



# the Emmanuel Connection

November 2016

## Focus on: Pauline Nasri



*Pauline Nasri arrived in Canada as a refugee from Syria on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015. She worked as a summer student at Emmanuel International Canada.*

I was born in Saudi Arabia 16 years ago and moved to Damascus, Syria when I was 4 years old. Damascus “The City of Jasmine” is the place where I grew up, the place that hides my memories in each street I walked. I grew up in a Christian believer family. My parents taught me and my older brother and sister to love Jesus and I grew up in God’s Word. My parents were both involved in

the church: my mom a Sunday school teacher and my dad a deacon. I was raised in a lovely church: Jesus World Light Alliance Church. The church was my favorite place to be, especially Sunday school.

I left Syria in a way I was not expecting. We were staying at a church camp outside of the city in Lebanon for a couple days. While there, we started getting news from our friends and family in Damascus that the situation had become so bad that it was better not to go back. That week our friend passed away, a bomb exploded at my school killing five students, and our house was bombed. This news convinced us to stay in Lebanon. I thought that everything would be okay. Yes, I was happy but there were still a lot of difficulties that we faced. It was hard to leave everything in my homeland in Syria and start a new life in Lebanon. I left my friends behind and that made me feel very sad, but was encouraged by my belief that God will never leave me. I saw Jesus working in my life. Nothing is impossible to God. When He opens a door, no one can close it, and so I came to Canada nine months ago. Having God in my life was the only thought that kept me encouraged and happy, and having peace during this time of so much change.

The war in Syria has taught me lessons. I don’t have to be connected to anything on earth because one day I might lose it. My home/country is not on earth; the original one is the kingdom of God. I know that our life on earth is temporary.

My hobbies are a gift from God. I love all kinds of music and swimming. I love to work with Syrian newcomers here in Canada and share the same stories and experiences with them. I am really interested in doing Christian counselling in the future and going back to Syria to help those affected by the trauma of war.

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

- 1 Philippines:** Pastor Alex Pacis has a busy travelling schedule (having just arrived back from Hong Kong and leaving for Canada again on 10 November). He has various meetings in the Philippines between now and when he leaves. Pray for travelling mercy and fruitful meetings.
- 2 Brazil:** We are fundraising for the PROPAC roof. With the new roof in place, there will be a free area on the second floor that can be used by the children. Please pray for our efforts.
- 3 Uganda:** As the school year draws to a close with exams, it quickly gets impossible to visit the girls in school with the Pads Ministry. Please pray that we can use the first week or two as effectively as possible. As of 25 October, we have already visited 41 schools this year and helped 3,800 girls. Praise God for his provision and grace for this!
- 4 Tanzania:** This month we have Andy and Angela Sharpe visiting us. Pray for Andy as he works on a technical survey for the proposed water project in Lupembe Lwasenga village.
- 5 Philippines:** This month our books will be audited for the close of the fiscal year 2015-16.
- 6 South Africa:** Don and Rachel Sayers' application for visas and permanent residency has been ongoing for a long time and there seems to be no further progress in this regard. We really need a miracle and ask that you pray with us for a resolution to this issue soon.
- 7 Philippines:** Pastor Romeo DeDios, of Hope Christian Church in Gapan, is getting married to Fatima Manua today. Please pray as they join their lives together at this wedding ceremony. Also pray for the growing ministry in Gapan Nueve Ecija; this is where we hope to introduce the mechanics of CHE ministry.
- 8 Tanzania:** Our new 'Imarika' project is all about mobilising churches, improving livelihoods and the environment. Pray for funding for the project and as we start to do training with churches, that God will speak through the Bible teaching.
- 9 Canada:** Ongoing discussions regarding a short term team of teachers hoping to go to Haiti in 2017 is happening on November 9<sup>th</sup>. This teachers' training effort is a partnership between EIC and St Paul's Leaskdale Church. Please pray for the Father's leading.
- 10 Tanzania:** On 10 and 11 November, Tim and Rachel Monger and Peter Beatus are in Malya for meetings with beekeepers and mamas. Pray for all the hives to be colonised and that we could catch new colonies with our new catcher boxes! Pray for a honey harvest. Pray for God to be at work in the lives of all those we are working with!

- 11 Brazil:** Praise God for the good Terena Bible School harvest (vegetables, cassava, and beans) which helped reduce the costs of food for the students.
- 12 Canada:** We are hosting our Gala and Dinner today. The guest speakers are The Honourable Jane Philpott and Paul Jones, EI Country Representative in Malawi. Please pray that many EIC friends, advocates and supporters will be able to attend.
- 13 EI Mission (USA):** Joel Newby and his Tanzanian wife, Samantha, are missionaries currently serving in Tanzania. They are coming to the US to reconnect with his home church and to discuss affiliating with EI Mission. Please pray for this process.
- 14 Tanzania:** Pray for the process of registering Emmanuel International in Tanzania, that we will be able to get good legal advice and know the best way forward.
- 15 Canada:** Scott and Lorilee MacLean need your prayers as they teach Lesson #11 “Building Bridges of Love” of the Perspectives Course at Young Nak Korean Presbyterian Church today. It is both a challenge and a privilege to speak on the more excellent way of love.
- 16 Haiti:** Hurricane Matthew left a path of destruction in its wake. Many people have been killed or lost their homes and livelihoods. Please pray for Haiti and for Pastor Martinez Jovin as he assesses what EI can do.
- 17 Uganda:** Being Deaf in a hearing world does not get any easier; whether as a man looking for work, a mother trying to raise her (hearing) child, a child isolated at home or a child at school with much hope but few prospects. Please pray for the Deaf here in Pader, In Uganda and throughout the world.
- 18 Tanzania:** Tim Monger and Peter Beatus are teaching the Conservation Agriculture seminar to a group of Baptist pastors at the Demonstration Farm in Kisesa in the Mwanza region.
- 19 Tanzania:** The Upendo wa Mama group asks for prayer as we begin sewing and possibly baking projects and as we seek God as to how the group grows in the work we do. Give thanks for how God is moving in the lives of these women and pray for Gods transforming work to continue in our lives. Today is also the Mwanza Craft fair; please pray for a successful sales day!
- 20 United Kingdom:** Sue Fallon is speaking at St Edyth’s Church in Bristol today. Please pray for her safe travels and that the relationship with this church will be reinforced.

- 21 Uganda:** Please pray for Rev Patrick and the team of CHE facilitators (volunteers) to be diligent and encouraged in following up, both teams currently in training and “old” teams. Follow up is the CHE ministry’s single biggest challenge, with such a large area of coverage and only one staff person. Pray God will really work through them to keep the fire burning among the teams!
- 22 Tanzania:** The Mongers are looking forward to having the Sharpes to stay! Pray for Andy and Angela’s travels to Mwanza and our time together.
- 23 Haiti:** Please pray for Pastor Martinez Jovin’s health.
- 24 Philippines:** Discipleship training for our 17 Awana Leaders continues on Wednesdays. Please pray that everyone will be steadfast in their commitment and in studying what the Bible teaches.
- 25 Malawi:** Paul and Helen Jones, Country Representatives, are in Canada on furlough. Please pray for them, for a time of rest and relaxation and good connection with family, friends and supporters.
- 26 Uganda:** The Sub Saharan Africa Drought is real. In some places (Ethiopia, Malawi, Zimbabwe) there is all out famine. Here in Uganda the rains have been erratic and the harvests meagre. People are hungry now and even if the hoped for harvests materialise, it is likely that stores for next year will be insufficient. Please pray for good rains next year and wisdom in governments, World Food Program and heads of households now and in the coming months.
- 27 Malawi:** Martin Phiri is in charge of the food distribution programme. Please pray for him and his team of helpers, which includes Donna Rankin from Canada and Sue McNeill from the UK.
- 28 Brazil:** The Terena Indigenous Bible School aims to increase the number of students for 2017 and to continue providing good quality Theological studies for the students. Please pray for them.
- 29 South Africa:** The house mothers of our safe houses have a demanding job that goes beyond being just a job. Please pray that they will be able to provide a loving and stable home for the children in their care.
- 30 International:** We are looking for an International Director, a Country Representative for Uganda and National Director for the Philippines, as well as other positions. Please pray that God would stir up the right people to answer his call. Also pray that we will be advertising these positions in the right places.