



A MINISTRY OF BISHOP TODD & REVEREND PATSY MCGREGOR

UP COMING SPEAKING EVENTS:

Join Patsy McGregor...

JAN 21: ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Services: 8 & 10 AM
Address: 1063 Haverhill Rd
West Palm Beach, FL

JAN 28: HOLY SACRAMENT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Services: 8 & 10:15 AM
Address: 2801 N. University
Dr. Hollywood, FL

DASHING THROUGH THE MUD: CHRISTMAS IN MADA

Christmas in Madagascar is not the typical Christmas scene we think of with dashing through the snow and cozying up by the fire to open presents under the big pine tree. But never the less, it is filled with the love, joy, and giving spirit of Christmas. This year was no different. Despite being the ninth poorest country in the world, the Malagasy never allow finances to stop them from celebrating the birth of their Savior. The local parishioners hand crafted nativity scenes and ornaments to decorate the churches. The choir members met often to learn the carols newly translated into the local language. The Sunday School performed their yearly recital on Christmas Eve. The Mother's Union spent hours packaging sweets (instead of gifts) to distribute to the children. And on Christmas day, after all the official events were finished, the youth group stayed up all night in the church blaring the music, dancing and worshipping the birth of their Savior. Christmas in Madagascar is utterly remarkable. Without the craziness of commercialism, the simplicity of the real Christmas story is able to be truly appreciated. And that's what Christmas is all about.

PROJECTS UPDATES



ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are excited to announce the the completion of the elementary school in Morondava. 22 children started attending the preschool in November. Chairs and desks are still needed.



NEW CHURCHES

The Betyoky Church construction is finished and dedication will be in April after the rains have passed. The Fenoarivo Church is currently under construction. The walls were completed in December.



GUESTHOUSE CONSTRUCTION

The blueprints for the Cathedral Complex Guesthouse have been drawn. The department head is reviewing the documents. The construction starts this month pending funds.



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Engaging Partners in Evangelism, Education & Economic Development



CHANGING THE LIVES OF THE FUTURE GENERATION - MAHABOBOKA SCHOOL

Mahaboboka school, is a primary school in rural southern Madagascar, that was built from the financial support of Trinity Church Potsdam in New York, USA. On Jan 6, teachers, students, parents, evangelists, and clergy gathered to celebrate the end of a school term. After prayer time, introductions, and songs from each class, the Headmistress, Madame Louise, handed out grades and booklets to the students. 103 students ranging from 3 years old to 13 years old are currently enrolled in Mahaboboka school. Unfortunately, several of the students and their families were unable to attend the festivities since they live on the other side of the river and could not cross the river due to rains and high water. It was a precious moment to see the children, especially the little ones, walk to their teachers and receive their grades. Even at such a young age you could see how gratified they are to be in school. Trinity Church parishioners from New York, had sent gifts to the students for Christmas. After all the class songs and receiving their grades, the students individually came forward to receive the hand written cards and gifts from Trinity Church. The girls' faces just glowed when they were handed a doll or a cooking set. Similarly, the boys' faces were filled with smiles as they received a toy car and a small soccer ball. It is a moment they will all remember for the rest of their lives. Thank you again Trinity Church Potsdam for changing the lives of the future generation!

PRAYER REQUESTS:

DIOCESE OF TOLIARA

- Leadership developmental

REV SAMITIANA - NEW ASSISTANT BISHOP

- Upcoming consecration on Feb 25
- Family's transition to Toliara

MINISTRY

- Increase in financial support of McGregor's Ministry since it was especially low last year



FIRST PILGRIMAGE TO TOLIARA

Contact Sue Babbs at suebabbs385@gmail.com

The first pilgrimage to Madagascar is coming this July! Simon and Sue Babbs, PRP board members with multiple previous mission trips, will be facilitating a pilgrimage from Antananarivo to Toliara during the last two weeks of July 2018. The trip will allow visitors to take a spiritual journey with God by studying scriptures daily and concurrently experiencing His work in Madagascar.

Highlights of the trip will include:

- Exploring the country's natural beauties including variable ecosystems, unique plants, and endangered wildlife
- Interacting with locals, hearing their spiritual journeys and visualizing the joy in their lives despite life's challenges
- Appreciating the fine craftsmanship of the Malagasy including beautiful woodwork, weavings, jewelry, and embroidery
- Receiving spiritual insight directly from Bishop Todd and Rev Patsy
- Visiting a vibrant and actively growing Anglican diocese
- Joining the local church by living in the Miraka Community - a daily lifestyle focused on growing closer to God and community

THE BEST DAY OF MY LIFE

by Angelo Digrigoli, Boynton Beach FL

I will never forget Nov 12 2017! It has been a goal of mine for many years to become an Episcopalian. Unfortunately, due to severe liver problems I expected this day would never come. However, by the grace of God and prayers from loved ones, I have been able to live my dream. On Nov 12 2017, I was officially received with open arms into St. Joseph's Episcopal church family in Florida. Father Marty, Rev. Wendy, and the whole church community were important assets in achieving my goal. I was exponentially blessed to have the ceremony performed by Bishop Todd McGregor, visiting from Madagascar. It was a humbling moment to see how God works not only half way around the world but also in my own life. This truly was the best day of my life.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

PRAY:

See prayer requests above

VISIT:

Pilgrimage to Madagascar

Dates: July 2018

If interested contact Sue at suebabbs385@gmail.com

DONATE: (VIA UNDESIGNATED FUNDS)

- Furniture for St. Paul's Primary School: \$2500 for 90 desks and 90 chairs
- Cathedral Complex Guesthouse: \$25000 for the construction
- Assistant Bishop: \$5000 for consecration & travel funds of Rev. Samitiana
- Educational scholarships: \$25 monthly per person for 57 students ranging from preschool to seminary
- Salaries for 36 clergy, evangelists, and staff
- Health, pension, and rice benefits for employees
- Student evangelism training program
- Training/development of economic programs



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ENDOWMENT LAUNCH

The Bishop Todd & Rev. Patsy McGregor Diocese of Toliara Endowment Fund was launched in October. The fund was created to financially support future growth of evangelism, education, economic development, and engaging partners in Southern Madagascar. The goal is to reach \$1,000,000. We are pleased to state we have pledges for \$353,800. Thank you all for your generosity and for making a difference not only now but also in the years to come.



ANNUAL SYNOD MEETING

The Annual Synod Committee Meeting met in November to approve and renew diocesan decisions. Highlights of the meeting included: commissioning a new student evangelist (named Evon), meetings of all the departments (Evangelism, Education, Finance, Partnership, Economic Development, Buildings and Grounds), adding mobile communication for the clergy, and a special presentation by new CMS missionaries Rev. Derek and Jane Waller.



BAPTISMS IN THE BUSH

December 23 was an exciting day for the Diocese of Toliara as over 150 people gathered for service. Bishop Todd and Rev Patsy traveled to a rural village for the baptism and confirmation of over 50 people. Outside under the hot sun with a simple bowl of water, 35 people were baptized. It was spectacular seeing the enthusiasm on the faces of those proclaiming their faith to their community. We are excited for what God has planned for their spiritual lives this year.

HOW TO DONATE:

ONLINE VIA CREDIT CARD OR ELECTRONIC TRANSFER:

visit <http://www.peoplereaching.org/how-can-i-help/donate/>

MAIL CHECKS TO SAM-USA:

Attn: Denise Cox or Julie Kirk, PO BOX 399, Ambridge, PA 15003
MEMO: McGregor Ministry or Diocese of Toliara or Toliara Endowment

MAIL CHEQUES TO CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY (P.MG001):

Address: Church Mission Society, Watlington Road, Oxford, QXF 6BZ

