

AUGUST 2016

Rural Island Community Health

Rickety wooden shacks, rickety wooden boats, a mountain of bright red coke bottle crates and a depth of lush green trees. This was the sight that met our eyes the first time we arrived on Kome Island. Kome, the second-largest Tanzanian island in Lake Victoria, has a surprising population of around 27 000 people which include three main tribes, the Wasukuma, Wajaluo and Wazinza.



Kome Island

It is on Kome Island that a health clinic has been established by our good friend, Dr Bernard Makori. While serving the local area, the aim is also for the clinic to be used as a base for mobile clinics to surrounding areas and more remote islands. Dr Makori currently employs another doctor and 2 nurses who work on a rotational basis.

With Dr Makori, we share a passion to see the people of rural and remote islands in Lake Victoria transformed - physically and also spiritually.

There are many physical needs on these islands. Unsafe water and poor sanitation are huge causes



Dr Bernard Makori, a member of Mwanza International Community Church, is a practicing doctor in Mwanza with a huge vision to help the people of Kome and other islands. He is the Director of Rural Islands Community Health (RICH), an NGO he started to provide medical care and health education for the people on islands. The needs on these islands are great. The islands can be hard to get to and few from the mainland want to go there. Islanders often feel neglected with basic needs like clean water, health care and education going largely unmet. Dr Bernard wants to change this!



The Clinic on Kome Island

of health problems. There are so many cases of amoebiasis, bilharzia, worms, dysentery... Another huge problem is HIV AIDS. The spread is rampant here, with a staggering percentage of the population infected (we have heard this could be as many as one in every three people). This is largely due to the fishermen who earn a great deal from their catch and spend that money quickly on local women and alcohol.

Malaria and typhoid are common diseases. Many times people look first to witchdoctors for cures, meaning the sick are often very late to arrive at the clinic, suffering from advanced cases which can be fatal. There is also a very low survival rate in labour for both mother and child.

Dr Makori is working to address these needs. The doctors are not equipped to perform operations, they have no x-ray or other specialised equipment and there is no ambulance for either water or land. They face struggles trying to immobilise patients with broken bones when the only transport is a motorbike, and dealing with emergency cases when there is no way out to the mainland. But they get on with doing the best they can! They are keen to increase the number and

frequency of the mobile clinics, hoping to be more quickly available to remote patients, particularly to women giving birth. And they want to offer much more education, as the lack of knowledge is a root problem.

It is so important to have teaching on sanitation and healthy living increasingly spread to the community through the clinics and schools. There is a need for training in basic health and nutrition. We want to offer teaching on HIV AIDS, sex education, and family planning. And as progress is made practically on these physical needs, we pray that spiritual needs would also be met. For example, together we have a desire to start a ministry to the barmaids, reaching out to these women of whom many are somehow involved or trapped in prostitution. How amazing it would be to see these places of drunkenness and prostitution, so full of pain and shame, be transformed by the love and forgiveness of Christ!

Dr Makori has named his project work "RICH" (Rural Islands Community Health). The islands are seen to be poor, although they are richly blessed with fertile land and fish in the lake. Our prayer is that people would see how rich God is and share in the blessings of His riches. How "rich" are the people who have God's Life! Life for so many people on these islands has been given a stigma, a curse, a rejection. We long to see people on these islands have LIFE; healthy, hope-filled life now and also for eternity.

Working in Kome and neighbouring islands in partnership with RICH and local churches, we hope to engage with the local community, offering basic health education and training of local

community health workers. With an emphasis on maternal and child health, we want to engage in preventative and primary healthcare on the islands through mobile clinics.

In time we hope and pray that Kome would be a light to the islands, both physically (with a District Health and Resource Centre) and also spiritually, as the compassion and love of Jesus is shared.

You can read more about the RICH initiative and Emmanuel International's involvement there on Tim and Rachel Monger's blog "What's Cookin' in Tanzania?" (themongers.blogspot.co.uk) or on our website www.eiuk.org.uk.



Tim, Amisadai and Louisa with Dr Makori (right) and Dr Isaac in front of Kome Island Clinic

We are very excited that Simon and Victoria Ewing are committed to join the Mongers in January 2017 to work on the RICH project. Please pray for them as they prepare to go and raise funds for their mission.

Simon and Victoria Ewing



Simon and Victoria got married in 2008 and have two children, Tabitha (4) and Reuben (1). Shortly after getting married, Simon and Victoria spent 3 years in Malawi. Victoria conducted PhD research exploring the challenges families experience in accessing health services, and Simon was involved in a number of things, including IT teaching and overseeing a hospital extension building project. Since leaving Malawi, Simon has completed an MSc in Renewable Energy Systems, while working full-time as an aerospace engineer. Victoria has been mainly looking after the children. They will be particularly involved with the communities living on the rural Islands on Lake Victoria, and are keen to listen to the needs of the community and to help the community to make real their own solutions to the problems they face, while making the best use of the skills they bring. Simon will be particularly considering how he can assist with issues around energy, initially this is likely to be through setting up and supporting a project to distribute fuel efficient stoves. Victoria will be focusing on using her public health skills to support RICH through establishing and supporting a community health education project.

Dates for your diary

Board Meeting: 30 September

Vacancies

We need your help to prayerfully promote these positions, please! We urgently need volunteers to help in Malawi and for the position in Uganda.

Make a difference, feed the hungry

We are calling for volunteers to help for 5 months!

For the past two years, Malawi, Africa has undergone severe weather-related disasters, including flooding and drought. As a result, crops have been failing, leaving over 5 million people in great hunger. This is where we need your help!

Emmanuel International Malawi (EI Malawi) has been asked to partner with the World Food Program (WFP) to distribute food. Starting in September 2016, this program will last for 5 months, and will help feed an estimated 500,000 people.

We are in need of volunteers with skills in the following: logistics and warehousing, bookkeeping, etc. We need organised individuals to ensure all paperwork is kept in order, and make sure payments are accounted for. In Malawi, you will be assisting with the logistics of food distribution and clerical work within the warehouses.



Country Representative, Uganda

Role description

The Country Director is responsible for the overall management of the Emmanuel International personnel, partnerships, and programs in Uganda, seeking to maintain organisational health and growth. The Country Director is also to act as the focal point for the communications and relationships between the Uganda office and the international organisation, as well as the other National Affiliates and Program Countries.

General Responsibilities

- Personnel Management
- Partnership Management
- Program Management
- Communications
- Fundraising



More information on our website (www.eiuk.org.uk/jobs/country-representative-uganda) or scan the QR code).

Contract Length

Preferably 5 years, minimum 3 years

How to apply

We are a faith based Christian ministry. We believe that if God is calling us to serve Him, He will provide the resources we need. You'll need to raise your own support.

Please contact the office on telephone 01243 931094 or email info@eiuk.org.uk.