



## A MINISTRY OF BISHOP TODD & REVEREND PATSY MCGREGOR

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

#### DIOCESE OF TOLIARA

- Food security
- Health of the Diocese
- Spiritual Renewal
- Leadership development
- Praise for new church built

#### PERSONAL

- Personal Health

#### MINISTRY

- New child sponsorships
- Financial support for masks, hygiene stations, food distribution, and salaries
- Future mission teams

## JUST A MORNING WALK, OR NOT...

You never know how your actions - no matter how small - can impact a life forever.

One hot summer morning, one of the woman student evangelists and I went for a walk. During our walk, we came upon a young boy going to school. After greeting each other I asked in Malagasy, "Do you know Noeldo?" "Yes, he is going to a new school now," the teenager replied. "Oh! Noeldo used to come to our English services at the Cathedral." I said. "See that church over there? We have an English Service every Friday at 12:00 pm. You are welcome to come sometime." The following day he came, with two other friends in tow. The next week they brought another few friends. And the following week, there were six sweaty teenage boys walking to the English service in the hot noonday sun. I must say I was shocked to see them. I would have never thought that six teenage boys would want to spend their Friday afternoons at church learning English. You never know how God can use your actions - as small as taking a walk - and use it for His glory. My prayer is that I continue to follow God's gentle nudges even when I don't expect Him to use them.

# PROJECT UPDATES



## MASKS DISTRIBUTION

The Women's Center is now making high quality, cotton face masks. Goal is to distribute 3000 masks within the diocese. All proceeds go to the Women's Center.



## NEW CHURCH

The church in Ambovombe is finished construction! The pews, reading desk, and altar are all built and ready to be used. We thank God for all the spiritual revival that will happen in this new church building.



## TREE PLANTING

Last month, 320 plants were planted in Sakaraha. These trees will have environmental benefits especially to this area as it is prone to drought, flooding from hurricanes, and erosion.





## BUILDING COMMUNITY ACROSS THE WORLD

*By Emily Nell Lagerquist, Short Term Missionary*

On March 8, a short term mission team from Saint Andrew School and the Chapel of Saint Andrew Team arrived in Antananarivo, Madagascar. The US team included 3 teachers from Saint Andrew School: Kim Reynolds, Greg Bertha and Carlton Hock, and a congregant from the Chapel of Saint Andrew: Emily Nell Lagerquist. A fifth member of the team, Nenry Holy (Bishop Sami's wife) was our Malagasy translator and cultural interpreter.

The purpose of the visit was to meet the children who currently are not going to school and see the land where the school is projected to be built in Manamby. Our goal was to strengthen the collaboration between the Diocese of Toliara, Saint Andrew School, The Chapel of Saint Andrew, and the parish of Morondava where Manamby is located. We combined excursions to visit the unique features of the country yet also build community with the local church.

On Wednesday (March 11th), the team flew to Morondava and was met by a greeting committee that included Mr. Christin, Rev. Lova, Deacon Benza, and Evangelist Bon Coeur. The next day, the team went to Manamby to meet the children and the adults of that community. Manamby is a small rural village along the main highway with no electricity or running water. Upon arrival at the site, the team was greeted by at least 100 enthusiastic children singing the Diocese of Toliara song. *How many Dioceses do you know that have their own song?* Over the next 3 days, the children learned songs in English and taught the team songs in Malagasy. The team showed the children how to make paper airplanes, make bracelets from rubber bands, learn their numbers through simple card games, and play relays/group sport activities. By the last day, there were more than 250 children participating in activities!

On Sunday morning, we loaded up the van and went to church at Saint Andrew's in Mahabo (the sister church to the Chapel of Saint Andrew). It was a thrill to see the church and meet the parishioners. In the afternoon, we visited the Avenue of the Baobabs, the only place on earth where 6 of the 9 species of the Baobab tree can be found. The team enjoyed watching the sunset behind the panorama of these magnificent trees. We also stopped at All Saints Church where the youth of the church were waiting for us to present a performance. It is very inspiring to see the number of young people involved in the church.

This mission trip has been very sobering for me. I realized how many people in the world live with barely enough food, dirty water, and a small hut for shelter. But simultaneously I was inspired by the people's joy and vibrant smiles on the children's faces despite the hardships. I can't wait until the day I can return back to Madagascar and see the new school built. I saw first hand how important education is for these children. And I feel blessed and honored to be a part of such a life changing ministry for so many children.





## THE SAD REALITY

Imagine waking up at 3:00 am to walk 35 km to find water. Finally, upon arriving at the small town that has a small supply of water, there is already a long line. Waiting 12 hours in line and paying a day's wages (3,000 AR equivalent to 90 cents), if you had a job, for 20 liters of water..... And then, after all hours of daylight are spent waiting in the scorching sun, the 20 liter container of water needs to get back to the village. For the lucky ones, the water jug is carried by the cattle that has not died from the droughts. But for most the water jug is carried on the individual's head or back. Dead cattle, sheep and goats sprinkled the dirt track as they walk back home to their huts.

Ialy, the Coordinator of the Economic Development Department witnessed this sad reality in his most recent trip to the rural areas of Ambovombe and Amboasary. The purpose of the trip was to organize the building of 39 cement foundations for installing water tanks. You can see this is very important as there is no water, no harvest, and no cattle cart.

Ialy reported, "Children are dying. There is no food. People eat tamarin seeds mixed with ashes from the charcoal fire and there is little unclean water. In order to stifle their thirst and hunger, men wear tight lambas (clothes) all day, not taking it off until night. When they take the clothes off their stomachs, they feel famished." As he looked at me, I could see the pain in his eyes. The extreme difficulty of the people hit home in Ialy's heart, literally, as this is his homeland. It is heartbreaking.

### 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](mailto:corbisandoe@gmail.com)

#### DONATE:

- Bishop Todd and Rev Patsy McGregor Diocese of Toliara Endowment Fund
- Educational scholarships for 79 students (pre-school to high school): \$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





## A MINISTRY OF BISHOP TODD & REVEREND PATSY MCGREGOR

Engaging Partners in Evangelism,  
Education & Economic Development



### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day (March 8th) was a big occasion for the Diocese as the national procession was held in Toliara. Thousands of women paraded the streets. The president's wife spoke. Items from the Women's Center were sold at local kiosks by the government in order to display women's initiatives in Madagascar. The Women's Center also donated toothbrushes to women prisoners, along with clothing and other small gifts.



### GUESTHOUSE CONSTRUCTION

A new guesthouse is under construction at the Gathering Place Complex. The construction was initially postponed due to COVID 19 but is currently underway again. The new guesthouse should be finished by August and will serve as another way to financially support the Cathedral. We look forward to its progress and future benefit for the Diocese.



### COVID 19 UPDATE

As of June 13th, there are 1252 cases and 10 deaths from COVID19 in Madagascar. Over the last couple weeks the cases have dramatically increased. The country's economy is struggling as many have lost their jobs. The prices of daily foods such as rice, beans, milk and sugar are dramatically higher. Many people can't even afford food. The churches are struggling to pay their priests' salaries. It most definitely is a difficult time for the country of Madagascar.

### 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, OX4 6BZ

