



LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

offered by Leaders of the Diocese of Toliara

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Devotion on Education

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Prov. 22:6 Start the children in the way they should go and when they grow up they will not depart from it.

Deut. 6:7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and you when you get up.

A story

A certain lady grew up in circumstances where she had to take care of the cows because she was the first grandchild, and she must wait to get married. She did marry at a tender age, but then she was divorced from her husband after a short while. She later was married and divorced from several men. She resorted to drinking alcohol. She did not know what to do in any situation. Her life lacked direction. Suicide was the next thing in her mind. But then she was invited to church, and she gave her heart to the Lord. Her life began to

have meaning as she grew in faith, and now she understands that God has a good plan for her. She is trying her best to teach her children to grow in the way of the Lord so that they do not follow her previous path.

Relevance in Madagascar

Very few parents take the time to teach their children the word of God and the precepts of the Kingdom. Christian education helps form character to move from dark to the light. This great task of teaching needs to begin in the home. Parents need to learn about God so as to be in a position to teach their children. These children will grow in the fear of the Lord in all areas of their life, and as adults they will in turn do the same for their children.

The purpose of education is the directing of the processes of human development towards God's objective for man: godliness of character and action. It bends its efforts to the end "that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works (2 Tim.3:17). Christian education begins with spiritual birth. Growth in godliness begins step by step from regeneration to full maturity in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Pet 1:5-8)

What the Word of God says

In the scriptures, God has commanded two institutions to educate: the home and the church. As an extension of either or both of these institutions, the Christian school has a biblical mandate to educate. (Prov. 22:6, Deut. 6:7) The Bible makes it clear that education is to begin in the home. It makes parents responsible for their children and charges them with an educational task.

Sustainability

Christian Education is a high priority for the Diocese of Toliara. It is a three-pronged approach which begins with education in the home. We must provide the tools, resources, training, and formation for adults to establish rich, spiritual lives for themselves so they can be the parents God wants them to be – to raise their children in Godly love. The second is a robust Sunday School program of Christian education and formation to reinforce what is taught in the home, and to provide the additional training necessary for confirmation of the teenagers. The third is the elementary education of children. While the Malagasy have made great strides in the availability and quality of education, it still leaves a great deal to be desired in the rural areas typical of the Diocese of Toliara, the southern and western coastal areas of the island. We need to build more schools to expand the reach of education of children within the diocese. We have a long way to go! But we have a plan, and we are working diligently to fulfill the plan on all the fronts detailed above.

To accomplish these tasks we need your support. Please give generously to the Bishop Todd & Rev. Patsy McGregor Diocese of Toliara Endowment Fund which will provide the needed resources to be sure the goals of education in this diocese are achieved.

Nolavy+

The Rev. Nolavy Arisoa

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Pastor for Sakaraha and the congregations of the surrounding area

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