

## A MINISTRY OF BISHOP TODD & REVEREND PATSY McGREGOR

### TRAVELING BY DUG-OUT CANOE

Last month, Bishop Todd traveled with some church leaders to the rural villages in the Diocese of Toliara. At the time, the government had lifted the restrictions allowing small church gatherings. (This has since stopped and no gatherings with more than 12 people are allowed to meet). On one trip, Bishop Todd, along with Mme Holy (the Education Department Coordinator) and Ialy (the Economic Development Coordinator), traveled by dug-out canoe to get to a very rural church. The community was so excited to see them and they had a wonderful time meeting with the local church members. They sang songs and prayed together as they met outside under a tree. Mme Holy taught healthy hygiene practices and COVID19 prevention techniques. Ialy inspected the church's economic development project, the construction of the guest-house. They also dispensed hygiene supplies including setting up soap and water stations for the church community to use. The community was very appreciative of clean water and soap as for many this is a luxury. Please continue to pray for the rural Malagasy villages as they are especially secluded during these quarantined times.



## PROJECT UPDATES



### FAMINE RELIEF

Famine has become a huge problem in Madagascar as transportation of foods have been halted. In the Parish of Amboasary, the Diocese of Toliara distributed 5 cups of rice each to 672 people for famine relief.



### NEW HYGIENE STATIONS

Hygiene has become extremely important with the COVID 19 pandemic. Water containers and soap stations have been set up at the local churches in order to encourage hand hygiene.



### STUDENT EVANGELISM

Eight student evangelists finished their academic year this summer. Four of them will continue their studies at university for Diaconate. The Diocese plans to have 12 student evangelists this upcoming year.



## FROM LEARNING TO SEW TO TRAINING OTHERS TO SEW- THE WOMEN'S CENTER

After the initial COVID 19 lockdown in Toliara, the women have been meeting at the Women's Center to sew masks instead of Days for Girls kits. They started out making 4,500 face masks for the diocese. 2,500 masks have been distributed to ten parishes and two schools. Last month, the Diocese of Toliara started partnering with Base Toliara, a local mining company, to train 40 local women to sew masks. They have made over 22,000 masks so far and just signed an amendment to the MOU to make another 60,000! All these masks have been donated. The Women's Center is supervising the seamstresses and the Ministry of Health is overseeing quality control. The partnership was even aired on local television.

We are so proud and excited to see how the Women's Center has grown. In 2016, these women were learning how to use a sewing machine for the first time ever, and now these same women are supervising and training other local women to sew. This enterprise has not only given the Malagasy women ways to financially support themselves and their families, it has also given them a purpose. We thank God for how the Women's Center has developed female leaders in the church.

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

#### DIOCESE OF TOLIARA

- Famine
- Health of the Diocese
- Spiritual Renewal
- Female leadership development

#### PERSONAL

- Personal Health
- Balancing life and work

#### MINISTRY

- New child sponsorships
- Financial support for masks, hygiene stations, food distribution, and salaries
- New projects





## MY TRANSITION, MY NEW NORM

The other day, I had invited the solar company owner to the Cathedral Complex to discuss installing solar equipment. Once he arrived he was full of joy and came to say hello, leaning into me at about 12 inches to bump my fist. Immediately, I was startled and shaken as was the first close contact (with exception of Patsy) in nearly four months. I quickly stepped backwards from him. Why did I do that? Had he invaded my invisible personal boundary? Living in Africa has broken any thoughts of physical boundaries. It was the norm to sleep with five other people in a single bed, stand up during local transportation as it was too crowded to sit, sit at a wedding where there is no room to breathe, and have people move over in a packed church so I can squeeze through to dedicate items.

But this event was different. Things have changed. I'm wearing a mask every time I leave the complex. I social distance at least two metres from other people. I wash my hands a hundred times a day. Physical boundaries are now the norm. My mindset has also changed. *How many people will I be around? What is the likelihood of me getting the virus? What happens if I get it because the airlines are closed? We are two day drive from the capital and only with special permission from the governor can one travel north from Toliara as all other roads are closed. How can I best serve the diocese? What about the sacraments and preaching God's Word? What about the evangelism and discipleship programs which traditionally require social interaction?*

I bear the burden of not only my personal needs but the needs of the diocese; the physical, mental and spiritual needs. As you can see the the COVID 19 pandemic has significantly impacted my life. However, despite my mind racing, I am reminded that God is here with me. Despite all the pain and suffering, He remains faithful and good. I recognize that this is the new norm. But even more importantly, I realize that God remains the same yesterday, today and forever despite the changes around us.

### HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

#### PRAY:

See prayer requests section

#### VISIT:

If interested in a short term mission trip, contact Corbi at [corbisandoe@gmail.com](mailto:corbisandoe@gmail.com)

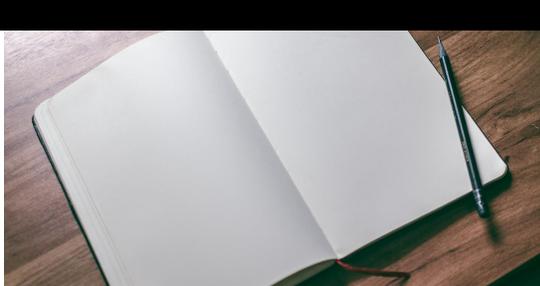
#### DONATE:

- Bishop Todd and Rev. Patsy McGregor Diocese of Toliara Endowment Fund
- Educational scholarships (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 and pension for employees
- Student evangelism training program
- Training/development of economic programs
- Famine relief
- Water tanks and hygiene stations



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Engaging Partners in Evangelism,  
Education & Economic Development



### QUARANTINE WRITING

While quarantined at home during the COVID pandemic, Patsy has been spending lots of time writing four devotionals (Made in Blue, Little Steps, Dancing in the Sunlight, and Picking the Poppies). These devotionals have focused on joy in all circumstances and the blessings of the Malagasy people. We hope that one day soon you will be able to read her writings in a book.



### COVID 19 UPDATE IN MADAGASCAR

As of Aug 13, there are over 13,000 confirmed cases and 150 deaths from COVID19. The country has become the second most impacted country in Southern Africa. The five main hospitals in the capital can no longer cope with the influx of people. The country is on full lockdown - no social gatherings and no transportation. It is a difficult time for the country as they struggle with poverty, famine, and illness.



### LADIES ZOOM EVENT

Thank you to all those who joined the McGregors for their Zoom chat last month. Since the last Zoom event was so successful, Patsy will be hosting a Ladies Zoom Event on Aug 29th at 10:00 AM Eastern Time, USA! Patsy is eager to share her life with you all and just have some real girl talk. A Zoom link will be sent out via email soon. Mark your calendars now.

## 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

### MAIL CHEQUES TO CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY (P.MG001):

Address: Church Mission Society, Watlington Road, Oxford, OX4 6BZ

