



# the Emmanuel Connection

October 2015

## Focus on: Andre and Alexandra VanWoerden



Andre and Alexandra VanWoerden just joined the EI team in Tanzania but they are not new to the EI family. They joined EI Canada in 2008 and served in Malawi for two years, where Andre was involved in primarily agriculture development as well as a wide variety of other projects, including shallow wells, bicycle ambulances, orphan care support, etc. Malawi was a great experience for their family and God confirmed their calling to missions. When they were leaving

Malawi, they briefly pursued the possibility of working with EI in Tanzania but there were no opportunities at the time. However, five years later, when they were actively seeking opportunities for their family to serve in missions, God opened up a perfect opportunity to serve in Tanzania.

Andre has a background in forestry and theology and God has given him a passion for community development through the local church. He will be working with the team in Tanzania to promote the use of the fuel-efficient stoves and to incorporate complimentary initiatives such as tree planting, agroforestry, and conservation agriculture. Alexandra also will be joining the team as project administration officer doing bookkeeping and monitoring and evaluation and is excited to be able to use her business skills.

Currently Andre and Alexandra are studying Swahili full-time to enable them to communicate with the people of Tanzania. Their girls are attending Iringa International School. They have four daughters: Lara (11), Talia (10), Ezera (8), and Aniya (4), who are all adjusting quite well to their new life in Tanzania, thanks to a great community of people who have welcomed the VanWoerdens to Tanzania.

Andre has a degree in Natural Resource Sciences and a Master of Divinity and Alexandra has a degree in Tourism Management.

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

- 1 Uganda:** Annie and I (Paul Bertrand) will be in Ethiopia from October 1-15 to meet with existing partners, explore new opportunities for expansion and find the right person to fill the role of The Mailbox Club country coordinator.
- 2 Tanzania:** The Upendo wa Mamas Group in Mwanza are looking for a place to meet and resume work. Also pray for protection from witchcraft attacks of people with albinism during this month before the election.  
**Brazil:** Queixada Church was dedicated on September 26<sup>th</sup>. Praise God! We give thanks for the EIUK Summer Team that came in 2012 to help the Queixada brothers and sisters.
- 3 Tanzania:** On 3<sup>rd</sup> October Benny Sanga is getting married to Rhoda Mbilinyi. Pray for a great celebration and for God to bless their marriage.  
**Tanzania:** The Vanwoerden family appreciates your prayers as they continue to settle into life in Iringa; especially for the girls at their new school and for Andre and Alex as they continue with their intensive Swahili course
- 4 Uganda:** Pads: Please pray that as we try and get back into the groove of re-visiting our previous schools to try and provide for the 'new' 12 year olds we will not loose any time. This is the final term and, for us, ends early due to end of year exams getting in the way.
- 5 El Mission (USA):** We would appreciate prayer for the Copseys: Ruth's father, Frank Matias and Ken's mother Marjorie are in fragile health, and they are planning to return to North America in November to visit them; Ruth to Canada and Ken to the US. Ken also needs some medical attention while visiting with his mom in Texas.
- 6 Philippines:** In our scholarship funding project, we have 31 students who need help with tuition, miscellaneous expenses, transportation and meals. We need 200 Canadian Dollars per student per semester. Please pray that we will be able to get the initial amount required so that the students will be able to get on with their studies this second semester.
- 7 South Africa:** There has been an increase in violence and vigilantism in many of the townships around Cape Town. In September, many people in the informal settlement we work in took 'justice' in their own hands and beat and burned to death 2 men 'accused' of rape and drug dealing. The mob was uncontrollable and even burned a police van. Pray for the mothers and children at the safe houses as they are afraid to walk to school.
- 8 Uganda:** October will be our (Tom, Mike and Marianne) last full month in Pader before furlough and 3 or 4 months at home. Please pray for grace and energy to finish the work and to deal with the inevitable last minute workload that occurs as we wrap things up.  
**Philippines:** Pastor Noel Taban is recuperating after a heart operation in the USA. Please pray for return to good health.
- 9 Malawi:** This is John and Christine Raby's last month with EI Malawi and, for John, it will be a time of handing over responsibilities to his replacement, a position that is still being filled. John and Christine have been a huge blessing to the EI family and Zomba community. We will miss them. Pray for them as they head back to their home and family and the readjustments they will face.

- 10 Tanzania:** We (Tim and Rachel Monger) have started working with the farmers in Kayenze for the agricultural project. Pray as we complete planting and for these seeds, both physical and spiritual, to take root and grow and bear fruit.
- 11 Uganda:** Please continue to pray that Tom's various times with the Deaf - in church, in the school, in the garden and in the health centres etc. - will be blessed and used by the Lord.
- Haiti:** Please pray for our work and our people in Haiti.
- 12 Tanzania:** The Stoves Group in Tambukareli in the Mwanza region need prayer that they could fire their stoves and start selling; as well as for a leader, who could take this work forward into more projects, to emerge.
- 13 Philippines:** We are discipling our Awana program volunteer leaders. Please pray that they might continue to be steadfast in their commitment, that the children coming might increase in the future, and that we will be able to move it to Saturday afternoon.
- 14 Uganda:** Pads: All being well, we will have finished the 10 school sub-project for ActionAid by now and the accountability will have been submitted and accepted! Please give thanks for the opportunity to help around 800 girls with ActionAid funding.
- Tanzania:** The construction of the intake works for Kiwere Water Project needs good progress this month as the rains will start in November, bringing a rising river water level. Construction needs to be finished before then.
- 15 Tanzania:** Please pray for the finishing touches to the Ihomasa Water Project. While the water supply system has been up and running for several months, we are still working with the community on the formation and training of a water users association and mobilising the community to improve their latrines. On the 15<sup>th</sup> of October there will be an opening celebration for the project; pray that God will be glorified through this.
- 16 Malawi:** The new Evangelical Baptist Church Malawi (EBCM) management team was elected to their positions on September 10 and handover will continue through October. Pray for the new team as they take up their responsibilities and for good inter-team communication.
- 17 Tanzania:** Jesca Mgimba is training the new stoves groups in Mawambala, Lyamungwe and Mangawe, and also supports and encourages the existing stoves groups. Now that we have 8 active stoves groups, there is a lot to do.
- 18 Philippines:** We are working on the budget for 2015-2016 and also need to close the 14-15 books for the financial year end. Please pray that the audit will be on time.
- United Kingdom:** We are preparing the papers required for the accountants after the end of the financial year in September.
- 19 South Africa:** We still covet your prayers for our visa/residency permits. We are going to the Home Affairs office again in the next weeks to see if they have been processed. The waiting has been very unsettling as we also try to make plans for the next 2 to 5 years.
- Brazil:** Sérgio and Beth Souza are seeking God's lead for their life and ministry in 2016.
- 20 Canada:** Please pray for El Malawi, the Evangelical Baptist Church of Malawi and Scott and Lorilee MacLean of EIC who are discerning together, through face to face meetings in Malawi and a vision trip to Mozambique, future ministry needs and opportunities in Mozambique. They are leaving on 20 October.

- 21 Uganda:** Mike, Marianne and Rev Patrick are teaching 2.5 days each week at Bishop Lee College this month. Please pray for them and that the necessary preparations, including handing over of certain administrative duties, will be done smoothly before Mike and Marianne go on furlough (starting November 5th).
- 22 Malawi:** Pray for the EBCM pastors who were on the management team and are now seeking God for what is next for them, for decisions that need to be made as to their futures.
- 23 Brazil:** Fred Silva and Tarcísio Porto are discussing the possibilities to reshape the Partner Church model in Brazil and would appreciate your prayers.
- Canada:** Paul Crowe creating a 2015 Christmas Calendar. Please pray for him as he gathers, plans, prepares and creates it. Pray also that God would prepare the hearts of many, especially His people, to give generously, and that we would take to heart the theme of one local church: "Less under the tree... more to the world".
- 24 South Africa:** Pray for our church as we continue to grow numerically but more importantly, spiritually. We had one young man, Greg, who had been coming for years and convinced of his Christianity until we examined his life. He was broken by his sin and now confesses Christ as his saviour. He's a completely new man! This small victory makes the years of effort sweet.
- 25 Tanzania:** Please pray for the national parliamentary and presidential elections taking place today in Tanzania, especially that they will be conducted peacefully. This year tensions are running high as the opposition parties are gaining ground and many people are longing for change. The ruling party has much to lose and there has been reports of politically motivated violence in the build up to the election. Pray for the right party and president to lead the government and for peace to rule the process, also when the results are made public.
- 26 Canada:** Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) budget requirements are being finalised. Please pray for the wisdom, patience and diligence needed. Pray that the potential beneficiaries of this project will be kept in the forefront of the various decision makers and that any unnecessary delays would be averted in the process of fulfilling government requirements.
- Philippines:** We need another board member to join our ERRP Board.
- 27 Malawi:** Word of Grace, our partner church, are having their annual general meeting from October 27 to November 1. They have also just ordained 4 new pastors in their church which is a great help to Moses, who has been on his own till now as the Pastor leading the church.
- 28 Uganda:** Today Paul and Anita Bertrand will be going back to Canada and the USA for The Mailbox Club's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- 29 South Africa:** We are nearly there with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Safe House and keen to finish the renovation and open the doors! Please pray for the funds to come in.
- 30 United Kingdom:** The EIUK Board of Trustees are meeting today in Trinity Church, Harrow.
- 31 Tanzania:** We have been trying to visit the other stoves groups started last year and the year before, all of whom are facing various challenges but we thank God for small progress that we have seen.