

Message about Madagascar: September 2020

Dear Friends,

“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.” Psalm 107:1

It's good to be in our own home again in the village of Mawsley. How beautiful our land is! Our special joy has been getting to know our 10 month old granddaughter, Rose. Truly the Lord is good!

We have left a part of ourselves in Madagascar and our friends there are much on our hearts. So we invite you to continue praying for them.

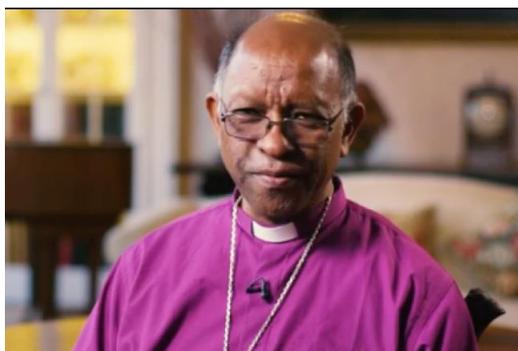
COVID-19 numbers are increasing and there have been more cases in Toliara Diocese. Because testing facilities are limited it's hard to get a true picture but it does seem that the increases are slow and numbers relatively small. So far the secondary impacts of the disease have caused more harm: e.g. stopping of vaccination programmes, closure of schools, rising food prices, lack of employment. Please pray for God's hand to stay this disease.

Here are three people for your prayers.

Bishop Todd: He and his wife Patsy plan to return to the US at the end of this year. Please pray for them in their last months in the Diocese. Pray for the choice of his successor.

Bishop Samy: As assistant Bishop, he will take temporary charge once Bishop Todd leaves. Pray for much grace and wisdom for him.

Rev. Florent: Our dear colleague is now the Discipleship Coordinator. He has done some training using Zoom (a first for the Diocese) for parishes far from the city of Toliara and some locally in person. The aim is to consolidate the Rooted in Jesus groups already begun and to stimulate the start of new groups. There are around 40 groups at present. Pray for the growth of disciples of Jesus through these groups.



We complete our service with CMS on December 31st and then plan to retire. Before then we hope to “visit” as many of our supporting churches as possible, either in person or virtually. We will send dates once they are known and hope that you will be able to join us at one.

Your support and prayers fill us with much gratitude to the Lord.

Thank you.

Derek and Jane

An additional message to Clergy:

We would love a final opportunity to share with the your church a) our gratitude for your support, b) stories of God's mission in Toliara and c) how you can be involved in God's mission.

Please let us know if you would like us to visit in person or if you would prefer a virtual visit. It would be good to talk this through with you. We are away for a week from September 25th so it would be good to chat before that.

The best number to call is: 07518 431223 or you can try 01536 799815