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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

~ By Syd Verinder

The Diocese of Virginia awarded a Mustard Seed grant to implement two women-managed farming businesses in addition to funding training on Christian business principles. In September, we offered two 2-day

training programs (Betaola and in Sakaraha) with 19 women completing the course! The course, designed by Five-Talents International, equips women with skills and knowledge needed to start and operate a small business. Students work out a business plan and by-laws during the course. Most of the women have never owned a business, but there was a keen sense of entrepreneurship in



both groups. In Betaola and

Sakaraha, land was purchased close to the churches specifically with farm businesses in mind. A donation from St. John's Episcopal of McLean, Va., provided funding for land purchases. Both businesses hope to show a profit at the end of the first growing season. What will they raise? Peanuts, beans, and corn.

EDUCATIONAL UPDATE

~By Bishop Todd McGregor

In September, 75 youth attended the first Diocesan Youth Conference held for five days in Toliara. People are growing in their faith and being discipled through three levels of English classes that are taught as an outreach and a tool of evangelism. A Saturday evening English worship service (average attendance 30) has gathered people from all areas in the city. The American Embassy donated the curriculum, a white board, audio cassettes and cassette player.



Patsy Speaking to the children at the recently attained secondary school property. After the school is constructed, these children will have an opportunity to further their education.

MIARAKA RESORT & SPA UPDATE:

Patsy met with the Minister of Tourism and was given official approval of the donation of 12 acres of oceanfront property for Miaraka Resort and Spa, an Economic Development initiative that will provide jobs for the local community and be income generating for the Diocese. PRP was awarded a Poverty and Hope grant from the Anglican Diocese of Canterbury. The funds will be used to construct one classroom of the new school in Soalara, Madagascar as part of the agreement with the community to donate the land for Miaraka Resort & Spa in exchange for building a new school. A classroom is \$8,000 and \$30,000 is still needed to complete the school. Imagine your church or group combining resources to give this life-changing gift and bring Hope to this community!

CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION:

For questions concerning gifts or this transition, feel free to call SAMS at (724) 266-0669 or Laura Verinder at (804) 394-3828. Credit card and EFT's (Electronic Fund Transfers) are available at:

www.sams-usa.org

**FOR SUPPORT OF THIS MINISTRY
PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
SAMS-USA**

**MEMO: MCGREGOR MINISTRY OR
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PO BOX 399**

AMBRIDGE, PA 15003

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FALL 2009

PEOPLE REACHING PEOPLE

A MINISTRY OF BISHOP TODD AND REV. PATSY MCGREGOR



Cornerstone being laid at the Gathering Place (above). Will and Cheryl Harman enjoy time with the youth while on mission (right).



PRP MISSION

The Mission of People Reaching People (PRP) is: "To transform lives and make disciples of Jesus Christ by serving the poorest of the poor in Eastern Africa through economic, education and evangelistic developments."

These three "E's":

Economic Development, Education and Evangelism are the pillars of PRP's mission.

Our core values remain:

Glorifying God (Rev: 7:11b-12)
Transformation in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17)
Living the Great Commission (Matt. 28: 18-21)
Serving with Christian Integrity (Eph. 4:1, 5:1)

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PRAISE & PRAYER

- **PRAISE** The Diocese of Antananarivo approved the creation of the new Diocese of Toliara.
- **ALL THREE TITLES** are now acquired for the cathedral complex property and construction has begun!
- Construction has commenced on churches six (Tsimahavobe) and seven (Anketrika) of the 50/10 project.
- Praise and thanks to the Diocese of SE Florida for sponsoring the fundraising dinner in November.
- Corbi completed a successful semester studying abroad in Australia, also swimming with sharks in the Great Barrier Reef and climbing the Sydney Bridge.
- Charese continues her second year at Ursinus and leading the freshman-year girls' Bible Study.

• Clericals, vestments and altar fittings were provided from Operation Pass Along (USA) for churches in southern Madagascar.



Team Namako

• For mission Team Namako (see story).

- **PRAYER** for a dormitory and classroom for the evangelism students in January.
- Contributions are strongly needed as there has been a 50% decrease in donations.
- There is a tentative award of the Training and Experience Program scholarship funds for evangelists and clergy candidates in 2010.
- Grants have been applied for in the areas to expand business opportunities. Inquiries are being made of the Land Rover of North America World Involvement Sponsorship Program to supply vehicles.

• Pray for the people of Southern Madagascar that they will know the hope of Christ.



EVANGELISM - By Will Harman

I was one of eight lucky persons to visit Madagascar in July of this year. I came back from this trip with a more giving heart after experiencing the immense poverty in this region.



Will and Rev. Joelin

Our team, Team Namako (meaning friends in Malagasy), took on the role of Team Alpha. Alpha, is a basic course in Christianity. Our team taught this course through an interpreter to three congregations with over 100 Malagasy people attending. I was elected MC for the course as in the Malagasy culture the male usually leads in events.

The attendees were very enthusiastic. Our intent was to teach this basic group the Alpha course, and they in turn will go out and teach it to many others. To build enthusiasm in the class, I gave the attendees a high five after the first day as congratulations for successfully completing that day's requirements. Little did I know that they had never seen a high five and they loved it - everywhere we went people were high-fiving others with big smiles. This high-five experience taught me the greatest gift we brought to the Malagasy people was HOPE. You could see in their eyes a fresh sense of purpose, a brighter future and hope of a better life.

The day before our last class was over, we gave each student 5 invitations to invite 5 of their non-Christian friends to lunch the next day. Not knowing what would happen, we stepped out in faith purchasing 20 live chickens and rice for 200 people. It was a huge success, feeding over 200 people for \$200. Feedback from Todd and Patsy is that many of our lunch invitees are now coming to church on a regular basis! Our team was so excited and rewarded from our Alpha Teaching that we have officially declared July 17th as Alpha Day in Madagascar and informed Todd and Patsy that our team will sponsor all expenses associated with the program at the annual celebration.

In closing, I would like to assure all who are considering visiting Madagascar that is a very safe and rewarding place to do The Lord's Work. The people of Madagascar are loving and friendly people that now have a little more hope because of our visit and our Christian message. **GO AND SEE FOR YOURSELF AND BE A PART OF GIVING HOPE.**

EVANGELISM UPDATES - By Bishop Todd

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER: Three four-day evangelistic missions (Anketreka, Betaoloa, Sakaraha) were held, showing the Jesus film and taking part in door-to-door evangelism. Hundreds have come to faith.

OCTOBER: The cornerstone was laid for the Bishop's Gathering Place in Toliara. The priests' residences in Tsimahavokely and Sakaraha are completed and the cornerstone for Anketrika church was laid.

NOVEMBER: The cornerstone will be laid for the Andranovory church.

DECEMBER: Dedication for Tsimahavokely church.

JANUARY 2010: Begins another year for 10 students to study through July at the Evangelism/Lay Training School (see prayer request).

"PAY IT FORWARD"

By Cheryl Harman as told by Rev. Patsy McGregor

Five Dollars is carried around in the pockets of our home fellowship friends to "pay it forward" wherever and to whomever the Lord leads. Before leaving for our mission trip to Madagascar, a friend gave me \$100 to "pay it forward." From the moment I stepped off the plane, I knew I was not the person to pay it forward. The needs were too great and the poverty unrelenting. The \$100 would have been spent in less than 10 minutes. My heart was weeping as I looked into those desperate brown eyes. In the correct hands of Rev. Patsy McGregor this \$100 did so much. Here is her account as told through a postcard.

"It is a blessing to bring the pay it forward concept to Madagascar. I have been able to pay it forward in the following ways:

1. Paid for a Bible for a wanting parishioner
2. Gave \$10 to a weary traveler who needed to travel 1,000 miles to the north of Madagascar
3. Gave \$15 for school supplies to a needy mom who has 10 children, some of whom were taking the national exams to pass on to the next grade.
4. Bought a small woodcarving from a man with a huge tumor protruding from his neck. It was better than begging, and he obviously was in pain and had great needs. So I paid him even more than he said the price was, and I gave the piece to a prayer partner to pray for him.

I still have some money left, so I will write again with more "pay it forward" stories. Love, Patsy"