacrifice on the cross was once and for all and no bulls' blood can sanctify! Again, it became clearer that the Christian teaching does not allow marrying close relatives as well as what a Christian marriage is. With a big sigh he said 'I actually did not know that the Bible talks about that until now. I saw that as a good deal and that my cousin would take good care of my children'

He grappled with how to break the news to his dad that he is not favoring their good gesture and he will not take his cousin to be his wife. He says that his dad who is non-Christian would not understand his explanation a bit and would term his move as sheer disrespect and disgrace from a wayward child... Nevertheless; he made a firm decision...that he'd rather obey the word of God.

He confesses that a lot has changed in his life and that a Christian world view is being formed in him, especially from the daily devotions and spending time in the word of God and other disciplines. *..Glory to God.*



## ***The MCGREGORS and PRP Have a New Friend – DESMUND TUTU***

By Rev. Dr. Patsy McGregor

The Monday before Easter, a group from St. Simon's, Mauritius, delivered 400+ palm crosses the parishioners made for Desmond Tutu. Bishop Tutu is on a "Semester at Sea" ship which had docked in Mauritius that day. It was a pleasure to have a short conversation with him and he thanked the parish profusely for the palm crosses.

Bishop Tutu, a very humble and kind man, offered to pay for the palm crosses. "Absolutely not!" I refused asking him for a group photo and his blessing instead, He continued to insist saying the money would be "washed into the sea or could be given to a good purpose." The Archdeacon said to accept the money and send it to Madagascar to help reconstruct one of the houses damaged in the cyclone.

As we stood next to each other I asked Bishop Tutu a brief question, "Out of all your years of experience in ministry, could you please offer me a word of advice?" Looking at me directly in my eyes with a large smile he said, "God loves you." I enjoyed meeting this godly man who is overflowing with joy, peace, love, gentleness and humility.



Bishop Desmond TuTu, Pasty McGregor and members of St. Simon's parish.

*Dear Partner of PRP,*

*We view this newsletter as a way to share our story, which is made to intersect God's bigger story over and over again. Wherever we are God has put us there.*

*As the newly elected president of the People Reaching People Board, I thank you for sharing your life with ours. May we share all we have, all the while giving God the credit for every blessing.*

**Cheryl M. Harman**

## **PRAY WITH US:**

*Praise* for Todd's election on February 9th, 2013, as the First Bishop of the newly created Diocese of Toliara, and his Enthronement on April 21st.

*Praise* for Corbi's decision to be in a dual Master's degree program for a combination of Physician's Assistant and Public Health at Emory University, Atlanta, GA.

*Praise* for Charese settling into life and work in Hamden, CT

*Praise* for a Fuller Grant from St. David's Episcopal Church, Glenview, IL

*Praise* for a Grant from St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Geneva, IL

*Praise* for the hiring of a Coordinator for Economic Development..

*Praise* for the partnership and generous donations for the cyclone relief efforts in Madagascar.

*Praise* for the release of Patsy's newest book, *Tamana, at Home in Africa*, at New Wineskins on April 5th. (Available through Amazon.com)

*Praise* for Todd's recovery from typhoid fever.

*Prayers* for the people of Madagascar whose lives and livelihood were affected by cyclone Haruna

*Prayers* for a Priest/Missionary needed to serve in Mahabo Parish

*Prayers* for a Missionary needed to serve as the Director of Economic Development.

*Prayers* for a Missionary needed to serve as a Director of Discipleship

*Prayers* for raising the remaining funds (\$20,000 USD) for cyclone relief in the Diocese of Toliara.

*Prayers* for the 1<sup>st</sup> Diocesan Youth Conference, set for August 19–25, 2013, in Toliara.

*Prayers* for the 1<sup>st</sup> Diocesan Synod, Diocese of Toliara, in the last week of November, 2013.

## **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.sams-usa.org](http://www.sams-usa.org)