



A MINISTRY OF BISHOP TODD & REVEREND PATSY McGREGOR

EVANGELISM, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SPRING 2015

WWW.PEOPLEREACHING.ORG

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

MEZA...LIVING OUT THE EASTER HOPE



Meza making her beads

Sitting on a straw mat, she rolls paper by the light of the day coming into one corner of her small room made into a home for her family of five. Although she is one of the few who is able to read and write, this decades-worn English book on osteoporosis is of no value to her. It's a paradox to think that as she cuts up this book on bone density, she barely weighs 85 lbs as a grown woman. Making bead after bead, reading her Bible as she cuts, Meza rolls, glues and strings them into a necklace. Not a scrap is wasted as she tediously and prayerfully makes her living and supplies food for the family table.

Meza is an amazing woman, actually. It was only a few years ago when she heard the gospel message brought into her hut during the students' practical assignment of door-to-door evangelism. Thirsty and ready for a new way of life, Meza confessed Jesus as

her Lord and Savior and now trains as a catechist. She leads one of the nearby new church plants in the Diocese of Toliara when the priest is visiting one of his other 14 churches. She truly lives to her namesake, "Fanomezana" or "Meza" for short, Malagasy meaning "gift."

Easter brought the gift of new life through Jesus Christ. Through the power of the resurrected Lord, we have hope and joy. We live by the resurrection!



Meza and ladies showing their bead jewelry

NEXT PROJECT! A WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CENTER



Learning new skills



The joy of being productive

A Women's Community Center, focusing on increasing the standard of living and quality of life for under privileged women in Southern Madagascar, is being planned. This daytime educational facility will provide a range of services, including spiritual, educational, job and life skills training, enabling women to discover their God-given talents, gifts and passions and develop those gifts to the glory of God. The Women's Community Center will train and equip women giving additional skills with the intent they will either sell their products to the Diocese of Toliara (the boutique branch of the Diocese of Toliara, Miarakka Creations) or start a small micro-business for themselves.

Funding for the Center will come from a donation made by an anonymous donor from Chicago, PRP and the Miarakka Foundation. Additional funds donated to the Diocese of Toliara to support this project would be a blessing.

ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, TOLIARA, AN UPDATE



St. Patrick's Cathedral under construction

Anticipation grows as the walls for the new Cathedral are nearly completed. The work is moving slowly but steadily and Bishop Todd now expects the building will be finished in the fall. A grant application has been submitted to UTO (United Thank Offering) for funds to complete the Cathedral. Please pray that these funds will come forth.

EVANGELISTS FOR A GROWING DIOCESE

The Diocese of Toliara is growing at such a pace that there are not enough Evangelists to lead the new churches. The primary responsibilities of the Evangelists are church planting, preaching the gospel, discipleship, pastoral care and the training and preparing of new catechists. Training the new Evangelists takes over 3 years. Parishes recommend candidates who go through a comprehensive review process before being selected. Once admitted to the Evangelist program, the individual receives basic theological training alongside special sessions taught by Bishop Todd to ensure they are producing Christian Leaders. The training includes one year of theory and two years of internship. All the clergy are involved in teaching the trainees. In addition, the Diocese partners with the Crusade for Christ for knowledge on church planting, and the Child Evangelism Fellowship for skills in reaching children.



Commissioning five student Evangelists



Nestor signing his commitment paper

AFTERMATH OF CYCLONE CHEDZA



Confirmation in Ankiliabo Church without walls

The District of Morondava (Morondava and Mahabo parishes: 15 churches) was hit by cyclone Chedza and tropical storm Fundi in January and February. In addition to major flooding, sand was deposited on the rice fields killing the crops. Families who depend on the rice for a living are desperate. Here, where rice is breakfast, lunch and dinner for most families, it is difficult to survive with little or no food and no income. The rice distribution by the Diocese involved 877 families for the first distribution, and 1,125 families for the second distribution in April. Next will be a distribution of seeds for planting.

Many homes were partially or completely destroyed by the cyclone. This week, as the building materials are received, church members will begin the reconstruction of an estimated 400 houses. Reconstruction has not begun on the churches that were damaged. The people are praying for the Lord to provide funds for this work.



The rice distribution

THANK YOU FROM BISHOP TODD AND REV. PATSY



We wish to thank each one of you for your generosity and prayers in our relief efforts following Cyclone Chedza and tropical storm Fundi. We are also very grateful for your donations toward the construction of our new cathedral. Your faithfulness and financial help touch so many lives here in the Diocese of Toliara. God bless you.

PRAY WITH US

Prayers for the new Christians in Madagascar and for continued leadership development for the Diocese of Toliara.

Prayers for funds for ministry support for Todd and Patsy.

Prayers for the McGregors as they travel and explore partnership development opportunities.

Prayers for funds for economic development and growth within the Diocese of Toliara, and for future projects such as the Women's Community Center.

Prayers for the short term mission teams, the Harman family, Mason family and the Babbs, who will be visiting Madagascar this summer.

Prayers for the future of the musical, "Miaraka: A Time to Dance", written by Patsy and a friend from Mauritius. CD's and Devotionals are available.

Praise for the birth of Rev. Victor and Nolavy Osoro's baby girl, Fitahiana (a Blessing), in January.

Praise for the building of St. Patrick's Cathedral. Progress is being made!

Praise for growth in ministry and new church plants.

Praise for Todd's teaching series on leadership development for staff and leaders in the Diocese of Toliara.

Praise for the many partners who make it possible to serve and make a difference in Madagascar.

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

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

Just go on the web site at 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!