

DOWN to EARTH

Emmanuel International UK News
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MARCH 2016

Flooding in Pawaga, near Iringa in Tanzania



In February 2016, following extremely heavy rains in both the West and the South of Pawaga in a very short period of time, the unprecedented volume of water burst the banks at the confluence of the two rivers and people awoke to find water rising rapidly engulfing their homes. People scrambled to the only high ground available - termite mounds - whilst others climbed trees to escape the water. It is fortunate that the flood occurred in the daytime and not during the night, or else many would not have made it to dry ground. The people watched as their homes, possessions and food got washed away and their crops were destroyed.

EI has been working in Pawaga with the fuel efficient stoves project since 2011. Simon Mpogola, chairman of the Itunundu/Kimande stoves group and also evangelist of the Anglican church was among the victims. He (pictured

above in the green shirt, carrying one of his children to safety) and his family were stranded on a termite mound for two days until the emergency services helped them to safety.

The government responded quickly with support for the two villages that were flooded: Itundundu and Kisanga.



Families live in a camp of temporary shelters and makeshift dormitories provided by the government.

Miracles

Amidst this terrible situation there is much to be grateful for. No lives were lost to the floods and the government has been proactive in its response. EI staff visited the area and listened to some of the victims recount incredible stories of what happened and how they were rescued. Many residents of the main village of Itunundu who were not affected by the flooding have opened their homes to people who have been made homeless by the flood. We also learned of at least two miracles - two mothers gave birth to babies on termite mounds while awaiting rescue.



Baby Esther (above) was put in a bucket as her family waded to the rescue boat.



Baby Amina (above), was rescued by helicopter with her mother.

We are grateful that these two babies are doing well but their mothers are sleeping on the floor in relatives' homes.

Relief

EI, working through our partner church the Anglican Diocese of Ruaha, has also been able to provide food and clothing which was donated by churches and individuals in Iringa town.



We have also received generous gifts in the UK but more help is needed, especially for food. **Approximately £10 will buy enough maize flour to feed a family for a week.** You can send a cheque to EIUK or donate online on our website (please use eiuk.org.uk/cms2/blog/2016/02/26/2734).

Marbial Church

The new church building in Marbial, Haiti was dedicated earlier this year. The building has been rebuilt after the earthquake of 2010.



Praise be to God!

International Women's Day

On 8 March 2016, women all over the world celebrated the social, economic, cultural and political achievement of women. In Iringa, 500 women walked through the town. This was part of International women's day of prayer, which took place on 4th March. The walk, followed by a service of prayer, was organised by the interdenominational alliance of churches in Iringa (of which Jesca Mgimba is a leader).



In Kaning'ombe village, there was a fuel efficient stove promotion. Women from the Lyamungwe stove group demonstrated how the stoves improve the lives of women by reducing indoor smoke and reducing the time required to fetch firewood.



Recently returned from the field

John and Christine Raby



John and Christine worked with EI Malawi for 2 years. They returned to the UK in November 2015. They were speakers at our Annual Conference in February, where they shared about their time in Zomba.

Andy and Angela Sharpe



Andy and Angela returned to the UK in December 2015, after 6 years in Iringa, Tanzania. Andy will continue to work part-time with EIUK, helping to source funding and with marketing Emmanuel International's work at churches and other organisations.

Dates for your diary

Board meeting: 20 May 2016

EIUK Summer Event: 9 July 2016

John and Samuel Naudé



John and Samuel returned to the UK on 25 March, after 3½ years of serving in Malawi.

John has been appointed to the post of Associate Vicar at The Point church in Burgess Hill, West Sussex. He'll be working with Will Kemp, the Vicar, and a fantastic team of people. John will be licensed on 23 April 2016.

Bernard Lane



Bernard, an EIUK Board Member, was licensed as Team Vicar at Rockbeare on 21 March 2016.