



# the Emmanuel Connection

December 2015

## Focus on: Bertha Chavula



Bertha, HR Officer for EI Malawi, Bertha hails from Nkhotakota, Central Region of Malawi. She ended up in Zomba as she was following her husband, who was working here. She was a secretary at the Zomba Theological Education by Extension when she met Scott Maclean. Scott and Abusa Yakobe were developing study materials for the Leadership Training Program (LTP) and needed someone with translating skills to help. Scott invited Bertha to join the LTP team in 2004. Bertha has been with EI Malawi ever since.

Her roles have been varied. From LTP, she moved to administration (helping EBCM pastors train other pastors on HIV & AIDS through the Life Ministries program). When the Human Resource Officer for whom she worked resigned, Bertha applied and was taken into the position.

For the last 6 years, Bertha has been sharpening her skills in the HR field with studies and with practical application. She is responsible for knowing the policies and procedures of the organization (now, quite a sizeable document) and helping staff to understand their roles. She is the first go-to person when a staff member has an issue. Her kindness and soft-spoken confidence is a comfort and a guide to our staff. She serves on several key Personnel Committees.

In 1989, Bertha was attending a Youth Crusade and became convinced that, even though she saw herself as a good person, there was wisdom in knowing Jesus as her personal Savior. She loves God's Word and is active in her church, the Assemblies of God. She was part of the Praise and Worship team of her congregation and now she serves as a Deaconess, a role she loves. When asked what she finds important in life, she says it is prayer. She loves interceding for others. Isn't it a blessing that the HR Officer loves to pray for people?! She enjoys being a part of the EI family and delights in the times when the "EI Family" share in God's Word.

Bertha has two beautiful children, Steven (17) and Tamanda (14), both in high school. Her husband, George, passed away in 2000, one month after Tamanda's birth. She has been a single mother to Steven and Tamanda most of their growing years. We thank God for Bertha. She is His light in a special way and just being around her brings a smile!



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## Please keep these concerns in your daily prayers...

- 1 Philippines:** Ken and Ruth Copsey travel back to Davao from LA today. Both Ken and Ruth had family reunions and are grateful for all who prayed and blessed them on their separate trips.
- 2 Canada:** December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> mark the start of the 2014 audit process with Amanda Smith, who will be in the office for these two days.
- 3 Brazil:** Praise God for the arrival of Callum Adams and Rianne Offereins to work with Propac.
- 4 United Kingdom:** Tom Edom is in the UK on furlough until February. Please pray for both rest and refreshment, and for using the time well in preparation for returning to Pader.
- 5 Philippines:** Our (Ken and Ruth Copsey) small group is doing a Christmas outreach in Samal Island, just across Davao City, today. We have invited a clown whose forte is sharing the gospel through “magic” and we will be giving treats for all the kids there. This is in partnership with John, one member of our small group who started a ministry with the poor on the island.
- 6 Tanzania:** Andy and Angela Sharpe will leave the EI team in Iringa after almost 6 years of faithful service. They leave Iringa on 7<sup>th</sup> December to return to UK. We thank God that Andy will have a new role working with the EIUK office.
- 7 United Kingdom:** This evening Tom Edom is speaking at a group for retired men at his local church, Chichester Baptist Church.  
**Canada:** Scott and Lorilee leave today to head back home from their Mozambique/Malawi trip, which lasted 6 weeks. Pray for them as they head back to Canada and process all that they have learned, and as they consider the next steps in this journey.
- 8 Tanzania:** Benny Sanga will take over most of Andy’s responsibilities on the water projects. Please pray for him.
- 9 South Africa:** We (the Sayers family) would really like to have our visas and/or residency permits so that we can come HOME! We haven’t been back to Canada since 2012 and we are very keen to see family and friends again.
- 10 Brazil:** Praise God for the end of the school year at the Terena Bible School and for the 18 indigenous students that were able to finish this year of studies.

- 11 Philippines:** Ken Copsey is delivering a “Thanksgiving message” in one of the churches in the tribal village today.
- Canada:** EIC Staff and family are sharing a Christmas Dinner together.
- 12 Philippines:** The 14 Manobo mothers from a Primary Health class in Baroyon are graduating today.
- 13 Tanzania:** The whole EI team get together for a conference from 13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> December. The Monger family, together with Peter and Esther, will be joining us from Mwanza and we’ll be joined by ministry partners and friends of EI in Tanzania as we seek God’s vision for our work.
- Canada:** Richard and Lindsay are on the radio for 5 hours in a Radio Telethon, promoting the EIC Christmas Catalogue. Staff and friends at the office will answer calls.
- 14 Tanzania:** The Mongers are staying in Iringa after the conference and will celebrate Christmas there. Please pray for a good time of rest.
- Brazil:** These are the last weeks of work at Águas Formosas Day Care Center. Pray for the much needed resources to finish the building this year.
- 15 Uganda:** Tom Edom’s interest in the Deaf seems to have raised their profile Pader. They are now recognised and welcomed in church and quite a few people have begun to interact with them. Please pray that those with a good heart towards the Deaf may not even notice that he is not there (while he is on furlough), that support networks and friendships will continue to develop. Please pray for the Deaf themselves, that something or someone will help them to ‘get’ the gospel of Jesus.
- 16 South Africa:** The riots and unrest in the Township of Masiphumelele has settled for the time being but the main issues of policing and vigilantism has not been resolved. Pray for calm and peace.
- 17 EI Mission (USA):** Ken and Ruth Copsey are on a short home leave/donor visitation in December and would appreciate your prayers.
- 18 United Kingdom:** The EIUK office is closing for the Christmas season (from end of the working day today, opening again on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> of January). We wish you a very blessed celebration of the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ!
- 19 Malawi:** The relief teams are doing a lot of food distribution over this month and through to March. Please pray for safety, protection and for the message of Jesus’ love for those who are receiving food.

- 20 United Kingdom:** We are thankful for everyone who supported our work during this year. We praise God for our Board Members and ask for God's blessing on our work in the coming year.
- 21 Brazil:** Once the Propac building is ready, daily involvement with the children will be resumed. Pray for the staff as they plan for this, and for the children.
- 22 Malawi:** New members are being added to the EI Malawi Advisory Council. Pray that we will have God's choice of individuals.
- 23 South Africa:** We plan various camps and outings for for the Safe House kids during the holiday season. The house moms are also being sent away to getaway with other house moms from another organization. They meet often and will enjoy 4 days of relaxing in the Franschoek mountains!
- 24 Canada:** The Canadian office will be shut down from noon December 24<sup>th</sup> till Monday January 4<sup>th</sup>, with a skeleton staff operating over the Christmas week. Pray for travels and visiting family over this time.
- 25 Uganda:** As plans are laid for next year's Pads Ministry, and funding is sought, please be praying for the many girls that have received our materials and encouragement, and the many that we are planning to reach in the next 2 years.
- 26 Malawi:** Pray for our staff through this Christmas season, that time spent with Jesus will be meaningful.
- 27 South Africa:** We are looking for assistants in the ministry. The work load is getting too much for our current staff and volunteers and we would like help for mentoring, administration and bookkeeping. Please pray that we can find the right people.
- 28 EI Mission (USA):** EIM continues to search for solutions to our urgent need for a financial specialist to be a member of the EIM Board.
- 29 Tanzania:** We pray for the churches and pastors, that God would strengthen them as they celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 30 South Africa:** We hope to complete the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Safe Houses this new year. The delays have been a source of frustration but we are hopeful that the challenges are over and we can finish them very soon.
- 31 Haiti:** The rebuilt church in Marbial will be dedicated in January. Please pray for preparations for this event.