



A MINISTRY OF BISHOP TODD & REVEREND PATSY MCGREGOR



READING IS THE FUTURE

Recently I was reminded of the freedom I have been given because I know how to read and write. For example, if I want to learn something new I can easily just pick up a book or search it on the internet and teach myself. However, for many Malagasy this is not their reality. For people like Dagane it is not that simple. Let me tell you his story...

A couple months ago, a new group of singers were preparing for the upcoming Miaraka: A time to Dance performance. I was wondering why it was taking such an effort for them to learn the songs. After one rehearsal, I chatted with a young man just about to get on his bike and ride to his local village. His name was Dagane and he was 17 years old. "I really want to learn these songs," said Dagane. "Can somebody teach me?" "We have a photocopy of some of the songs. When are you free to learn?" I replied, watching his face sadden. Dagane replied. "I'm free anytime. But, I don't go to school so I don't know how read and write."

It's for people like Dagane that the Educational Department began teaching literacy classes. As Frederick Douglass said, "Once you learn to read, you will be forever free." It is so rewarding to witness how literacy is not only opening doors of opportunity but also allowing individuals the ability to dream about their future.

PROJECTS UPDATES



NEW BENCHES

On Feb 13th, two prayer benches were constructed next to the Labyrinth at the Gathering Place. Three days later, the congregation of St. Patrick's Cathedral circled around the benches for the dedication. We thank those who donated funds for these benches.



MISSION TEAMS

In March, a mission team from St. Andrew's School, FL will come to build a primary (elementary) school in Morondava. The team will include 3 teachers and 1 member of St. Andrew's Chapel. We know this new school will change the lives of many students.



LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

This lenten season, we will be emailing weekly devotionals. The devotionals are written by the Diocesan staff to encourage us all to focus our attention back to Christ.



TREE PLANTING

This month, missionaries Derick and Jane Waller held a tree planting event. Over 40 trees, including fruit trees, shade trees, and flower trees were planted around the Cathedral Complex. Over 25 people, including evangelists and members of the Miaraka community, gathered for three days to plant the trees. It was amazing to see people work hard to plant trees despite the severe heat of the day.

One might ask, what is the big deal with trees? Well aside from the environmental benefits, trees are an important part of the Malagasy culture. Much like how people gathered around the wells in the Bible, Malagasy gather under trees. Elders convene under trees to discuss community decisions. Students assemble under trees to learn. Religious leaders congregate under trees for spiritual events. Mothers' Union members and other groups gather under trees for their weekly meetings. And others sleep under trees for rest and relaxation.

These trees are significant. They symbolize unity, community, spirituality, renewal, and safety. For that reason we are grateful for those who planted the trees and for those who monetarily supported these events.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

PRAY:

See prayer requests below

VISIT:

If interested in a short term mission trip to Toliara, contact Corbi at corbisandoe@gmail.com

DONATE: (VIA UNDESIGNATED FUNDS)

- Bishop Todd and Rev. Patsy McGregor Diocese of Toliara Endowment Fund
- Educational scholarships for 80 students (pre-school to seminary): \$25 monthly per student
- Salaries for 36 clergy, evangelists, and staff: \$110 for evangelists and \$160 for clergy per month
- Health, pension, and rice benefits for employees
- Student evangelism training program
- Training/development of economic programs



MEDICAL MISSION TRIP

This past November four doctors from the USA made the trek to Toliara to help provide medical aid to the rural regions of Southern Madagascar. The project was funded by the Kaiser-Din Foundation, a non-profit that is working to provide medical aide to those in need. Doctors Nicole Kaiser, Nadia Din, Jess Addeo and Tia Manning hailing from New Jersey and Florida joined together with a team of doctors, nurses, nuns and students from the Anglican Diocese of Toliara. The team treated a variety of ailments including malaria, typhoid, malnutrition, wounds, injuries, and parasites. The conditions of the communities were meager and the teams often worked into dusk by flashlights as there was no electricity available. Alongside the doctors, the Days for Girls group provided lectures on hygiene/menstruation and passed out reusable menstruation pads. Overall the team managed to treat nearly 1,000 patients. The trip came about from an old connection between Patsy McGregor and Nicole Kaiser, both alumnae of Ursinus College in Pennsylvania. This is Dr. Kaiser's second trip to Madagascar as she previously ventured to the country as a college student in an effort organized by the McGregors. "My first trip to Madagascar had a lasting impression on me and I am happy that I have now returned to pay it forward. Many thanks to the McGregors for helping to put this trip together. Your work in Madagascar is an inspiration" said Dr. Kaiser. It is the hope of the Kaiser-Din Foundation to continue medical relief efforts both with future trips to Madagascar and around the world. A team from the foundation is currently in Karachi, Pakistan on a 10 day medical mission to see patients, participate in a clubfoot clinic and provide education to the local doctors.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

DIOCESE OF TOLIARA

- Upcoming diocesan and provincial meetings
- Prayers for rain, specifically in Ambosary Parish
- Leadership development

PERSONAL

- Work life balance
- Stress management
- God's guidance in decision making

MINISTRY

- Upcoming short term missions teams
- New child sponsorships
- Praise for the growth of the Women's Center





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Engaging Partners in Evangelism,
Education & Economic Development



STAFF TEAM BUILDING

On Feb 11, Bishop Todd led team building exercises for the local diocesan staff and clergy. The games included blind-folded trust walks, untying human knots, parachutes, and many other games. After each game there was a discussion about the lessons learned and application of the game. The room was filled with laughter and smiles. Everyone was having such a good time that no one wanted to stop. The activities continued for over 3 hours.



EVANGELISM TRAINING

Evangelist training continues to be an important part of the McGregors' Ministry. Due to extreme heat, the teachings frequently occur outside under a large tree. This month, Bishop Todd taught "the cycle of Evangelism", focusing on how to reproduce Christian leaders. Next month, Rev. Patsy will teach on spirituality including spiritual gifts, purpose of the labyrinth, and the stations of the cross.



DEACONS ON MOTOBIKES

You might not expect motorcycles to be an important part of spreading the Good News, however in the Diocese of Toliara it is crucial. Many deacons travel over hundreds of miles between churches. Even if the deacons had access to cars, which rarely happens, roads are usually impassable by car. Motorcycles, instead of traveling by foot, allow these men to spend more time teaching and preaching in their parishes. Thank God for donations like motorcycles.

HOW TO DONATE:

ONLINE VIA CREDIT CARD OR ELECTRONIC TRANSFER:

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

MAIL CHECKS TO SAMS-USA:

Attn: Denise Cox or Julie Kirik, 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, OXF 6BZ

