



BushNet

News from EMMANUEL INTERNATIONAL

GIVING PRACTICAL HELP - MEETING SPIRITUAL NEED

Issue 1 of 2017

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Emmanuel International working in Pader, Northern Uganda

Sue and Ineke are raising funds for EI projects



Emmanuel International *working in*

Pader Northern Uganda



Tom Edom, Mike and Marianne Botting with their son Elias

The EI team in Pader are working on a number of different projects:

- **Community Health Empowerment** ●
 - Jesus Film ●
- **Bishop Lee Theological College** ●
 - Radio Ministry ●
 - Farming God's Way ●
 - Deaf Ministry ●
 - Pads Ministry ●
- **School Discipleship Ministry** ●

Bishop Lee Theological College

One of the major challenges which faces the Diocese of Kitgum is a lack of trained church leaders. There are never enough trained Reverends, and many of them are older and near to retirement age. And at a grassroots leadership level, most of the catechists (lay readers) who are currently serving, have never received any theological or pastoral training. So in 2014 the Diocese of Kitgum started the Bishop Lee Theological College to teach a 2 year certificate for catechists. Without a penny of donor funds, the Diocese looked at what they had, which was only an abandoned school block and some volunteer teachers.

There have been a lot of growing pains, the facilities are very basic, and the



One of the classrooms



The kitchen where food is prepared for the staff and students



The dormitory where the students sleep

administration still has a lot of room to grow, but we have been blessed to see the students' passion for ministry as they struggle to learn and grow in sometimes difficult circumstances. So far 67 catechists have graduated, including 16 last November, in a joyful ceremony which took place under the nearby mango trees!

In the last 3 years, Marianne has been teaching English to the students, and Mike has been teaching Community Health Empowerment (CHE) as the Development Studies component, together with Rev Patrick and the CHE Facilitators.



Mike, Sue and one of the volunteer teachers met with the new principal in January



Mike and Marianne with the volunteer staff of the college



Please pray for the staff and the students, especially as they adjust to a new Principal!



The "graduation" mango trees

"God is in this."

This is what Mike and Marianne's first impressions were when they saw what the Diocese has achieved with Bishop Lee Theological College.

Community Health Empowerment

The CHE is a train-the-trainers ministry which focuses on equipping the local church to reach out to their own communities. In each area a team of five or six church members goes through three training sessions over the course of five to six months. This training covers health topics and spiritual topics, but the main focus is to teach about holistic ministry and adult education teaching methods. Once trained, this team goes back to their community, forms a local committee, assesses the needs of the community, and identifies solutions which are locally funded and sustainable. The rubber meets the road when CHE Educators, trained by the local team, begin to conduct weekly door to door visits to teach physical and spiritual lessons, mobilise the community, and assess the impact of CHE.

Mike and Marianne came to initiate the CHE ministry, at the request of the Diocese of Kitgum, but they have since passed along to the partner church the responsibility for managing and running the ministry. They have been greatly encouraged to see Rev. Patrick, the local CHE Coordinator, growing into the role and leading the CHE ministry along with the team of local CHE Facilitators. Just recently they finished training the 6th Archdeaconry, Palabec Kal, which borders South Sudan. This was the first set of trainings which they ran completely on their own, and it was a testament to their growth and the passion they have for holistic ministry.

There are many challenges to the roll out of the CHE ministry, the greatest of which is dependency created by decades of relief work during the time of the conflict with the Lord's Resistance Army and Joseph Kony. Please pray that the churches and communities will grow in confidence and independence, and that CHE will continue

to spread all through the Diocese of Kitgum with the message of the freedom, both physical and spiritual, which comes with the gospel of Christ!



Rev. Patrick (right) addressing the graduating CHE trainers in Palabec Kal with Rev. John Oryem (Archdeacon of Palabec Kal)



Visiting retired Bishop Ogwal, leading the CHE trainers in their vows

The team received an encouraging report from one of the groups that was trained in 2014. Reverend Patrick went to Odokomit to follow up with the team, and he found that 75% of the homes have achieved a healthy home award and the church mobilized themselves to finish roofing their new church building! It was encouraging to hear this story, and see the ways in which God is using CHE to bring change to Northern Uganda.

Radio Ministry

Tom, Mike and Marianne have been participating in an early morning radio show known as 'Morning Devotions'. In a Christian environment where far too many people do not really know what they believe or why, they try to bring sound scriptural teaching to the listeners. They need to set aside time for inspiration and preparation, and the early Thursday morning (4:30 am) wake-up has a way of spoiling the rest of the day for useful activity, but they have been providing this voluntary ministry for a number of years now.

Please pray that this ministry, which has a surprisingly high number of listeners over several local districts, will be used by God to advance His kingdom.



Deaf Ministry

The Deaf in Pader are often denied the opportunity to play a role in society because of their disability. Tom has been involved with the local Deaf people. He learned Ugandan Sign Language and translated at the local services to make church accessible to the Deaf. He is a mentor for Deaf people, helping them to negotiate difficult situations that might even be impossible without someone assisting them, and has been encouraging Deaf children to attend school.

Jesus Film Ministry



The team restarted the Jesus Film Ministry late last year, after funds were raised to replace the amplifier, projector, and generator which all failed around the same time in 2014. The Jesus Film, an adaptation of the Gospel of Luke which has been translated into many languages around the world, is a powerful evangelistic tool. However the goal is to use the Jesus Film not only for evangelism, but for follow up and discipleship.

The local congregations were trained to mobilise for the showing of the film, to take names and follow up with those that respond, and to establish discussion based Bible study groups which will go through a 32 week chronological Bible storying curriculum. The response has been encouraging, as 355 have committed themselves to Christ and Bible studies are ongoing. The team is looking for funds to give an Acholi Bible to each regular attendee to the Bible study groups.



Farming God's Way



After doing a Farming God's Way course in January, Tom has been preparing a few plots for planting in a new way. It was laborious to dig planting holes in the hard baked dry season ground with a pick-axe in preparations for the rains! People are resistant to agricultural techniques different to what they know, however poor the yield from that may be. We hope that the demonstration plots will lead to at least some saying, 'show me how'.

At this point the maize and bean patches are doing well, even with a very small amount of rain. The mulching with dried field rubbish, which no-one else does here, has a huge beneficial effect of retaining moisture, shading from sun drying, suppressing weeds and keeping the soil cool.

Tom wishes to also teach the Farming God's Way method to the Deaf children at the local school.

School Discipleship Ministry

When asked, many church leaders and mature Christians say that their faith story began through participation and leadership in the Scripture Union, a secondary school club which promotes Christian fellowship in schools. It was this testimony which led to the creation of the School Discipleship Ministry, which seeks to start or strengthen existing Christian clubs in primary and secondary schools by training their teachers and student leaders, introducing discipleship materials, and creating lasting links with local churches that can continue to support them. Right now the focus in secondary schools is on the Understanding True Love (UTL) course materials, a series of 8 small books which talk about (among other things) a Biblical understanding of love; the difference between love, lust, and sexual attraction; sexually transmitted diseases; and what the Bible teaches about dating and marriage.



Pads Ministry

See the back page for more information on this ministry, for which Sue is raising funds in August.



Paul and Anita Betrand have been our interim Country Representatives in Uganda from May 2013 until the end of March 2017, while also working with The Mailbox Club.

They were working with EI in Uganda for many years before that too. We really appreciate their support of our work and missionaries during this period. Paul and Anita are moving to South East Asia to continue their work with The Mailbox Club.

Mike and Marianne Botting



Michael and Marianne Botting are from Canada, and have been in Pader, Northern Uganda for five years after serving elsewhere with EI. They are currently in the process of fostering to adopt their Ugandan son, Elias Ogen Jeremiah Botting. They originally came to implement the CHE ministry, but as it has been handed over to the partner church they have found themselves expanding into new areas. They have a heart for discipleship, and more recently God has been opening doors for them to minister about marriage, including growing opportunities in premarital counselling for youth, marriage training, and men's ministry.

Tom Edom



Tom is from West Sussex in the UK and joined EI in 2012 after a career as a Mechanical Engineer in the satellite industry. He is a member of Chichester Baptist Church.

He has taken up some issues which were not being addressed by others. This includes the Pads Ministry and his interest in the Deaf.

This sixth year is his final year in Pader as he plans to return home to the UK before Christmas to reconnect with his family and spend time with his five grandchildren that have all been born since he left the UK for Uganda.



**Thank
you!**



SOUTH COAST CHALLENGE

Sue Fallon and Ineke Varcoe are taking on this challenge, starting at Eastbourne on Saturday morning, 26 August, where they will walk 100km along the coastal path and South Downs Way all the way to Arundel! The route goes through stunning scenery and the undulating path will be testing - but will be incredibly rewarding.



Sue Fallon is the General Manager of Emmanuel International UK



Ineke Varcoe is the wife of Dave Varcoe, Chairman of the EIUK board and also an alumni to EI

Sue and Ineke are taking on this challenge in order to raise funds for two projects that are close to their hearts. Please sponsor them!

Pads Ministry RICH Project

It is difficult for girls to receive education in the Pader region, Northern Uganda. There is a very high dropout rate. One of the many factors is an inability to manage their periods while attending school. This means missing 4 or 5 days a month from school. The Pads Ministry Team visits Primary Schools to teach about menstrual periods; encouraging and instructing the girls. They tell the girls how valuable they are to God and in their community, and provide each girl with four washable pads, made by a local tailor and four pairs of knickers. So far over 11,000 girls have been provided for but many more are still without. The purpose is to help the girls to stay in school and receive the education they so badly need for a better future and also to point the girls towards God.

Please sponsor Sue and the Pads Project on our website or goo.gl/gaKZIL



The islands on Lake Victoria in Tanzania are experiencing health issues due to unsafe water and poor sanitation, and there is a low survival rate in labour for both mother and child. The Rural Island Community Health (RICH) project aims to provide medical care and health education for the people on the islands. With an emphasis on maternal and child health, the project wants to engage in preventative and primary healthcare on the islands through mobile clinics.

Simon and Victoria Ewing, EI missionaries, will be living on the second largest of the islands, Kome Island, for periods and will be working closely with a local doctor who has started a clinic on Kome Island to serve this and other islands on the lake.

Please sponsor Ineke and the RICH project on our website or goo.gl/ijyHbx