



PEOPLE REACHING PEOPLE

**A MINISTRY OF BISHOP TODD
& REVEREND PATSY MCGREGOR**

Engaging Partners in Evangelism,
Education & Economic Development

Sabbatical Stories

Sabbatical: a period of leave for study and reflection

Why take a sabbatical?

What happened during our time?

What are some of the takeaways?

Over the next several weeks, Patsy and I will share reflections on our experiences during our long overdue sabbatical with answers to the questions above. As we bring you along on our journey, we trust you will see this as a time of reflection in your own lives and encourage you to devote time for prayer and meditation, opening yourselves to what God has in store for you.

Blessings,

+Todd

Why Take a Sabbatical?

A reflection from Patsy+...

Every Moment Holy, Part 2

"My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

Ex. 33:14

Rest is what we needed. Blessed be to God for assurance that God would go with us. When totally honest with ourselves, we can be driven by all sorts of things: fear, insecurities, ambition, competition, pride, needs of others and even lies from our childhood can be hidden motives in life. Perhaps when we are driven, we are not always led. During our sabbatical, I was given the gift of time: time to discern what

was driving me, causing me to strive so hard. During this time of sabbatical rest, focus began to change from days of task-oriented check-off lists to a relational method of life.

This time of rest allowed me to have focus of receiving more than striving, an approach of yielding more than initiating. I had mind-sight to be less manipulated by expectations of others and to be more open to the expectations of God. All I needed to do in a day was please God - and to get along with my husband! Sometimes the latter was more difficult than the former.

You see, relationships are fluid, and unfortunately, ours had been pushed down on the list of priorities, way below serving parishioners suffering from poverty, lack of education and famine devastation. We proclaimed a radical love for the lost but were becoming lost ourselves. The big picture of being missionaries and managing a diocese in one of the poorest countries in the world overran the ordinary joy of life and the peace of living with one another. We were neglecting the obvious: caring for one another and enjoying our marriage. The struggle to "love thy neighbor" was being tested in our home, and we were now being called to stop the negativity and resist the temptation of complaining, competing and arguing. Sabbatical reinforced our call to live in peace with one another.

In the Episcopal/Anglican tradition, the passing of the peace comes right between the Sermon and the Great Thanksgiving. Sabbatical for us was this in between time, a period between giving a sermon and celebrating the Mass, granting opportunity to pass the peace to one another, training us to be peacemakers in every day interactions as husband and wife.

Human beings are broken people living in a broken world. Thank God for Shalom, forgiveness and reconciliation brought to us through God's saving grace. Sometimes we struggle long and hard for obtaining this peace. It's not a cheap peace, skimming over wrongdoing, denying hurt, and avoiding conflict. It's a hard-won peace, one that is fought for, sought for, not out of our own strength but through the grace of God. This peace seeks justice and speaks truth, and in reality, time, tears and truth bring deep, inner peace. Perhaps this is what is called "Shalom."

If so, this is what we offer you, this "Shalom." May the Peace of the Lord be always

with you.

Patsy+

The Rev. Patsy McGregor

Serving Christ Together

To make a gift in support of the McGregors' ministry, please use the Society of Anglican Missionaries and Senders (SAMS) secure website: <https://give.sams-usa.org/missionary/todd-and-patsy-mcgregor>.

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