

DOWN to EARTH

Emmanuel International UK News
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St Peter's, Farnborough trip to Ikuka



After months of planning, orientation, prayer and some trepidation, a team of ten from St Peter's Church in Farnborough set off to Ikuka in Tanzania, a remote village in the heart of the country.

The team was made up from a variety of people, all from the congregation, some old friendships, some new, aged from a "waiting for A-Level results" student to a septuagenarian.

Travelling via Dubai, Dar Es Salaam and a twelve hour bus journey, we arrived at Iringa to meet our Emmanuel International hosts, Andrew and Miriam Wingfield and Dave and Trish Rollett, then after an overnight respite we travelled on to Ikuka.

Ikuka is a remote village of three thousand souls spread over a large area, small holdings, mud and rough brick houses, a primary school with 600 pupils, churches, some small shops. It is 5500 feet high and in an extremely beautiful landscape.

We arrived on Sunday, just in time for the service at the Anglican Church, we were met with delightful singing by the choir, tea and snacks at the Pastor's house and then the service, which, although in Swahili, was eminently recognisable to our ears.

We travelled to Ikuka for a variety of reasons: to build, to run an afternoon kids' club, to live among fellow Christians, to experience life in the



mission field and to provide a practical link between St Peter's and the missionaries we support as a church.

Ikuka does not have any medical facilities, the nearest are in Ilula, 22km away. A previous EI trip helped to build a dispensary, the first piece in the jigsaw, the second piece is an accommodation block for a doctor, a nurse and their respective families, once both of these facilities are ready the government will provide the doctor and nurse.



Our project was to help build the accommodation block. When we arrived, the foundations and the first course of bricks were already prepared. Despite our collective lack of brick laying skills, after a short training we were set loose, but always under the watchful eye of the *fundi*, the expert builder.

But it wasn't just us on the building site, our team was, at times, dwarfed by the number of local volunteers who came to work alongside us. Over the days the walls grew to the point where we were working at shoulder height, but no higher as we tender westerners were not allowed to use the local scaffold.



Building in the morning, the kids' club in the afternoon... Not quite the regimented operation we would be used to this side of the world! The children just appeared from everywhere and nowhere, sometimes with their parents in tow, sometimes not. Games, craft and teaching were the order of each of the days. We followed the theme of the parables from Luke's gospel, always with a live translation into Swahili.

The Ikuka community was amazing, so kind and generous to us, even though we have so much and they so little. As

we were preparing to leave, the village laid on a celebration for us, speeches, dancing and gifts which included chickens and a goat. We were all so humbled.

The Wingfields, the Rolletts and the local EI missionary Ajery looked after us so well. We had the bonus of them all staying and working alongside us in the village. It was so good to get to know them, and to share the time with them.

So much to fit into such a short article, but other highlights included a football match between the village and Emmanuel International, evening worship with the villagers in our accommodation, the daily walk through the village to the church, a confirmation service with the retired archbishop and learning to make fuel efficient stoves and many more.

And then home, via Iringa, a day in a safari park, and then across the country to Dar Es Salaam and the flight home. A team of ten, all changed through this experience with a deeper understanding of so many issues.

Would I go again? Absolutely!

By James Rogers, a Team Leader



We were all led by God to this poor land. God has taught each of us more about the difficulties experienced by those living as subsistence farmers in East Africa and we have been able now to compare this with our own comfortable situations. This showed us just how fortunate we are in UK even though we complain.... We were blessed to have been able to make a very small difference by encouraging the Tanzanians in their self help project.

Christ Parrott, in answer to the question "How did this impact your faith?"



Dates for your diary

Board Meeting: 12 January 2018

EIUK Conference and AGM:

Saturday 27 January 2018 at
St John's Church, Southbourne.

Emmanuel International UK Conference and AGM

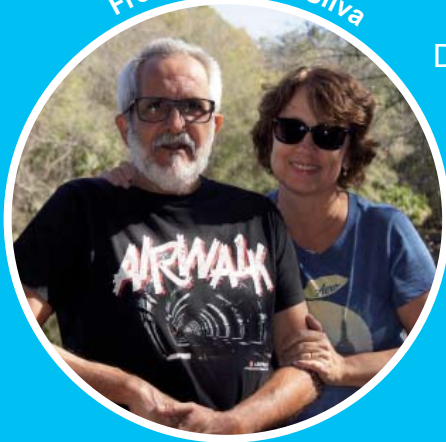
St John's Church, Southbourne (nr Chichester)

Main Road/Stein Road (A259), Southbourne, West Sussex, PO10 8LB

27 January 2018

10am till 4pm

Fred and Carla Silva



The Emmanuel International Brazil staff will be with us this year! Do come and meet them and hear Fred speak.

Tarcisio and Jurema Porto



Tom will be back from Uganda, telling us about his time and work there.

Tom Edom



And more...

Catch up with the work of Emmanuel International worldwide!