



## A MINISTRY OF BISHOP TODD & REVEREND PATSY MCGREGOR

Engaging Partners in Evangelism,  
Education & Economic Development

JUNE 2017

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

### **MADAGASCAR – ‘MADA ‘BOUT MISSION’**

Embarking on a mission to far away Madagascar is no little undertaking, and when things fall into place, one can feel the gentle guidance and providence of our Lord. We really felt that God had ordained this trip just for the two of us. The trip's focus was providing medical care for the Malagasy people.

The trip was filled with surprises. About one week before leaving, Kevin had a bout with atrial fibrillation and had to be electrically cardioverted. Needless to say we were asked to consider staying home by some friends. Surprise number two: we flew into the capital, Antananarivo, and a cyclone struck, and not just any cyclone, but the largest in over thirteen years.

Despite being delayed a few days, and finding out that the Malagasy doctor Zoe, and two nuns had vehicle issues on their way south, we knew that this was going to be a powerful trip for the Kingdom of God. Psalm 121:7-8; spoke to us, "The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore." And God did just that!

While there, we held five medical clinics which included anointing and personal prayer for each patient. We saw a tremendous response and need which surpasses anything we could supply. The despair is tangible in the people of Madagascar which seems to be far reaching to include the majority of the people. The Church which is driven by these two wonderful visionary people, the McGregors, stands ready to attempt to meet the needs of the people. Rice distributions were taking place across the Diocese to provide the main staple of Malagasy life.



Rev. Donna and Rev. Brethier praying over a patient



Kevin with Sister Jacqueline preparing medicines

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Kevin treating patients

When Bishop Todd and Rev. Patsy set their goals, they dig in and get to work, fully depending on God and He is doing such marvelous things through their ministry there. They are truly changing lives, one at a time. The goal of planting 20 churches in 10 years, was again far surpassed as 80 churches have been planted.

Upon returning home we have begun the work of discerning the next steps in implementing medical clinics in the Diocese. Please join together with us as we pray for God to unfold His plan to provide for the beautiful people of Madagascar.

*Rev. Donna & Kevin Steckline*

## HOLY WEEK AT ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

Holy Week at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Toliara was filled with spiritual dedication, praise, acts of service, and celebration. Palm Sunday started off the festivities. The church was filled with songs of praise and excitement as the palms were distributed and the service started.

Each morning during Holy Week, the people came to the church at 6 am to have their individual devotions, ending each day with stations of the cross. Multiple nights the electricity went out so candles and phone lights were used to illuminate the hand-carved wooden plaques. It was not uncommon to see the children walking hand in hand with Bishop Todd and Rev Patsy as the congregation strolled from station to station.

On Wednesday, the student evangelists and the diocesan staff and families gathered for the yearly Seder Dinner. The group worship was accompanied by Rev. Patsy on the auto-harp and by student evangelists on the bongo drum and guitar. It was a powerful time of intimacy and fellowship.

Every year the foot washing service, on Holy Thursday, is unforgettable. Most Malagasy wear flip flops or are barefoot and thus you can probably imagine that feet are not clean after a day of walking around the dusty red island, as Madagascar is known to be called. Nevertheless, people are more than willing to sacrificially wash their neighbors' feet. Foot washing and singing continued for about an hour until everyone's feet were clean.

Good Friday was a day of fasting for the congregation in order to be continually reminded of Christ's suffering. The seven sermons' service, led by the congregation Saturday night, was filled with fun and celebration for the youth group. Afterwards, they had coffee, tea, and bread as a midnight snack before heading to the massive slumber party on the cement floor in the Women's Center.

The week ended with the festive and joyous Easter services, full of praise and hope for the future. Overall, it was a glorious week for St. Patrick's Cathedral and the McGregors are excited for the future of this Church community after such a spiritually powerful week.

*By Corbi Sandoe*



Rev. Victor anointed a newly baptized child

## FAMINE IN MADAGASCAR – 2017

One thing which struck us when we looked around and compared Madagascar to our own homeland surroundings, was that the people were almost all very slender. Driving down the road in Toliara one will note the variety of small stalls where each family sells whatever they can to earn their next meal. Most live on less than \$2.00 a day. The Diocese of Toliara has 1.5 million people who are considered ‘Food Insecure’. This means they do not know where their next meal is coming from, which became very apparent when examining the children and the elderly in the medical clinics.

One such child was nearing roughly two years of age, but had not yet succeeded in crawling, let alone walking on her own. We would consider this ‘failure to thrive’. The parent however has no way to purchase goats’ milk, let alone formula from a store. A watery gruel from white rice is what they were able to feed the child, which is obviously not enough to sustain her, let alone bring about normal development. This we fear, is quite normal in Madagascar. We ask your fervent prayers as we discern the path ahead in providing medical care, and finding ways that will sustain the hungry with the good things they deserve.

*Rev. Donna & Kevin Steckline*



The faces of famine

## LIVING IN THE SHOES OF BISHOP TODD

Have you ever wondered what it is like to live in the shoes of Bishop Todd? Well, living the life of a Bishop in Southern Madagascar definitely has its moments of frustration and hardship. Using an outside pit latrine during the middle of the night, eating foods that smell different, and standing on cow manure while preaching to new Christians are not for the faint of heart. Wherever he is, his life is filled with witnessing the awesome plans and purposes of our Holy God. Bishop Todd’s last trip to visit the local church in his diocese was no exception.

Bishop Todd recently traveled to Fort Dauphin, the most southeastern city in Madagascar, and its surrounding areas for an evaluation and pastoral check-up on the local churches. What he found was the amazing renewal and revival of the Church. One day, 60 people crowded in



Todd in charge of one of his many jobs

a very small one-room church for their very first communion service. Later during the week, over 100 people were confirmed in two different locations. Another day, over 300 people came to attend the dedication of a new church. The dedication lasted for over three hours and included walking around the Church while they prayed for spiritual protection/removal of evil spirits and praising God for this resurrection season.

*By Corbi Sandoe*

## **DEAR SUPPORTERS,**

Thank you for all your prayers and monetary contributions. Because of your love and support in being People Reaching People in Madagascar, God continues to move. We have a few exciting updates that we want to share with you:

1. The Anglican Church of the Indian Ocean has approved an Assistant Bishop for the Diocese of Toliara. Bishop Todd will appoint an assistant bishop by the end of the year.
2. A new Archbishop of the Indian Ocean will be elected during our provincial synod this year (August 23-25).
3. We are building another primary school in Morondava. We are very excited about this as it will open up new opportunities for children to learn and follow their dreams.
4. Lastly, we have already and will continue to dedicate a number of new church buildings this year.
5. Because of your support we continue to fund the education of 57 children and youth.

Please pray and give thanks for these requests as we continue to discern God's will for the Diocese. Thanks for all you have done to make these things possible.

*Serving Christ Together, The McGregors*

## **PRAY WITH US**

**Prayers** for election of the Archbishop August 23–25, 2017.

**Prayers** for the new Assistant Bishop.

**Prayers** for Diocese of Toliara Endowment.

**Prayers** for the Children's Sponsorship Program.

**Prayers** for new missionaries.

## **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

### **PRAY! • PARTICIPATE! • DONATE!**

**DONATE  
ON-LINE  
NOW!**

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](http://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](http://www.peoplereaching.org) and click on the Donate on-line button.

Follow the prompts and sign up for a recurring gift. Thank you so much for your support both financially and spiritually. We could not do our work without you.

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