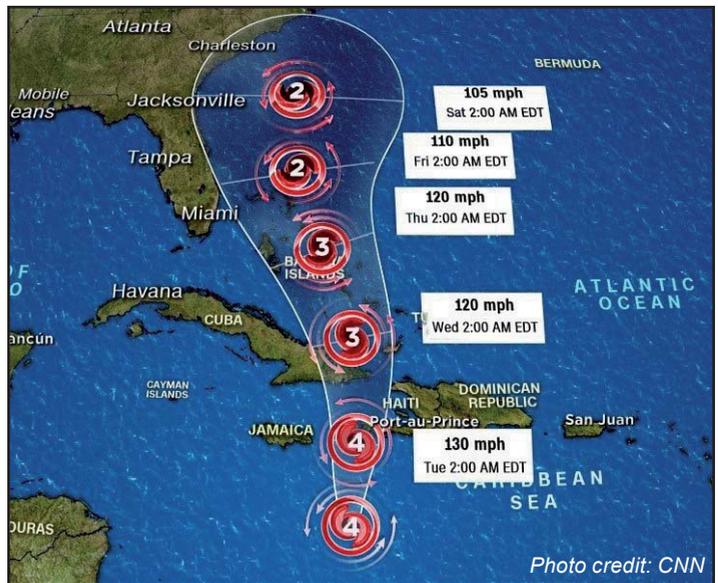


JANUARY 2017

Update on our work in Haiti

Daniel Jovin, son of Martinez and Emma Jovin, our EI Country Representatives in Haiti, writes to report on the affect of Hurricane Matthew on the areas we work in and the rebuilding of Font Blanc Church after the 2010 earthquake.

Hurricane Matthew, a Category 4 on the Saffir-Simpson Scale, made landfall on Haiti's southeastern coast on October 4, 2016 and had a devastating impact on the 1.4 million residents in the southeastern region. Hurricane Matthew was the most significant disaster in Haiti since the 2010 earthquake and the effects of Matthew left nearly 12% of the region's population (86,000 damaged houses and 99,4000 families displaced) in need of humanitarian assistance.



The path and strength of Hurricane Matthew

By God's grace, OEGB churches, school and clinics were not impacted by Matthew. However, many homes and livestock of church congregants and school families were impacted by Hurricane Matthew's winds of over 230 km/h. OEGB, in partnership with EI Canada, is planning to meet some of the home reconstruction needs that were reported to the EI mission.

Please pray that God would continue to use OEGB staff and pastors to help meet the needs of those impacted by Matthew.

God's faithfulness and grace remained evident in 2016 as the Font Blanc church was completed and inaugurated on November 6, 2016, a month after Hurricane Matthew. In partnership with El Canada, God has blessed the area of Cazal/Font Blanc with a new church building. The Font Blanc area/village is in the Cabaret commune in the West department and about 70 kilometers from Port-au-Prince. Historically, the Cazal/Font Blanc area is known for Napoleon Bonaparte's installation of a Polish military regiment in 1802. The Polish regiment was stationed in Haiti to help quash the Haitian Revolution.



Moving forward into 2017, please pray for the newly established pastor in the Font Blanc church, for Pastor Martinez and Emma Jovin and the faithful preaching of the Gospel in the Font Blanc area.



Sue's Uganda Visit

I spent 8 days in Uganda, a time designed to visit our team and meet with some of the people we work with and alongside. It was also an opportunity to look at the future of the work in Uganda as we prepare for the changes in April when Paul and Anita Bertrand leave. Being such a short time, it was very busy and most moments were filled with meetings or visits. I was hosted by Mike, Marianne and Tom (although I slept at a guest house a 10 minute walk away) it meant that as well as specific times to meet with each of them we had a number of our meals together, giving me time to hear how things were going.

The first meeting was at Bishop Lee Theological College where I was introduced to most of the staff and some of the students. The college is there because of the desire and need to train the lay leaders in the church. It was evident that the staff who were all volunteers were committed to the education of these students despite very little resources to help them.



Sue, Mike and Elias with the teachers

The students who I spoke to appreciated the opportunity to learn and were keen to get started regardless of the fact that the classrooms and accommodation are all very basic.



Bishop Lee College classrooms

We travelled to Kitgum to meet with the Diocese administration staff, this was more a chance to be introduced to the staff and hear from them what is going on in the Diocese and hear their view on the things we are doing together and maybe could do together.

Back in the EI office in Pader, Mike and I sat with Rev Patrick, the CHE (Community Health Empowerment) coordinator. He had prepared a report of the activities of CHE, the things that have gone well and the challenges, the way the project has been received and the positive changes it has made but also the things that have been difficult. He included his plan for future activities too. My favourite quote from him "I've seen the benefit, I don't want it to remain in me others need to benefit too so we move together".

Tom and I were treated to lunch at Milly's home where I also had the opportunity to hear from Milly. She gave me a report on the activities of the Pads Ministry. She shared with me the details of the project, how it works and her passion to be involved in assisting girls to continue in education through this project. I also got to see the materials and where the pads are made.

The Jesus Film is done in partnership with the Pentacostal Church and I had the chance to meet Pastor Donato

and his wife Jane Franka. It was very encouraging to hear of their vision for the work in Pader District.

One theme that came out in most of the meetings and conversations, was the challenge faced by the churches of helping people change their perspective on training. People's previous experience is during the war when organisations would pay them to come to a training, give them money for transport and feed them.



Thanks to Tom, Mike and Marianne for their hospitality. It was great to spend time with them and hear how things are going. Of course, it was also really fun to meet Elias.



Paul and Anita too were amazing hosts. I would like to take the opportunity to thank them for the work they have done with Emmanuel International in Uganda while also working with The Mailbox Club. Pray for them as they move from Uganda at the beginning of April.

Encouraging and equipping indigenous churches in Brazil



The leadership of the Terena indigenous church has launched a challenging plan for this year: to hold 8 conferences both in areas where the Terena churches are located and in villages where the Terena missionaries have been preaching the Gospel to other Brazilian indigenous nations. The conferences will involve churches from 25 different ethnic groups. Along with Bible teaching, lectures on holistic ministry and the importance of better nutrition, with hands on activities, will also be carried out. The goal with holding regional meetings is that people from more villages can attend them, without having to travel long distances. The Terena church leaders are aiming at reaching an average of 400 people in each conference and up to 1,000 in two of them. Emmanuel International is committed to working together with the Terena Church, helping support this great initiative that will bear much fruit for the Kingdom of God.

Dates for your diary
EIUK AGM and Conference:
4 February 2017 at City Temple
EIUK Summer Event: 8 July 2017 at
Trinity Church, Harrow