



Dear friends and supporters of PRP, with 2016 well under way now, we bring you up to date with news of the continuation of God's work in the Diocese of Toliara. As the construction of The Women's Center got off the ground (quite literally) in November last year, December saw the completion of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, both events heralding the achievement of truly wonder-filled milestones for the Diocese — to God be the glory!

PRP E-update

February 2016

**EVANGELISM, EDUCATION
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

FROM THE GROUND UP ...

Ground was broken for the construction of The Women's Center in November last year, and on Thanksgiving Day the cornerstone was laid.

The Women's Centre will provide for:

- Women's training in living the Christian life, Bible study, prayer, health education, teaching on subjects such as raising a family, contraception, hygiene etc.
- Cottage industries: including the production of craft items to sell via Fair Trade, local tourist shops and churches in USA, Mauritius and UK; and the making of sanitary pads so that girls will not miss days at school, as currently happens

- An external kitchen, with water supply and cooking area
- Internal space for refrigerator and freezer
- Dining space during Diocesan conferences



The construction of the Center continues to progress at a very good pace, and completion is scheduled for mid-April.

One of the most remarkable, and truly humbling, aspects of the construction process is the fact that every single concrete block is handmade by the Malagasy people working on site.



A further \$15,000.00 is required for the completion of the Center — please join us in praying that God's Will shall be done in the provision of this funding.

CHRISTMAS IN TOLIARA

A very personal account of Christmas spent in Toliara, contributed by Corbi & Joe Sandoe, Todd & Patsy McGregor's daughter and son-in-law.

Corbi and I were humbled by her grandfather's gift to send us to Madagascar for Christmas last year. It was Corbi's first chance to return home to Madagascar in 4 years. It had been even longer for me - 6 years since my last trip when Corbi and I were still just dating (little did I know, that trip was a test that required a passing grade before I could propose!). A large part of our excitement for the trip was that Todd and Patsy would be with family for Christmas ... not an annual luxury for them.

On our arrival, we had two days with Patsy before Todd returned from being in the US for his brother's funeral. During our first 48 hours in Madagascar, we were reminded by the Malagasy people how beautifully simple life can be. The passion and devotion of church members, even on the hot Sunday morning in a small tin church (made from the former fence around the Cathedral) was contagious. The service was an impactful moment for both Corbi and me as we witnessed, for the first time, Patsy serve communion in Madagascar. Her leadership as a female in the church empowers other women to achieve their potential, even in the midst of challenges.



One of our biggest anticipations was a first-hand look at the new Cathedral that we had been hearing about. Despite how beautiful the Cathedral was on the exterior, and our temptation to have a look inside, we waited for Todd to return and give us the grand



tour. How impressive the Cathedral is! The intricacy of the stonework on the outside, the wooden finish on the inside, the magnificence of the altar and baptismal font, it really is quite spectacular.



Soon after Todd arrived, the four of us took a few days to vacation at one of Todd and Patsy's favorite remote get-a-ways, a friend's small "resort" composing just a few beachside bungalows. After a few days of rejuvenation, we returned to Toliara for a Christmas day service in the Cathedral! This was the only sneak peek allowed until the Cathedral's official dedication and opening this spring. Christmas was a whirl-wind of services, carols, clergy meetings, baptisms, confirmations, and Christmas parties for the other local missionaries. Todd is always in high demand during the



holidays because his insights and opinions are highly valued by everyone involved. The respect Todd has built in the Malagasy community is evident by how much his congregation looks to him for direction.

Post-Christmas, we escaped to Isalo National Park for two more days of relaxation, hiking, and lemur sight-seeing. Luckily, we opened the garage door in between power outages so that we could actually go to Isalo! Some of our time was used to plan ahead for a school trip that I am leading in June. I am bringing 18 high school students to Madagascar for a mix of scientific research and also service opportunities with Todd and Patsy in Toliara. By the time we returned from Isalo, it was time for Corbi and I to fly back to the US.

As every visitor to Madagascar can tell you, no matter what you're doing or how long you're there, you gain a perspective that elevates relationships and spirituality over materials and comforts. Life is about something bigger than individual people and the PRP ministry in Toliara reminds us of that!

DEDICATION OF SANTA PATRIKA KATEDRALY — SUNDAY, MARCH 13

The consecration of Saint Patrick’s Cathedral will take place on Sunday, March 13; the preparations for this very special occasion are being undertaken by a Committee in Toliara, and at last reports, all is on track.

Approximately 1000 guests are expected to attend, including representatives from the PRP Board; CMS UK; the Diocese of Canterbury; the Diocese of SE Florida; the Diocese of Albany; AMIA; ACIO; and other Bishops from FEEM in Madagascar. There will be a

special performance in Malagasy of *Miaraka: A Time to Dance*, the musical created collaboratively by Patsy McGregor and her friend Collette Maurel, on Saturday, March 12. A full report of the dedication of the Cathedral, and the weekend’s celebratory activities, will appear in the next newsletter ... for now, please join us in reflecting prayerfully on the true meaning and significance of the achievement heralded by this beautiful place of worship in the Diocese of Toliara. Thank you all of you who have so generously supported the project



How fitting it is too, that in the year of the realization of Saint Patrick’s Cathedral, there is further cause for celebration, as the McGregors achieve a number of remarkable anniversaries connected with their ministry in 2016 — a year of Jubilee, indeed! Please join us as we acknowledge these milestones, and give thanks for the many years of inspirational work and ministry they signify:

- 25 years of Todd and Patsy serving as missionaries
- 20 years of Todd's ordination to the diaconate
- 10 years of Patsy's ordination to the priesthood
- 10 years of Todd's consecration as Bishop

KEEPING UP TO DATE WITH PRP

In addition to email updates, newsletters and the website (www.peoplereaching.org), it is also possible to keep abreast of the ministry and work in the Diocese of Toliara on our Facebook page, and by following us on Instagram at @peoplereachingpeople.