



# the Emmanuel Connection

August 2017

## Focus on: Mary Pemba, EBCM Children's Coordinator



Please meet Mary Pemba, wife of Lovemore Pemba and mother to two lovely daughters. Mary is a member of the Evangelical Baptist Church of Malawi (EBCM), partner church with EI Malawi. Her heritage is from a family who loves and serves the Lord Jesus Christ. Mary has been working in Children's Ministry for EBCM for over 10 years. Before that, EI Malawi sponsored her to go to South Africa for training in Child Evangelism Fellowship and then she attended a local Bible School in Blantyre, Malawi. Once her schooling was completed, the EBCM management asked Mary if she would take on the role of Children's Coordinator for the denomination, a body of believers that at the time may have numbered around 100 rural congregations but now has over 300 congregations scattered

across Malawi and into Mozambique.

Teaching children God's Word and helping them to know Jesus is Mary's passion. One of the starting points of her ministry was to help pastors in the rural churches of EBCM understand how vital a children's program is to the work of the church. In rural Malawi, training children in God's Word has not always been viewed as a priority. Some have thought that children can't understand. When children responded to the Gospel message, they were so surprised.

Mary has made it her purpose to not only train pastors in the importance of a Sunday School ministry but to also train teachers for the rural churches, using Chichewa Sunday School teaching guides which she found. Mary also runs weekly children's clubs and Sunday School in her own church in Liwonde. She really likes the children's clubs because this is done in the neighborhood and is attended by 'church' kids and Muslim kids. In one instance, through the witness of their children, 2 Muslim families have begun attending the local EBCM church.

Mary is completing her term in office as of the end of August, 2017. This position, according to the church constitution, is an elected position for up to 10 years. She is running a final training seminar for 200 of her Sunday School teachers. Though sad, Mary's heart is still very much to serve the church. She is pursuing a part-time course in accountancy so that she can help the church with their finance administration.

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

- 1 Tanzania:** The Ewing family went to South Africa in July for treatment of Victoria's knee, which has been swollen and stiff since a hiking trip when they first arrived in Mwanza. Pray for successful treatment.  
**Malawi:** Mary Pemba is teaching Sunday School teachers from 100 of the EBCM churches during the first week of August.
- 2 Uganda:** Martin Carr (EIUK board member who has ministered with EI in Uganda) will be in Uganda from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> to visit Tom Edom. With the Bottings on furlough, Tom is the only long term ex-pat in town.
- 3 Tanzania:** Amisadai has various medical appointments in the UK this month. We see a gastro paediatrician on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and she has an MRI and internal physio scheduled for the 9<sup>th</sup>. Please pray for an appointment with the respiratory specialist before her appointment with her consultant on the 21<sup>st</sup> and for clarity on what we should do.
- 4 Tanzania:** The EI team in Mwanza experienced quite a few health challenges recently and would appreciate your prayers.
- 5 Tanzania:** A team of 10 people from St Peter's Church Farnborough, UK will be with us in Ikuka village from 28<sup>th</sup> July to 14<sup>th</sup> August, helping the community build staff houses for the health centre, building a church and doing kids work.  
**Philippines:** Our Awana program will start today. Pray that the leaders will be able to cope with this year's program.
- 6 Canada:** These past two weeks was our First Nations outreach. Please pray for the soil of the hearts of those who heard and received the good seed during the outreach; for good soil that produces a bountiful harvest.  
**Tanzania:** Give thanks that Peter had a good time in Iringa. Unfortunately he became unwell towards the end of the trip. Pray for continued strength and healing.
- 7 Tanzania:** Please pray for God's provision of funding for the Rural Island Health Project in Tanzania.  
**South Africa:** We are narrowing the candidates for House Mother in the next weeks and will begin interviewing for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Safe House mother/parents.
- 8 Uganda:** Pray for Rev. Patrick and the Community Health Empowerment facilitators, who are leading TOT2 this month in Chua Archdeaconry. There was low turn-up at TOT1 last month.
- 9 Tanzania:** Joel Newby is undertaking entrepreneurial skills training on Ukerewe Island. Pray for good relationships with the local community and the churches.  
**Uganda:** By now, the second term will be ending and we should have reached over 4,000 girls this year with the Pads Ministry project. A great blessing from the Lord and we praise Him! Recently we have been visiting schools in Arum and Puranga sub-counties where other organisations seldom work. The senior woman teachers and the girls are delighted for the possibility that the Pads Ministry brings. No more monthly missing days of school for the girls, permission for girls to absent themselves and stay home for several days. Some have described it as a miracle; for them it almost is - a life altering blessing.

- 10 South Africa:** The Sayers are back in SA, readjusting to life and ministry there. They are thankful for all who looked after their home while they were in Canada for 4 months and glad to report that the Safe Homes and families are doing very well. Praise the Lord for safe travel while in Canada and the UK.
- 11 Brazil:** The 1<sup>st</sup> Indigenous Christian Women's Conference is to be held on August 11-13<sup>th</sup>. Please pray for everyone involved.
- 12 Malawi:** Pastor Stonken Gauti, responsible for the Youth of EBCM, is doing his annual youth conference the second week of August. Pray as he prepares and for the youth leaders from across Malawi who will be attending.
- 13 Uganda:** Walter Okidi and Ceasar Okot hope to finish showing the Jesus film in all the remaining communities who were trained last year. Please pray for Ceasar as he follows up the groups that have been formed to nurture new Christians after the showing of the Jesus Film; for lives that really want to follow Christ, with grounding and growth.
- 14 Canada:** Pam and Richard McGowan are travelling in Eastern Canada and will meet up with some potential EIC candidates for future ministry assignment.
- 15 Philippines:** Edna Santos is continuing to raise funds for the scholarship project. Please pray that people will respond to the need.
- 16 Uganda:** Mike, Marianne and Elias Botting are on furlough. The last two weeks of August will be their busiest weeks, spent in Toronto connecting with friends and supporters. They will also give a full update at Bayview Glen Church on Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup> in a post-service presentation. Pray for a special grace on Elias during this busy time, and for God to be glorified.
- 17 Haiti:** Please continue to pray for Martinez and Emma Jovin and the work they are doing in Haiti.
- 18 Canada:** The Vanwoerden family are in transit through Toronto today, en route to return to Tanzania. Pray that the whole family will be buoyed up by the Father for the good works that he has prepared in advance for them to do in Tanzania. They return to Tanzania on 21<sup>st</sup> August.
- 19 Tanzania:** The Mongers are sharing about the work in Mwanza at their Open House in Tadley today. Pray for their time meeting with supporters in the UK during this month.
- 20 Uganda:** This is still the hungry time of year and the Deaf are suffering along with others. We can only give specific strategic help and it needs much wisdom. Please pray for that. We are helping Charles and Grace with a family land issue that will see them having to move from their home in town to a greenfield site on the outskirts within around 9 months. Please pray for us as we try and assist them through this transition.
- 21 Tanzania:** Tim Monger is undertaking a short course on "Reading Paul Missionally". Give thanks that this has been renewing and inspiring for him and pray that he would continue to be blessed through this.

- 22 Philippines:** Please pray for the situation in Marawi, for those civilians that are suffering, and that there will be peace. Also pray for wisdom for us to know if we should continue to help with resettlement, and for the writing of a proposal as there is a continuous flow of resources needed.
- 23 Brazil:** Praise God for the Micah Global Brazil Conference and for Emmanuel Brazil involvement in this movement.
- South Africa:** Cape Town has been in a drought for the past year and the winter rains have thus far been below average. The Sayers have purchased a thousand litre rain catcher in the hopes of limping through the dry summer months. The Safe Homes have a powered bore hole so they will have emergency supply of water if the city water fails. Please pray for rain.
- 24 Uganda:** Currently in the field are popcorn, peanuts, beans of three varieties, sorghum and tomato. We hope to add sesame and probably more maize. The maize harvest has been OK but not yet spectacular, but since it was in semi-draught conditions, that is still a blessing. Please pray that key people will be persuaded through working in the Conservation Agriculture (Farming God's Way) gardens or by observing the process and will go on to do it and teach it to others.
- 25 Canada:** Mike and Marianne Botting, with their son Elias, will be in the Canadian office today, presenting their work and debriefing this last season in Uganda. Pray for ongoing visits they have with family and friends, that they will be refreshed; and for good connections established between their new son Elias and the Canadian family he has just met.
- 26 United Kingdom:** Sue Fallon and Ineke Varcoe are doing the South Coast Challenge today, aiming to walk 100km in less than 24 hours to raise funds for the Pads Ministry project in Pader, Northern Uganda and the Rural Island Communitih Health project on Kome Island, Tanzania.
- 27 Tanzania:** Pray for Dave, Tricia and Titus Rollett as they settle into work, make connections, and practise their Swahili.
- 28 Uganda:** The Understanding True Love course is ongoing at 4 local schools. Pray for the current effort to link local churches with Christian clubs in secondary schools. Walter is energetically pursuing this ministry; please pray for the Lord's blessing on his endeavours.
- 29 Malawi:** It has been more than 2 years since the Bimbi Irrigation Project in Balaka with the Word of Grace partner churches was started. At the moment, we continue to wait for government approval to go ahead with the irrigation scheme. Please pray that this process will move forward.
- 30 Canada:** Lorilee MacLean is scheduled for surgery today to have her gall bladder removed. Pray that God will oversee the operation in detail. The MacLeans are glad to have the surgery lined up and performed so quickly, given their expected visit to Mozambique in October.
- 31 Brazil:** The Aguas Formosas Day Care Center helps children and their families. Please pray for their plans in the next months.