

# DOWN to EARTH

Emmanuel International UK News  
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### A Project is Bee-ginning to Buzz!



*Tim and Rachel Monger work in Mwanza, Tanzania, together with their daughters Amisadai and Louisa. Rachel writes to give us an update on the beekeeping project.*

We are buzzing here in Mwanza! It was a year ago this October that we put out our first top-bar hive, baiting it with melted beeswax and surrounding it with lemongrass, sweet water and flowers. It has taken a year of learning, experimenting, failing, trying again, meeting significant people able to help, and maybe even a few waggle dances and a new snazzy hat, but finally things



are bee-ginning to come together for an Emmanuel International Beekeeping Project in Mwanza in February 2016!

We are excited about this beekeeping project which connects many dots in the work we are doing with the rural churches in the region. It will integrate with the Conservation Agriculture project. Farmers involved will be able to have hives in their fields which will aid crop pollination and yields. Amazingly, we discovered that for a beekeeper offering pollination services to a farmer, what is 500Tsh benefit for the beekeeper is 10 000Tsh for the farmer! Planting trees and gardens will also attract and encourage the bees to stay and benefit the whole environment. The beekeeping project will also integrate with Mamas groups such as the Upendo wa Mama (Albinism) group. The women will be able to use beeswax and honey to make value-added products such as lip salves and other cosmetics, candles, batiks and medicines as part of income-generating projects. The sale of honey will benefit all the beekeepers, integrating with Village Savings and Loans schemes and providing extra income as a means of alleviating poverty. Working through local churches, the beekeeping groups will meet together, integrating discipleship and evangelism as the Word of God is shared to all and God's heart for transformation is demonstrated.



**Joseph and Tim putting the final touches on the top-bar hives.**

### **The Bee Journey So Far**

“It is impossible for us to fail!” These were the words of Innocent Lukinda, a member of a TAG church here in Mwanza and a beekeeper 750km away in Kigoma. He became a friend as he helped us establish our own hives at home. But it took a long time for us to believe him! So much effort went into finding and keeping bees. Gearing up with overalls and smoke, sussing out rooftops and perilous tops of poles. Collecting up honeycomb (and bees) in cardboard boxes. Happily watching bees busy making themselves at home in our hives only later to be sadly watching bees struggle and die without their Queen. In further efforts to learn and progress, last year I attended the Apimondia Symposium on African Bees and Beekeeping in Arusha and learned so much about the possibilities and scope of beekeeping for development in Tanzania. I was learning about marketing honey and value-added beeswax products; about using honey for wounds and skin cream (connecting the dots with the skin conditions of people with albinism) and learning about equipment and sustainability. But still it remained just a dream without bees!

Finally, it was while we were in the UK, that the bees arrived. According to our gardener, they arrived on July 11<sup>th</sup>, the day of the EI Conference; the day that David Varcoe prayed enthusiastically that the bees would “already be there.” And then they were there! Praise God!

A few weeks ago I ventured down to the hives in the dark with Innocent, with just a torch and long piece of wire. We checked the two hives and were amazed at the numbers of bees busy! Innocent thinks we will be harvesting gallons of honey and lots of beeswax at the end of November!



**The bees have arrived!**

### **The Bee Project Plan**

So where are we going with these bees? At the beginning of February next year, we have a beekeeper, Julian Wilford, (Bees Abroad) coming from the UK for two weeks to provide beekeeping training. Working alongside the churches we have relationship with, Julian will train a group of fifteen in Kayenze and another group in Malya on the basics of making hives, keeping bees and harvesting honey and beeswax. He will return, coming twice a year for 3 years to ensure the members of the groups become fully capable and profitable beekeepers. Julian’s wife, Zoe, is also coming and she will work with women’s groups in

Malya and the Albinism Mamas Group in Mwanza, training the women how to make value-added products with honey and beeswax.

The members of community beekeeping groups will continue to work together, meeting for Bible Study and prayer, operating their own Village Savings and Loans, supporting one another and sharing equipment and later training others in their community.

So we're on a journey and we have a plan and this is only just the bee-ginning...



**Rachel preparing the hive with honeycomb and melted beeswax.**

*Tim and Rachel have shared many more adventures about their beekeeping trials and tribulations, and successes and joys, on their blog: [themongers.blogspot.com](http://themongers.blogspot.com). Just search for "bee".*

## Baby Carr



Martin and Thalia Carr are glad to announce that they have become grandparents! Their son Jamie and his wife Mary became proud parents on 6 October of a lovely daughter, born 6am and weighing a healthy 4.42kg! Martin and Thalia are EIUK alumni to Uganda and Martin serves on the EIUK Board.

## Benny and Rhoda Sanga



Benny Sanga, Water Project Worker in Tanzania, got married to Rhoda on Saturday 3 October 2015. Our warmest wishes to the happy couple!

### Dates for your diary

**Board of Trustees Meeting:**

13 November 2015

**EIUK Annual General Meeting:**

6 February 2016

# News from and about Brazil!

Fred Silva attended the dedication of the Queixada Church on 26 September.



Fred writes: “The joy of so many brothers and sisters who worked hard to finish the church building was contagious.

It was also a time to thank so many who helped that dream that started 30 years ago come true, including EIUK and the Summer Team from Chichester Baptist Church.

“It was a great blessing to see so many people attending that special service and their joy for this great accomplishment.”



## Answer to a 20 year old promise!

Mrs. Nem is a worshipper at Queixada Church and she has always taken care of the church. About 20 years ago, a Christian man told her that God was saying she would hold the key of a large church in her hands. In human eyes that seemed impossible, but last month God’s promise was fulfilled! Mrs. Nem’s testimony was one of the highlights of the dedication service.



The old church at Queixada.

## Callum Adams and Rianne Offereins are off to Brazil!

Callum and Rianne got their visas for Brazil, raised the funds they need and packed their bags, left the UK on 28 October and arrived safely in Brazil. They will be there for for 6 months, helping Erbeni Andrade at the Propac Centre in Águas Formosas.

