

DOWN to EARTH

Emmanuel International UK News
Forum House, Stirling Road, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 7DN Phone: 01243 931094

Registered Charity No 289036 www.eiuk.org.uk info@eiuk.org.uk

MAY 2017

The Rotary Team trip to Haiti



Paul Crowe, EIC representative, and Richard McGowan accompanied a Rotary Club team to Haiti, from 28 March until 8 April 2017. Paul writes to tell us about their trip.

We were booked to fly from Toronto through Miami with the intention of arriving in Haiti early afternoon. However the airline made last minute changes so we ended up flying Toronto via Fort Lauderdale which put us into Toussaint Louverture International Airport Haiti just

over four hours late, we were very weary after all the delays.

In 2005 I had spent two years in Haiti with Emmanuel International Canada (EIC) located out of the capital, Port-au-Prince. I returned in 2009, prior to the catastrophic earthquake that struck on 12 January 2010. The earthquake caused major damage in Port-au-Prince and other cities in the region.

The question I had would Haiti be a better place than when I last visited?

I'm pleased to say the short answer is yes!



The team (from left to right): Jim, Mary, Phanel, Chris, Carolynn, Elizabeth, Brian and Paul.

I know that Haiti and most countries are complicated and often a short trip can skew one's understanding, but what I saw was a country heading in the right direction.

I could not say that before. On the streets, although still dirty with much garbage, the UN presence was basically not noticed and there was a calmness that was not there before. There were still small signs of the earthquake and hurricanes, but most people seemed to just get on with their lives.

On this return trip I was the EIC representative, with Richard McGowan and a team from The Rotary Club of Toronto that is involved with humanitarian aid, called "Sweat Equity Teams".

Chris Snyder, a veteran of these trips, has organized and worked with EI Malawi on several visits, making a difference in our world. I honestly can say it was possibly the best team I've worked with and it made my job much easier. Each member of the team had excellent cross



The Bethesda School before the team came to help clear up the rubble and the play area



The school and playground after the team's work had been completed

cultural experience and although mature in age, came to Haiti to work hard and help make it a better place.

We were pleased that Daniel Jovin joined the group as the representative of the Bethesda Baptist Mission (OEBB) Daniel's dad, Pastor Jovin wasn't able to be with us as he had to go to Miami for Doctor's tests and surgery.

The Bethesda School in Port au Prince is part of the Bethesda Baptist Mission (OEBB) and has been a partner of Emmanuel International for over 35 years. Our project was located at the Bethesda School which has 150 plus students from kindergarten to grade 10.

We went to help with the rebuilding of the original school house built over 15 years ago. We helped pour concrete, move rubble (about 13 tons) and clean the play area.

We may not know all the impact of our work on the generation of students that watched the team sweat and work hard in the heat.



The children playing a game to memorize French words

Daniel Jovin was thrilled at the attitude and hard work achieved by the Rotary Club team. "The students have been impacted by your presence", stated Jovin.

I believe God sovereignly watched over the team, giving each member a fantastic attitude and strength to complete the tasks. It is for this reason I have been changed by Haiti and hopefully Haiti is a better place because we all went to help.

Dates for your diary

International Albinism Awareness Day 2017: 13 June 2017. Albinism is a genetic condition which results in a lack of pigmentation in the hair, skin and eyes, causing vulnerability to sun exposure and bright light. In Tanzania an added danger is being hunted for their body parts for witchcraft activities.

Tim and Rachel Monger work with a group of women in Mwanza who have albinism themselves or children with albinism.

Board Meeting: 16 June 2017 at Trinity Church, Harrow

EIUK Summer Event: 8 July 2017 at Trinity Church, Harrow

Monger Open House: 19 August 2017 at The Point, Tadley (RSVP)



We are meeting at Trinity Church Harrow. It is easy to get to, with plenty of parking available nearby (more details on how to get there on our website).



Don and Rachel Sayers and their children **Danielle, Hudson and Nathan**, from South Africa, will be in the UK and will join us. They would love to see you!

We also plan to Skype some of the other families who are overseas, to hear first-hand news from them.

Please bring a light lunch to enjoy in the middle of the day. At 5pm we'll have a BBQ. Food will be provided for the BBQ.

Please let us know at the office (email info@eiuk.org.uk or telephone 01243 931094) if you are coming so that we can let the catering team know how many people to expect.

Everyone, including children, welcome!

Birth Announcements!

Andre Porto



Arthur (son of Tarcisio and Jurema Porto in Brazil) and his wife, Ana Carolina, became parents to a son, Andre, on 24 March 2017. Andre is named after his uncle.

Henry Paul Jones



Graham (son of Paul and Helen Jones, EI Country Representatives in Malawi) and his wife, Molly, became parents on 13 April 2017.

Elissia Adams



Callum and Rianne Adams, who worked in the Propac Centre, Brazil for 6 months, became parents to daughter, Elissia, on 24 April 2017.

Praise Mnkeni



Esther (of the EI team in Mwanza, Tanzania) and Baraka Mnkeni became parents to their firstborn, a daughter called Praise on 17 May 2017.

Ethan Newby



Samantha (wife of Joel Newby, of the EI team in Mwanza) gave birth to their son, Ethan, on 18 April 2017. His sister, Hephzibah, couldn't be more pleased!