



the Emmanuel Connection

September 2016

Focus on: Esther Mnkeni



I thank God for giving me this opportunity to tell you a little about my life. My name is Esther Mnkeni. I am recently married to Baraka (manager of a youth centre in Mwanza); we celebrated our wedding on April 30th, 2016. I grew up as Esther Turuka, the third child in a family of eight children. I was born in April 1989 in the Tabora region. After graduating from secondary school in Tabora in 2010, I was selected to join higher education studies at the University of St Augustine, located in Mwanza Tanzania, studying pedagogy to degree level. I finished my studies in higher education in 2014 and received my pedagogy degree.

After my graduate teaching studies, I decided to engage in entrepreneurship and small-scale agricultural activities and this led me to work with Emmanuel International (EI). With EI, I work as a trainer and consultant on conservation agriculture. Working through local churches in several villages in the Mwanza region, the objective of this agricultural project is to help low-income people increase their income through agriculture. We have seen success for the participants of the project; now farmers we are working with cultivate skillfully and so increase their agricultural productivity, satisfying their needs with good crops.

In every success however, there are always challenges. In this project we have seen changes in weather, some farmers have disregarded instructions. Changing crop prices have discouraged farmers. But as agricultural trainers, we help to educate farmers on how they can expand their market of produce and how to cope with seasonal changes.

Personally, I would like to offer more education for villagers involved in subsistence agriculture, particularly on growing fruits and vegetables. I would like to provide education on small-scale entrepreneurship in this field.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank the people of EI for bringing the agricultural project to the people of Mwanza. It is consistent with the national agenda ("Agriculture First") and it will be a huge springboard for development for people with low incomes.

Please keep these concerns in your daily prayers...

- 1 Tanzania:** Amisadai and Louisa start Year 8 and 6 at school this week.
- 2 EI Mission (USA):** Pray for the successful transfer of US donors of David and Alyssa Forsythe to Emmanuel International Mission as they begin their new ministry with EI Canada.
- 3 Philippines:** A medical outreach is planned in one community that Ken and Ruth Copsey's small group's mission arm - SALT Inc. - is ministering in. There has been an outbreak of respiratory illnesses as well as dengue fever. Pray for the nurses in the group, that they maybe available to work on September 3 and that they can invite doctors who can do the consultation.
- 4 Malawi:** David, Alyssa and Judah Forsythe plan to be in Malawi by now. Pray as they settle into life in Malawi and begin language learning.
Tanzania: Tim begins teaching this term the Mission Course at the Bible College.
- 5 Uganda:** Recently there has been an influx of South Sudanese refugees into Northern Uganda. Pray that Paul and Anita Bertrand, as both Emmanuel and The Mailbox Club, will know how to best assist.
- 6 Canada:** As students return to school, pray for teachers and leaders in education, for renewed awakening in their heart, soul and mind that the beginning of wisdom is fear of the Lord.
Tanzania: Pray for the Upendo wa Mama Group as they move into a more permanent place to work. Pray particularly for a two day seminar this week for mothers on "Understanding Albinism."
- 7 Malawi:** The Malawi partner, Evangelical Baptist Church of Malawi, are gathering for their AGM and also electing a new director for the church.
United Kingdom: Lizzy Maclennan will be returning from Malawi today. Please pray for her safe travel and the impact of this experience on her life.
- 8 Tanzania:** The conservation agriculture training seminar will take place in Kayenze early this month. This training is starting with a new group of farmers from 3 sub-villages. Pray for these farmers and for good preparation for planting in their fields.

- 9 United Kingdom:** David and Tricia Rollett are prayerfully considering ministry with EIUK and would appreciate if you pray with them.
- 10 Tanzania:** Praise God for success in the Kiwere water project. 2000 people who used to spend hours fetching water now have a water supply close to their homes. Pray for the ongoing work in Kiwere providing health and hygiene training and equipping the water users association.
- 11 Uganda:** Pads: almost all of September is school holidays, so please pray for us as we buy stock, make pads and generally prepare for the start of term on the 26th. Then we'll need to move as quickly as we can, but not before all the children have reported, so that we can reach as many girls as we hope before the exams start in November. Please pray for us! We have enough funds in process to make a good start. Praise God!
- 12 Brazil:** PROPAC Day Care Center is facing a transition time in leadership. Erbeni Andrade has felt the Lord is leading her to work in a similar ministry in Rio de Janeiro.
- 13 Malawi:** Continue to pray for progress on the Word of Grace Malawi partner church's irrigation program.
- 14 Tanzania:** We are proceeding with applications for visas for Simon and Victoria Ewing. Pray that this will go smoothly.
- 15 Uganda:** A couple of Deaf families are more or less dependent on food aid support from us until their harvests come in. Please pray for wisdom to really help them and for good harvests.
- 16 Philippines:** There is a possibility for a parenting seminar among our Magindanaon parents in Cotabato. Pray for availability of the parents to attend and for open hearts and minds.
- 17 United Kingdom:** Simon and Victoria Ewing are fundraising and preparing for their plans to work in Mwanza, Tanzania in January. Please pray that God will provide in all their needs in order to allow them to fulfil their calling.
- 18 Brazil:** Pray for Pastor Jader Oliveira in his multiple tasks leading the Terena Church.
Tanzania: We need wisdom as we plan and fundraise for a new churches livelihoods and environment project.

- 19 Malawi:** Martin Katunga Phiri and the relief team are working with communities on the selection of the nearly half million recipients for food relief which is due to start in October.
- 20 Tanzania:** Give thanks to God for the VanWoerden family and the way he has healed Alex, Lara and Ezera of celiac disease. Pray that God will also provide the financial support they need for the girls' education.
- 21 South Africa:** Pray for the Sayers family and their work in South Africa.
- 22 United Kingdom:** End of September is the end of our financial year. Please pray as we prepare the accounts for the external evaluation by the accountants.
- 23 Canada:** We thank God that we have the opportunity to invite and connect with Emmanuel supporters at this year's EIC Free Fall Barbeque on Friday, September 23rd, 5:30pm at the Stouffville office. Pray that many will be able to attend!
- 24 Canada:** Scott and Lorilee's 2nd oldest son, Mitch Maclean, is writing his LSAT (law school admission test) on September 24th. Pray for peace and capacity to think clearly.
- 25 Brazil:** The Brazilian Indigenous Church Conference will be held in October at one of the Terena churches. More than 4,000 indigenous Christians are expected to participate in the conference.
- 26 Uganda:** Emmanuel International Uganda will hold the AGM in Pader on September 26.
- 27 Tanzania:** The Upendo wa Mama Group joins with other Albinism mothers for some Entrepreneurship Training this week.
- 28 Uganda:** We are making further inquiries into beginning a work with churches based in refugee camps.
- 29 Haiti:** Remember Martinez and Emma Jovin and the work they are doing in your prayers.
- 30 United Kingdom:** The Board is meeting at Trinity Church, Harrow today. Please pray for safe travels for everyone and fruitful discussions.