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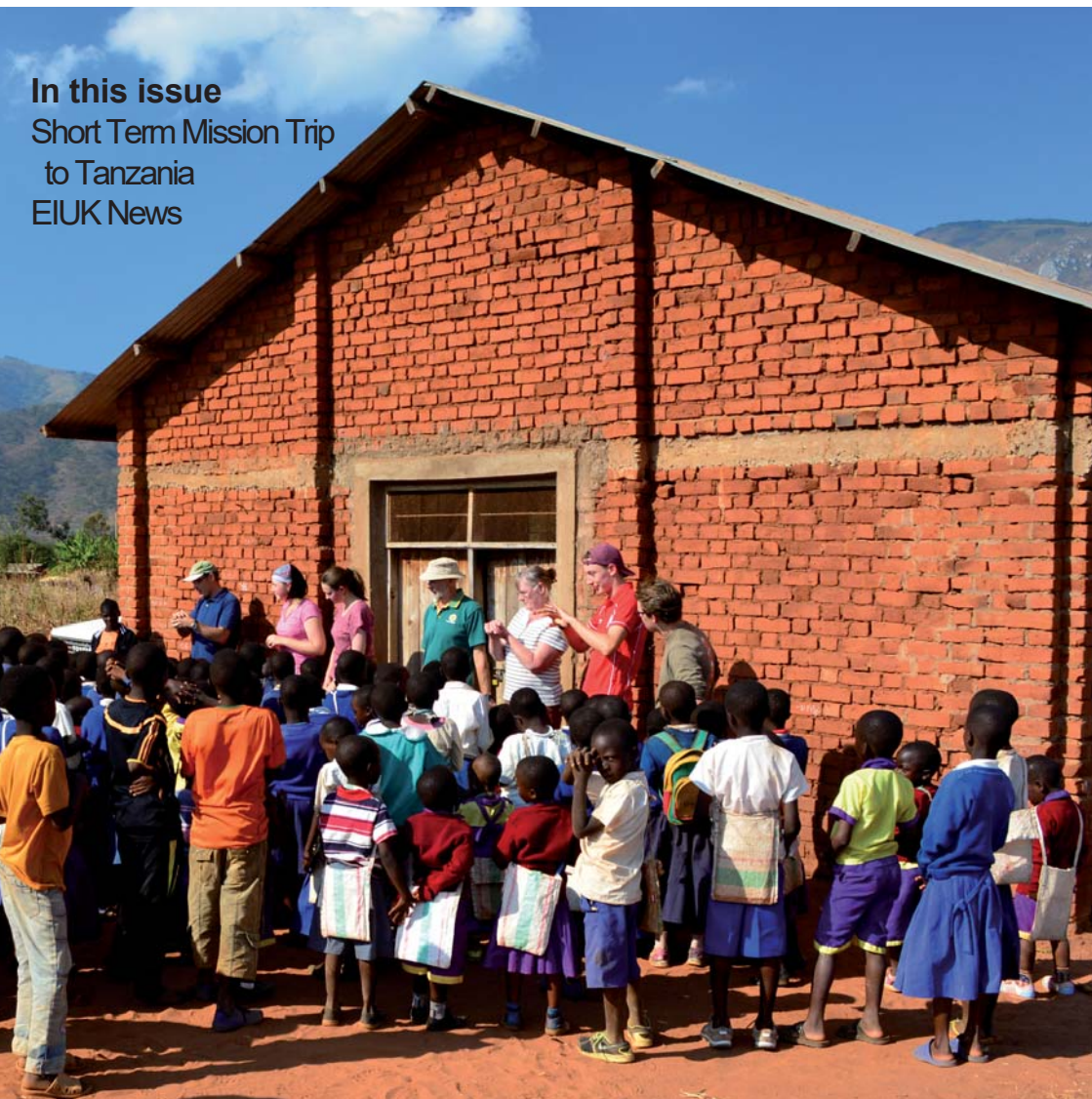
News from EMMANUEL INTERNATIONAL

GIVING PRACTICAL HELP - MEETING SPIRITUAL NEED

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EIUK News



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Short Term Mission Trip to Tanzania

Lynn Mears, Team member and Church Administrator for St Stephen's and St Leodegar's Churches, writes to tell us about the trip.

Myself and 12 parishioners dreamed about the chance to go to Tanzania, to carry out mission work with Emmanuel International UK. After many months of fundraising, we made it!

On Thursday 30th July, we met at St Stephen's church to start our journey. Sue Fallon, General Manager of EIUK and our team leader, joined us there. After 30 hours of travelling, including 3 airports, 2 flights and 1 very long bus ride, we arrived in Iringa.

We arrived at Andrew and Miriam's house and were made very welcome. We were introduced to their children, Ben, Sam and Bethany. Miriam had prepared a meal for us all. We met Angela and Andy Sharpe, Andre and Alexandra VanWoerden and their

children, the other EI families who live and work in Tanzania. Andy and Angela also would be working with us.

The next day, 2½ hours on the dirt road later, we got to Ibumu. This is where we would be spending the next 10 days, working with the children and helping to build part of a Secondary School.

As we approached the village, we were greeted by so many villagers! They were singing and dancing around the vehicles, it was amazing! We were very moved by it all. Everyone was so happy; they certainly made us very welcome.

After about an hour, we were shown into the village office which was to be our home for the next 10 days, where we would be eating, meeting and sleeping. The office had been set out for us and the team had three bedrooms: one for the men, one for the three younger ladies, and the third where I and the other four ladies would sleep. We were all very excited.

Every morning breakfast was served at 7am. On the Monday, it was *uji* and fresh fruit, which was very tasty. At 9am we made our way up to the building site, which was about a 30 minute walk, where the hard work began. I am an amputee and was taken up to the site by LandRover. I wanted to have a go at the building. The locals were really pleased to see us. Everyone soon got down to work. We would spend every weekday morning here. At 12:30 the team would walk back to the house for lunch, which was prepared by four lovely ladies: Lydia, Edna, Tula and Tabitha. Rice was usually on the menu, served with a variety of things.

At 2:30pm, the team would make another 20 minute walk up to the church, where a children's club would be held. We would do a variety of activities, including puppet shows, acting out bible stories, playing games, colouring and singing. The children were amazing; they have so little, yet still have an amazing smile on their faces. The club finished at 4:30pm and we returned to the village offices, in time to have a shower or to do our daily duties: this could be from cleaning the shower or toilets, washing up or collecting the water.

After dinner Andrew mentioned that Madame Pastor (Edna) would like it if someone could go to the nursery in the mornings to help out and bring some fun into their morning. The children were aged between 3 and 7. I felt I would like to do this, so I volunteered, along with some other team members. Throughout the days that I helped at the preschool, various other members of the team also volunteered to assist. What fun this was! The children were so appealing. When I first arrived, some were sitting on rickety benches and others on the floor. The first thing I noticed was that they had one small lead pencil between about 6 of them. Their school bags were made of flour sacks. They loved these bags and carried them everywhere they



went. These children were so attentive; they sat and listened to what was being said

to them. I was lucky enough to have Angela, who could translate what I was saying. They loved learning "Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes".

As our time went on, we met some wonderful people. The church services were alive with singing, dancing and true happiness. A couple of evenings were spent with members of the church, who came to our house for a time of worship. This was so uplifting! We had learnt a couple of songs written especially for our trip by Rob Newey. These were sung in English and Swahili. The locals loved them as well as other worship songs we sang in English.

On the second (and last) Tuesday, we were given the morning off from the building site and nursery. This was so that we could learn how to make the fuel-efficient stoves, used for cooking. These stoves take three days to make and up to 90 can be made in a day. The stoves are a very economical and efficient way to cook. When using one, you can cook all the meals for a week with the same amount of fire wood that a traditional 3 stone fire uses for one day!

Our time in Ibumu quickly came to an end. On the Wednesday afternoon, we were invited to a ceremony where the Pastor and local dignitaries presented us with many and generous gifts. The Stoves Group and the Church Choir danced and sang. This was quite a moving ceremony.

Thursday morning came and it was time to leave Ibumu. Before we left, we presented small gifts of appreciation to the people who had cooked for us and kept us safe. I think we all felt a little sad to be leaving.

We soon arrived back in Iringa. After a cuppa, we went to the Neema market for lunch and spent a couple of hours shopping. Neema Crafts is a project of the Diocese of Ruaha which helps disabled people to achieve a greater quality of life.

The following morning we drove to Tandala Safari. Two game drives were arranged for us. The animals were fantastic! We saw everything from elephants to leopard, and lions to zebras. The leopard was one animal which was difficult to spot, so we felt very lucky to be able to see this incredible creature up close.

Our trip of a lifetime was over. I would like to finish this article by thanking Emmanuel International for arranging this trip and to Sue Fallon, for her amazing organisation skills, humour, and patience with us all. She became an amazing friend, and support. We must not forget Andrew, Miriam, the three children and Andy and Angela for their hospitality.



Down on the building site...

Our daily trip to the building site entailed a 30 odd minute walk from our “base camp” to the site each day. Our first morning there, we were introduced to the tools of the trade: a trowel and a float. We were also told some important Swahili words: *tofali* (brick), *udongo* (mortar), *kamba* (string), *maji* (water) and *fundi* (builder). Then we were put straight to work, forming a chain and moving large piles of bricks to where we needed them. Once the *fundi* had built the corners and the first two courses of bricks on the first sections of walls, we were set to work, building - after we were shown how to use the tools correctly - under the *fundi*’s watchful and patient eyes.

The bricks were not at all like the uniform standard sizes that we have here in the UK. They varied in length, width and height as they are all made by hand and by different people. They all had a relatively flat bottom, and most had at least two straight edges. For the outer walls of the building, we were looking for bricks that had a straight and flat side or end.

I personally found that searching for the right brick with a straight edge, placing it, and then wiggling and tapping it until it was a trowel’s width away from the string line, was quite therapeutic. It was also a challenge to get it right. The *fundi* had to approve your handy work before you were allowed to continue with the next row. If not, they would put it right and show you where you went wrong. Once approved, we could fill in between the bricks with *udongo* (with a nice runny consistency), and then move on to the next layer.

What was very nice to see, as the days passed, is that there were more and more community members joining us at the building site. They were either mixing the

udongo, carrying the *udongo* to where it was needed, moving bricks about, or building the walls, which helped to make a lot of progress. So much so, that all the walls of the building were built to window height, barring two internal walls which were two courses short, and one gable end wall had been built to the top of window height! The *fundi* were also in the process of building the brick pillars in-between the windows.

The pace that the building was going up also meant that the demand for water increased. There was no running water at the site. There was a concrete water tank, built at the site, which held about 2000 litres when filled to the top. The water had to be carried to the site in buckets or barrels. This was mainly done by the local ladies, who carried buckets of water on their heads. There was also a man on a motorbike carrying a few barrels, and occasionally the local tractor and trailer, which delivered the sand from the local riverbed, also brought water.

There was a great atmosphere at the site: friendly and very patient *fundi* who had to cope with our varied building abilities, friendly and happy local people who were keen to muck in, and fantastic views of the surrounding mountains. This enthusiasm and energy for building continued as they dug and worked on the foundations for a preschool next to the church. The preschool children are taught in the church at the moment, which is not ideal.

I certainly enjoyed my time working at the site and being an apprentice *fundi*, learning new skills. I am sure that the rest of the team did as well. I would be happy to go back and do some more building!

By Robert Leeder



Amazing • Inspiring • Spectacular • Fantastic

What was the highlight of the trip for you?

"So many, but I'd have to single out the Welcome Party." *Heather*



Being served Holy Communion on the very first Sunday in Ibumu church. *Linda*



"The highlight of my trip was the community spirit shown by everyone in the village of Ibumu." *Molly*

What event or memory amused you?

"Watching the team scatter when being chased by the bees." *Steve*



"The journeys on the bumpy roads were quite amusing." *Iwan*

"The dignitaries who met us at the building site in their suits, but got stuck in with mixing cement or passing bricks!" *Linda*

What was different to what you expected?

"I was surprised how well we adapted to a simpler lifestyle and how much I enjoyed it." *Florence*

"The facilities were so much better than I had expected. The food was lovely, my bed was very comfy and I slept well basically



• Life-changing • Breath-taking • Rewarding

every night and even the toilet was better than I thought. I was worried there would be lots of spiders but I only saw 2 spiders in the entire trip, which I was very pleased about, a lot less than at home!" *Chloe*

How did this trip impact your faith?

"To see others (including our hosts) so dedicated to their faith made me aware of my own priorities." *Heather*

"I can't say that this trip has impacted my faith in any way. It may well have done but I am just not aware of it at the moment. It was fantastic worshipping with the locals, in the church, or at the evening worship sessions, to see how it varies to what we do, and to listen to their harmonised singing, which is inspiring." *Robert*

"It made me appreciate how no matter what your background, faith can be strong and fulfilling." *James*

"This trip confirmed to me that as long as you have your faith, you can work through anything; no matter how hard it seems." *Lynn*

Would you recommend a trip like this to others? Why?

"Yes. It helps you appreciate what you have." *Tom*

"I would recommend this trip to anyone, as it is a once in a lifetime experience that gives you a better idea of what is really important in life." *Andrew*

"Without a doubt! I cannot explain to anyone the overwhelming experiences you encounter, you have to live it to fully understand and appreciate it." *Lynn*

"Although we have unlimited access to 'stuff'- (possessions) in the 'West', a mission trip to another much poorer country endorses how unnecessary this 'wealth' is in order to be content in our own circumstances." *Gwen*

"It is a great experience to have and very interesting to learn about a completely different culture and be able to teach each other." *Chloe*





Kiwere Water Project

During the recent trip to Tanzania by St Stephen's Church members, as the designated photographer, I was lucky enough to have the pleasure of accompanying Sue Fallon to the Kiwere Water Project. We witnessed first-hand the work being done by the villagers and EI in bringing water direct to the village. At present, to obtain water for drinking and cooking, the villagers have the option of either walking downhill several kilometres to the nearest river - with the challenge of then carrying the drums of water back up-hill in the heat of the day - or purchasing river water from one of the villagers who drives around with it on his wagon. Washing of clothes is done down at the river, which again requires items to be carried all the

way down, washed, dried and then carried all the way back.

With EI's assistance, the villagers are now digging a 9km trench to a source of water, which being 30m higher, will be gravity fed to supply a constant flow of water to 11 points around the village. It will have a life-changing effect on all those living there.

Witnessing what the people have to go through at the moment makes it so evident what we take for granted in our daily lives when we simply turn on a tap, open a bottle of water or put clothes in a washing machine. However, seeing what a difference the water points will make for the village, shows how the efforts will be so worth it and benefit everyone (except perhaps the man selling river water).

By Steve Monk

EIUK News

Callum Adams and **Rianne Offereins** are going to work in the Propac Center in Brazil, spending 6 months there to assist the staff.

Andrew, Miriam, Ben, Sam and Bethany Wingfield, are back in Iringa, Tanzania and **Tim, Rachel, Amisadai and Louisa Monger** are back in Mwanza, Tanzania.

John and Samuel Naudé are back home in Zomba, Malawi.

Andy and Angela Sharpe, working in Tanzania, and **John and Christine Raby**, working in Malawi, are returning to the UK at the end of the year.

Annual renewal of the **EIUK Membership** is due. For more information, please contact the office.

The **EIUK AGM** and meeting is taking place on Saturday 6 February 2016.