



A MINISTRY OF BISHOP TODD & REVEREND PATSY MCGREGOR

UP COMING SPEAKING EVENTS:

Join the McGregors...

MAY 20: ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Services: 10 AM & Picnic after
Address: 815 Wilmot Rd.
Deerfield, IL

MAY 20: ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LADY CHURCH

Services: 8, 9 (Forum), & 10 AM
Address: 5725 Stearns School
Rd. Gurnee, IL

MAY 27: ST. MARK'S

Services: 8, 9:15, & 10:30 AM
Address: 393 North Main St.
Glen Ellyn, IL

CONT. PAGE 2

TRASH DUMP LESSONS

By Rev. Patsy McGregor, writings from her journal

Today, Todd and I drove into town for errands. Errands always require patience as Plan A almost never works out and one could go long into the alphabet before reaching plan G, which I call plan God. As we turn into the office building, I notice a large trash dumpster half full with tons of rubbish surrounding it. A young boy and girl are happily chatting as they pick through trash knee deep in search of treasures. The girl stops to play. A swing has been constructed out of rubbish twine and hung on the metal poles of the overhanging billboard. As she freely swings just inches over the trash, she smiles and sings as if life is wonderful. Never mind that she is in the dumpster. Never mind that she is searching for food scraps for her malnourished body. Instead, she swings contently as though she is in a beautiful green meadow with chirping song birds and red roses. What a positive attitude! Can I also find joy in the moment and happiness despite my circumstances? I have periods of greed and discontentment even though I have everything I could ever need, and more. May I learn to be content in all situations, just like this young girl swinging on twine in the trash dump.

PROJECT UPDATES



ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are excited to announce we have received the \$2,500 needed in order to purchase the 90 desks and chairs for the three classrooms. Thank you for your donations!



GUESTHOUSE CONSTRUCTION

The Cathedral Complex Guesthouse construction will be finished this month pending the \$7,800 still required for completing the project.



ST. MARK'S DEDICATION

St. Mark's Church in Betioky was dedicated on April 22nd. The service lasted 4 hours but time flew by with the excitement. It was a success with 250-300 in attendance and 47 confirmed.



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Engaging Partners in Evangelism,
Education & Economic Development



MY UNITED NATIONS EXPERIENCE

*By Nolavy Arisoa, Malagasy Evangelist and the Diocesan
Children's Ministry Coordinator*

I felt honored to be the representative for the Anglican Communion of the Indian Ocean Province for the United Nations 62nd Commission of the Status of Women. 800+ delegates from all over the world were in attendance from March 12th -23rd. The goal was to primarily focus on the challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women. Key discussions included poor work conditions, lack of education, unequal rights, sexual violence, and the effects of climate change on poverty. After hearing all the stories, I realized my own poverty experiences are similar to women all over the world. This gave me encouragement to take action. It's easy to think I can't help others because I myself live in poverty. However, through this convention, I realized I can do things to change my life and the women around me, despite poverty. As I return to Madagascar, I hope my experiences encourage women that a small start (i.e. making handcrafts) can bring about a big change.

UP COMING SPEAKING EVENTS:

Join the McGregors...

MAY 27: ST. DAVID'S

Services: 8, 9:30, & 10:45 AM
(Forum)

Address: 2410 Glenview Rd.
Glenview, IL

JUNE 3: TRINITY CHURCH

Services: 10:30 AM
Address: 8 Maple St.
Potsdam, NY

JUNE 3: ST. LUKE'S ON THE HILL

Services: 8, 9:15 (Forum) & 10
AM
Address: 40 McBride Rd.
Mechanicville, NY

PRAYER REQUESTS:

DIOCESE OF TOLIARA

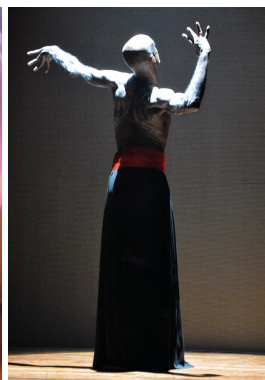
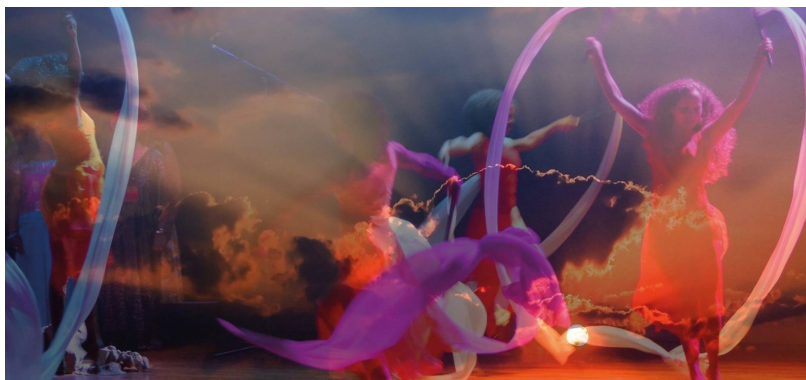
- Continual leadership developmental
- Filling the 4 parish positions
- Transition to living in Toliara for Bishop Samitiana & family, Rev. Derek & Jane Waller, and Jacky Lowe
- Increased financial support

PERSONAL

- Safe travel plans while in US

MINISTRY

- Increased financial support of McGregor's Ministry



MIARAKA: A TIME TO DANCE

By Kathlyn Appadoo

It started in 2012 when Rev Patsy McGregor collaborated with Collette Maurel and Diane Watkins to create the musical *Miaraka: A Time to Dance*. But the story behind *Miaraka* (meaning "together" in Malagasy) is not as simple as a meeting of godly sisters. In fact, what is amazing is the setting behind it. *Miaraka* was created to soothe Malagasy minds after cyclone Haruna. Patsy went to Collette in desperate need to calm the people with the use of her gifts. Patsy voiced the words and Collette created the songs. 50+ songs were written and *Miaraka* came to exist.

The play is far more than a simple play. The participants in the *Miaraka* project are evidence that God's work starts in the smallest and most sincere actions but is not limited to that. It came from a single note of music and got metamorphosed into a huge symphony. Now, the musical has been performed by Christians in Madagascar, Mauritius, South Africa, and the USA.

The storyline parallels the story of Mary of Magdalena. Mary, the main character, is a prostitute who finds herself drowned by dark thoughts and contemplates suicide. God intervenes in her life through her friend and she experiences the love of God. The powerful storyline focuses on vulnerability, hope, and union within the body of Christ.

Today, *Miaraka* is empowering marginalized women all over Africa that life is not only a "Time To Dance" but also a time for action! Similar to the play, women are encouraged to accompany Christ and leave their imprisoned lives. The *Miaraka* project encourages jewelry making as that freedom. By creating and selling jewelry made from re-used paper, women have a new life and are part of something great: God's work!

HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

PRAY:

See prayer requests above

VISIT:

If interested in a short term mission trip to Toliara, contact Corbi at cmcgregor07@gmail.com

DONATE: (VIA UNDESIGNATED FUNDS)

- Cathedral Complex Guesthouse: \$7,800 to complete construction
- Fenoarivo Church: \$2,500 to finish construction (floor, walls, and paint)
- New Guesthouse Construction: \$25,000
- Educational scholarships for 57 students (pre-school to seminary): \$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



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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On March 8th, over 1000 women gathered in prayer in the Toliara stadium to celebrate Women's Day. Rev. Noel led the service, Bishop Todd spoke about influential women in his life, and Rev. Patsy delivered the sermon. The *Miaraka: A Time to Dance* group sang songs and danced during the ceremony. It was an influential day as marginalized Malagasy women were empowered to stand up for what they believe and make a difference in the world.

VISITING THE USA

Bishop Todd and Rev Patsy have returned back to the USA for the summer in order to speak at churches, visit family (including a new grandson, Jabin) and enjoy some vacation time. Please join them at their upcoming events (listed on page 1 and 2). They will also be attending the 150th Convention for the Episcopal Diocese of Albany on June 8-10th. They would love to see you at any of these events so please come and say hi.

DIOCESAN TRAVELS

In April, Bishop Todd visited the Seychelles to chair the provincial Commissions on Mission and Evangelism. During the meeting, diocesan resources were created for social injustices, environment conservation, and evangelism. After, he and Bishop Samitiana visited rural diocesan churches. It was a difficult trip due to roads filled with thick mud and small ponds. Some highlights of the trip included dedicating new churches and performing baptisms and confirmations.

HOW TO DONATE:

ONLINE VIA CREDIT CARD OR ELECTRONIC TRANSFER:

visit <http://www.peoplereaching.org/how-can-i-help/donate/>

MAIL CHECKS TO SAM-USA:

Attn: Denise Cox or Julie Kirk, 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, OXF 6BZ

