



A MINISTRY OF BISHOP TODD & REVEREND PATSY MCGREGOR

GOD WAS MOVING, SO WE FOLLOWED



Bishop Todd and Rev Patsy are frequently asked the question "why did you decide to go into missions?" Well the answer is pretty simple. God called us and we went. There was a need so we tried our best to fill it. At age 18, Bishop Todd traveled to Nepal on a mission trip. This trip changed his life and made him realize he had a calling for missions and a calling for priesthood. Even with dating, Bishop Todd was focused on his calling. On his first date with Rev Patsy, he asked her what her goals were in life. Once they were married they moved to Chicago and attended seminary. Post seminary, they applied to be missionaries with Episcopal World Mission. When given an option on where to go they asked "where is the greatest need?" And that's how they ended up in Madagascar. Now it hasn't always been easy. I mean just imagine traveling half way around the world with two kids under the age of 2. But it was all worth it. As Bishop Todd always says "God is moving. So either we can sit back and miss the movement or we can jump on board and enjoy the ride." So that exactly what we did and now we have been on the mission field for over 27 years.

PROJECT UPDATES



NEW LAND

The diocese of Toliara is in the process of purchasing land in Ampanihy to build a church. There are currently 60-80 people meeting weekly under a tree for services.



CHILD SPONSORSHIP

Child education is a huge need with a national average education level of 4th grade. Mme Holy, the educational coordinator, is finalizing the child sponsorship program. Stay tuned for how to get involved.



DAYS FOR GIRLS

Dec 31 was an exciting day for the Days for Girls enterprise in Toliara. A team of 20 girls and educators from Carmel College in New Zealand visited the Women's Center. They delivered 40 kits their students had sewn.



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Engaging Partners in Evangelism,
Education & Economic Development



THE MALAGASY PEOPLE CHANGE THE HEARTS OF AMERICAN VISITORS

Lauren Mueller, age 22 and a student from the University of South Florida, was one member of the short term mission team from the Chapel of St. Andrew's that visited Madagascar in November 2018. The team came for approximately one week and they focused on partnership development with their sister church. One highlight of the trip was making pin wheels with the children. Lauren Mueller reflects:

"I don't think I will ever encounter something as life changing as my trip to Madagascar. The trip definitely had some hardships as I wasn't accustomed to being on an airplane for almost two days straight. However despite the hardships, our time in Madagascar really had a profound impact on how I view the world. The only time that I had encountered poverty at that level was on TV and even then it never hit me that people live like that, day after day. Even with that obstacle, I have never seen a more God loving group of people. During the long church services, seeing the young children hanging onto the windows edge, peeking inside the churches to see what was going on, always made my day. Their hospitality as well was a true reflection of their faith as they provided complete strangers with a meal when they themselves didn't have much. I look forward to my next trip there!"

PRAYER REQUESTS:

DIOCESE OF TOLIARA

- Continual leadership development
- Safe travels for Bishop Samitiana while traveling
- Famine in Southern Madagascar

PERSONAL

- General health

MINISTRY

- Increase in financial support of McGregors' Ministry
- Child sponsorship program
- Praise for new church land
- Continual expansion of the Days for Girls program



WILL YOU LIVE AMONG THEM?

An excerpt from Patsy McGregor's Book *Tamana: At Home in Africa*.

"Four neighbors are still sleeping outside the grass mat, covered like a mummy from head to toe, keeping the mosquitos at bay. A few women glance and smile as I sit at the window on the edge of my bed peering into the slum below. They carry their day's water on their heads after lining up to draw it from the community tap. A drunken man stumbles by. I say a pray and know God hears.

An older women from the 'deluxe' bamboo hut below prepares her family's morning meal of vary soso (rice porridge). The reason I say 'deluxe' is because their hut has a tin roof on a portion of it, bettering the most common grass thatch. A women carries her cooking pots from the bamboo hut where they are stored at night.

This is my neighborhood, my slum, where I live, reside and hopefully, thrive. You have brought me here, Lord, to transform me – to go beyond the concept of being comfortable in body and causing me to strive to be comfortable in soul. You are causing me to learn from these neighbors... the naked little boy who incessantly waves hello, the teenage girl who nods, "Salama" (Hello) with her chin, and the boy carrying his filled charcoal sack, hoping to sell a few pieces for his day's wages."

If you want to read more you can order the Rev. Patsy McGregor's three books (*A Guest in God's World*, *The Detour: An Off Road Safari*, and *Tamana: At Home in Africa*) about her life living in Africa from Amazon.

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)

- Fenoarivo Church: \$2500 to finish construction (floor, walls, and paint)
- Cathedral Complex Guesthouse: \$7000 to complete construction
- New Guesthouse Construction: \$25000
- Educational scholarships for 67 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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BISHOP SAMITIANA

Bishop Samitiana, the Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Tulear is traveled to England to attend the Diocese of Canterbury's Early Episcopal Ministry Course in February. He visited local churches and stayed with People Reaching People Executive Board Member, John Griffin. We are excited to see what will come of this trip.



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

This year the Diocese of Tulear has decided to focus on leadership development. For example, Reverend Lova is focusing on youth education, Rev Victor is dedicated to laity training, and Rev Theodore is dedicated on spiritual growth and biblical studies. Please continue to pray for leadership growth, specifically men and women daily seeking after God's own heart.



DRINKABLE WATER PROJECT

The Diocese has partnered with Water Integrity Global Outlook (WIGO) to distribute 100 water tanks with taps to provide drinkable water for multiple villages in the southern most part of the Madagascar. The Diocese built the bases for each tank and WIGO will be donating the tanks. This is a great blessing as for many of these rural villages this is the only source of clear drinkable water.

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, OXF 6BZ

