



PEOPLE **REACHING** PEOPLE

A MINISTRY OF BISHOP TODD & REVEREND PATSY MCGREGOR

Engaging Partners in Evangelism,
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Recently, I have been reminded of the saying,
"When it rains.....it pours."

My life seems to be reflecting this over the past six weeks as I have been mourning the death of three influential people in my life who were close to me. My father-in-law Gerry, known to friends and the younger generation as "PopPop," was in many ways my adopted father since my own father passed away six months before our move to Madagascar in 1991. PopPop welcomed me into his home and treated me like a son. I was proud to call him "Dad."

Then, as I pulled into the church parking lot for Dad's funeral, my sister called to say her husband had just passed away. In spite of a debilitating long-term illness with Lupus, John was always optimistic, always had a smile, and enjoyed life to the full. Then, this past week came another downpour. I lost one of my mentors, former Archbishop of the Indian Ocean and Bishop of Antananarivo, Remi Rabenirina. We had worked so closely with him during our first 11 years in Madagascar.

Mourning was not something I anticipated and yet has become part of a seasonal transition. This difficult rainy season has allowed me to reflect deeply on various events. Our lives are full of transitions, and this season seems to be revolving around losing dear people who have had a tremendous impact on me. With friendly character and acceptance, my father-in-law welcomed me into the family and treated me as son. My brother-in-law shared his happiness in life and his love for his family which flowed from his relationship with Jesus.

+Remi, my mentor, could see the potential in my vocation and calling. He saw my God-given talents when I couldn't. His encouragement led me to realize a ministry beyond my expectations.

Bishop Remi gives us inspiration, seeing future potential even before fruit had grown on the tree. He saw what could happen if someone was willing to use talents, time and tithe to the glory of God. He had the gift perceiving the impact that I could have on the Malagasy if I would only step out in faith and use my talents for God's glory. What would our lives look like and how would they be different if we recognized ourselves and one another as stewards and guests in God's world?

So I encourage all of us to use our gifts, share our talents, concede our time, and to give our tithe to the glory of God! As we do this, just imagine the impact we would have on the world as people, reaching people!

Serving Christ Together,
+Todd

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Todd McGregor

Bishop of Toliara, Madagascar

Serving Christ Together

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