



## A MINISTRY OF BISHOP TODD & REVEREND PATSY McGREGOR

### ZOOMING IN, CHURCH STYLE

Due to government restraints from the Covid 19 pandemic, Bishop Todd and Rev. Patsy are not able to travel for their annual pastoral visits to the different parishes. Considering a parish within the Diocese of Toliara may be a three-day drive away, the Malagasy parishioners excitedly anticipate these visits. Bishop Todd usually performs many confirmations, baptisms and marriage ceremonies during these occasions. In order to combat this dilemma, the clergy brainstormed how to still meet with the parishes despite the Covid restrictions. The clergy agreed with the idea to Zoom in on the scheduled day of the Bishop's visit. So far they have had multiple successful Zoom services. The priest at the local church still leads the regular service and Bishop Todd and Rev. Patsy Zoom in. Bishop Todd usually gives the sermon, absolution and final blessing. Bishop Todd and Rev. Patsy have greatly appreciated joining into these services despite their limited physical presence. They look forward to the future Zoom services planned for the next couple months.



## PROJECT UPDATES



### PARTNERSHIP

The Diocese of Toliara is partnering with a local mining company, Base Toliara, to make face masks. Out of gratitude for the partnership, Base Toliara donated 45 bags of rice, 200 liters of oil, 20 soap boxes, 10 bags of beans, and 7,000 masks to the diocese.



### STUDENTS

This week 18 students will start their studies at St. Patrick's Bible College. Their studies include topics such as evangelism, Old and New Testament scriptures, spiritual gifts, discipleship and how to lead Bible studies.



### GUITAR LESSONS

Niavo (Bishop Samitiana and Mme. Holy's daughter) asked Rev. Patsy to teach her guitar. They started lessons on the balcony months ago and recently she started joining Rev. Patsy in leading worship during the English church services.



## ALWAYS A COMMUNITY

Todd and I are excited as a group of strong, hefty men circle up to pray before beginning their daily work. Today they are laying down cement for the second floor of the new Guesthouse at St. Patrick's Cathedral Complex. As I was on the couch writing a portion of this newsletter, Todd looked out the window proclaiming, "They are pouring cement!"

Quickly I got up to see what I had visualized in my head; a large cement truck pouring cement onto the second floor, which might take 2-3 hours to complete. But when I got to the window, third-world reality set in. Yes, TIM! (This is Madagascar!) They are "pouring" cement through 15-20 strong men handing buckets upon buckets of hand-stirred cement to one another. Four men on the ground floor stir gravel, sand, cement and water together at the same time. Then they shovel it into hand-made buckets and an assembly line of four other men pass bucket upon bucket to people standing on a hand-crafted scaffolding (wood brought in by ox-cart) to several men on the roof. These men pour it, pack it, level it and drop the empty buckets to those on the ground who are ready once again to shovel more hand-stirred cement into more buckets and the assembly line continues. Already working since early morning, they will continue this procedure through the night guided by temporary electrical light fixtures, as this certain task must be finished within 24 hours.

This new guesthouse has been gifted to the Diocese through generous donors of People Reaching People. Their desire is to build community at the St. Patrick's Cathedral Complex and provide an income generating hospitality center for hosting short-term visitors and long-term renters. Even in the primary stages, the Guesthouse is already fulfilling that mission. As these eager workers pass buckets, they sing, shout and encourage one another to keep up the good work. In Madagascar, things are always about community!

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

#### DIOCESE OF TOLIARA

- Famine
- Health of the Diocese
- Spiritual Renewal
- Servant leadership development
- Financial support with extremely high food prices due to COVID

#### PERSONAL

- Peace and joy in all circumstances
- Wisdom in decision making
- Personal Health
- Balancing life and work

#### MINISTRY

- 18 evangelist students as they begin at St. Patrick's Bible School
- Financial support for masks, food distribution, and salaries
- Praise for the new Resource Center
- Construction of the two guesthouses





## CHURCH GROWTH IN TRANSITION... STARTING WITH OUR OWN FAMILIES

Still only a small child, Christopher (age 6), begins to pray. Crossing himself first, he says out loud, "In the Name of the Father and the Son and Holy Spirit." Tears were in my eyes as I (Todd) proudly watched this child take prayer so seriously.

Little did I know that when the COVID 19 pandemic raged this world it would provide good opportunity for the Diocese to grow spiritually. When COVID 19 hit Madagascar I secluded myself. Closing all of the churches immediately, I waited...and waited...and waited.... for a sign from God as to what to do next. I knew we needed to do something to help the people grow spiritually. I realized I needed to take action in this transition, not only for my sake, but also for the life of the Diocese.

Calling a meeting with local leaders, we came up with the idea that smaller is better. Gathering with 10 people just outside our homes within the Cathedral Compound while respecting the COVID 19 regulations, families meet three to four times a week using a modified 30 minute version of the evening prayer. A small booklet was distributed among the parishes for their members to utilize in their homes.

These small prayer units have been life changing. For me personally, meeting regularly for evening prayer, worshipping together, and studying God's word has brought me closer to others living on the complex. I have been most inspired at what God has done spiritually in the children. Seeing the youth and children lead the evening small group gatherings has been a joyous occasion. Christopher is one example, and it all began because we weren't allowed to gather in large numbers at church. Maybe the pandemic has a silver lining after all.

### 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 40+ clergy, evangelists, and staff: \$110 for evangelists and \$160 for clergy per month
- Health and pension for employees
- Training/development of economic programs
- Famine relief
- \$2,000 for clergy motorcycles
- \$10,000 for the construction of two parish rectories



## A MINISTRY OF BISHOP TODD & REVEREND PATSY MCGREGOR

Engaging Partners in Evangelism,  
Education & Economic Development



### RESOURCE CENTER

A Resource Center is being put together at the St. Patrick's Bible College located on the Cathedral Complex. Books of all kinds (including theological books, magazines, children's literature, and education texts) in Malagasy, French, and English are being shelved and systemized. The center also houses CDs, Video tapes, DVDs, and sports equipment (soccer, volleyball, croquet, table tennis and parachute games).



### ED MCNAMARA PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Parish Committee of Sakaraha has decided to rename the school in Mahaboboka, "The Ed McNamara Primary School". Ed (left in picture) is currently a People Reaching People Board Member. This name was chosen because of Ed's unrelenting focus on education and hard work raising funds for this project. At age 80, Ed came over to Mahaboboka for the dedication and ribbon cutting in 2015.



### JOIN OUR ZOOM EVENTS

Ladies, come join us again for another zoom event! Patsy along with her closest friends will be hosting another Ladies Zoom Event on Oct 10th at 10:00 AM Eastern Time, USA! A Zoom link will be sent out via email soon. Mark your calendars now! For those who missed the McGregors' Zoom on Sept 18th, you can watch the session by clicking [HERE](#). We had a great turnout of 24 supporters. Thank you to all who joined us.

### 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

