



BushNet

News from EMMANUEL INTERNATIONAL

GIVING PRACTICAL HELP - MEETING SPIRITUAL NEED



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Haiti, one year on.

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Message from International Director



One year after the earthquake...

A whole year has passed since the earthquake in Haiti, and the international media swooped down with a flood of coverage. There were uplifting stories about individuals or families who have rebuilt their lives. More often, though, there were stories about what hasn't been done: much of the coverage disparaged the progress made over the past year, and asked where all the money has gone -- or why it hasn't been spent yet at all.

One story which I believe the international media has missed is the story of the church.

And the reality is certainly bleak, in many ways. More than a million people were driven into temporary shelters in the aftermath of the earthquake, and only a fraction of them have been provided with transitional housing, let alone permanent housing. Driving around Port au Prince, tent

camps have sprung up on virtually every available flat surface: between buildings, in parks and public squares, even on the tops of roofs. And a quarter of tent camps do not have adequate water or sanitation, which has exacerbated the cholera epidemic sweeping through the country.

One story which I believe the international media has missed, however, is the story of the church – as a people and an institution. The church is seeing revival in Haiti. I think if we're truly honest with ourselves, most of us would admit that our first response would have likely been “*why me*” or “*where is God in this?*”

The response I heard the most often was “*Praise God!*”

In the aftermath of the earthquake there seemed to be an unending flow of Haitians with stories of miraculous near-encounters with death:

A child who was told by a stranger to take a



different road home.

A man who planned to go to his home, which collapsed, but who felt he should stay in the park a little bit longer.

A woman whose child was uninjured despite falling three stories.

A person pulled from a collapsed building, three days later.

In the turmoil many turned to God. At one point, in the week after the earthquake, our relief team and the OEGB were scrambling to get food and water to distribute to those in need, and one of the communities refused to accept anything we offered because they were fasting!

“I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.”

Philippians 4:12b-13

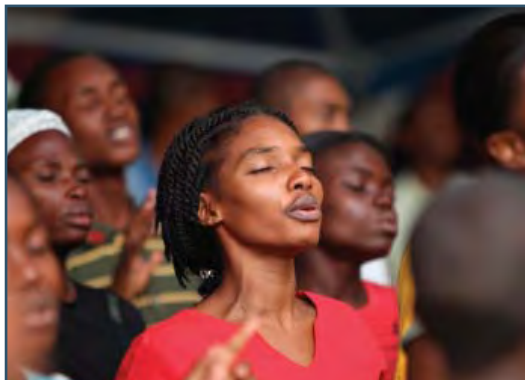
And on the anniversary of the earthquake, a rally of thanksgiving was organized by the Christian community in Port au Prince. From the rally announcement: “This is NOT an event primarily to cry and mourn for the losses of the past year. Although we [Haitians] are not afraid to recognize those things, the vision of this event is primarily to pray for the future transformation of the country and to offer thanksgiving to Jesus Christ. We [Haitians] are in the greatest revival in the history of the nation. Yes, many people died, but many more are being

saved.” It was not the only gathering of celebration, but it was certainly the largest. Leaders from more than 3,000 churches across Léogâne and Port au Prince organized the event, and more than 40,000 people packed the streets in front of the still decimated Presidential Palace, even climbing onto the roofs of the surrounding buildings.

The response I heard the most often was
“Praise God!”

It’s hard to get empirical proof. We don’t have a count of new churches or new believers. But the pastors who are working on the front-lines of God’s Kingdom, including those of the OEGB, are reporting a revival. The people of Haiti looked for God in the aftermath of the earthquake, and they found him. Which is a timely reminder for us, too. We certainly don’t want to forget the physical suffering of the Haitian people. We certainly will continue to do all we can to bring relief, reconstruction, and development. But when we’re overwhelmed by the need in Haiti, we need to remember to look for God in those situations. More often than not, he’s doing great things.

By Mike Botting, El Canada. Mike is working closely with our Country Representatives in Haiti, Pastor Martinez and Madam Emma Jovin. He provides them with support and channels funding to alleviate needs and rebuild lives. Also read his report on El’s work in Haiti on the next page.



Emmanuel International working in Haiti

Emmanuel International (EI) continues to work in Haiti, with our partner the Evangelical Baptist Church of Bethesda (the OEBB). Most recently our energies have been concentrated on the cholera epidemic, where we have been working to implement a 3 to 6 month program providing both prevention and treatment at ten centres where the OEBB has churches and schools.

The situation in Haiti is dire, with the World Health Organization (WHO) recently reporting that the toll has reached 194,095 cases and 3,819 deaths*. The WHO was originally forecasting that the outbreak would run its course in six months and lead to 200,000 cases, but with 200,000 cases reached in less than three months they are now saying it may be as long as a year before the epidemic has fully run its course.

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In the wake of the earthquake, EI and the OEBB used 10 OEBB churches and schools as emergency response centres, providing shelter, food, water, and emergency medical aid. Following the stabilization of Haiti, we have focused on temporary and permanent shelter, maintaining education through school feeding and salary supplementation, and rebuilding schools and churches.

As a known organization, with churches, schools, clinics, and emergency response activities, the OEBB was already being approached by community members seeking treatment. So, in partnership with the Christian Blind Mission, EI and

the OEBB have been working distributing soap and granulated chlorine for water purification to 1,000 households in high risk areas, and using the OEBB's churches, schools, and clinics as centres to treat 1,000 beneficiaries already affected by cholera, over the course of three months. This response is particularly important because the OEBB works in some remote, rural areas not serviced by other organizations.

*http://www.who.int/hac/crises/hti/haiti_health_cluster_bulletin_21january2011.pdf



Food for the school feeding program



Temporary school structure

Emmanuel International Annual Conference 2011

"The EIUK Annual Conference 2011 was a big success!" This the response from all those who attended - for the day or for the whole weekend.

Bishop Donald Mtetemela shared stories of his work in Tanzania and how God has called and used him to bring hope to those who live in conditions that lead them to despair. He reminded us that God has a role for each of us and that old age or retirement is no excuse to not listen to God's call! Our job as Emmanuel International is to be God's hands on earth - to lift people out of poverty in such a way that they see God's love and come to know Him.

Doug Anderson, EI International Director, shared his vision of EI as an international organisation and his immediate priorities as he is relatively recently appointed into this position. The Malawi summer team were interviewed by 7 year old Samuel Naudé, also a member of the team. Mark Simmons, FAR Country Director in Sudan, talked about his work and the mission in the country under very difficult circumstances. Andrew and Keeley Wickham returned from their mission in Uganda in December 2010. It was great to see them and the children and hear their report on the work they have done in Kampala.

We managed to set up a Skype video link with our team in Tanzania and they shared a bit about what life is like for them as missionaries and as families. We also video linked to Alan and Cheryl Parrett in Uganda and saw first-hand how they are doing.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday evening and was well attended.

The next conference will be held at Sunbury Court from 10 - 12 February 2012. Book this time in your diary!



The weekend kicked off with 'An Interview with the Retired Archbishop of Tanzania and Retired Bishop of Ruaha, Donald Mtetemela, who was also the keynote speaker of the conference



Some the attendees... there were 60 all together!



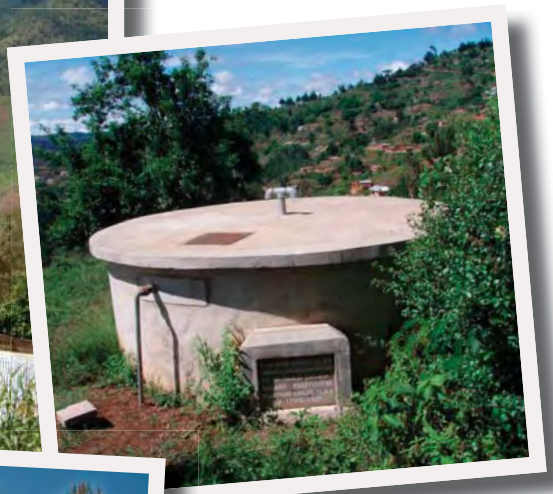
Displayboards depicting an update on the status of projects

Isanga Water Project

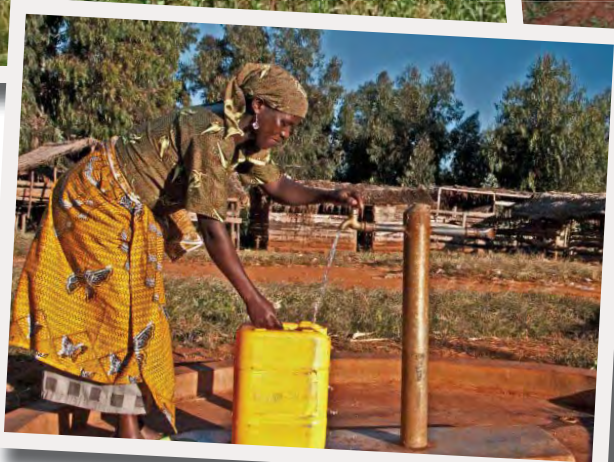
Households in
Isanga village



Water is collected from
the bottom of the valley



Water storage tank
in nearby village



Help the people of Isanga get
clean water... it can make
such a difference!

Dear BushNet Reader

Fill the gap: We can do _____ for the Isanga water project!!

The Isanga water project aims to provide clean water, improved sanitation and health education to the village of Isanga in a very rural and mountainous area approximately 90 km south east of Iringa in Kिलolo District, Tanzania. 5 years ago, a water project was run in the area to provide clean water and although Isanga residents contributed labour to the project, the funding ran out after a gravity piped water system was installed in neighbouring villages and left Isanga in desperate need of clean water. Now EI and the Anglican Diocese of Ruaha are looking to enable the community to extend the water system into Isanga so that water is provided to within 500 metres of each household.

Funding for this project is needed urgently: please do consider what fundraising you could organise or initiate in the coming months to contribute - no donation is too small! Could you, your youth group, your school, your church, your colleagues do a sponsored swim, cycle, run or walk; could you have an auction of promises; cook dinner for friends; host a coffee morning or jumble sale...

As EI is a registered charity in the UK, all eligible donations can be gift aided and it would be worth checking if the company you work for would match your fundraising effort. EI is also linked to Just Giving making it very simple to set up a page to send to your friends, families and colleagues encouraging them to contribute to your fund raising effort and the work of EI in Tanzania with the Diocese of Ruaha.

If you'd like any more information, publicity material, or can commit to doing some fundraising for the Isanga water project please contact the EI UK office.

Back where I started...

Doug Anderson is the International Director for Emmanuel Relief and Rehabilitation International, our head office in Canada as from October 2010.

Way, way back in 1978, I was a fresh-faced senior in seminary, thinking I knew everything there was to know about theology, faith and God's will. I was now ready to present myself as God's gift to Canada. I would soon fulfill my plan to become a pastor in my native Montreal, marry a beautiful girl, settle down and live the good life. But God had other plans.

A few months before graduation, He planted a radical new challenge in my heart, one that was unthinkable up to that point: "Go and serve the neediest people on earth!" And Jesus reminded me of His inescapably logical words to His followers – "*Freely you have received; freely give*" (Matthew 10:8).

Not having any idea what I was getting into, I sought an opportunity to go to the ends of the earth – and was introduced to a fledgling mission organization called *Emmanuel International*. I liked that name *Emmanuel* – "God with us." I wanted to be like Jesus, living among the lost and needy. And I soon found myself doing that very thing in an African village, VERY far from home... and loving it!

Needless to say, 2 years in a Nigerian village was a life-changing experience. Digging wells in the mud, experiencing the joys of malaria, making many African friends, preaching in my sandals in local churches each Sunday ... there was nothing more that I wanted from life. But most profound was my new, immense love and respect for the African churches and their amazing leaders. Such faith, zeal and joy – in spite of such poverty! To be their brother, their servant – was there a greater privilege on earth?

That was more than 30 years ago... and I'm even more obsessed than ever with the joy of helping churches serve needy people. A lot of water has passed under the bridge since that time – 10 years traveling the world, setting up new EI programs; then another 20 years living independently in the Philippines (my wife Beulah's home), where we brought up our kids and helped churches. (Yes, I DID get to marry a beautiful girl after all!)

Recently, we "immigrated" back to cold Canada, and I asked the Lord, "What next?" And He had another big surprise for me... bringing me back to where it all began, to that wonderful global family called Emmanuel International. Older now, and hopefully a bit wiser, I am as excited as that first day 30 years ago. What a privilege, to provide leadership to this worldwide band of committed servants. But even greater is the satisfaction of knowing what a difference we are all making together in the lives of multitudes of precious people. The love of Jesus changes lives, for now and for eternity. And the best thing about EI's ministry is how it encourages and equips churches in each country to better serve their own people.

As countless churches and needy people are helped through the ministry of Emmanuel International, may God get all the glory! He is so worthy and so good.



Doug, Beulah, Dave and Bev