

JULY 2018

Sweet honey harvest



We are so thankful and excited to tell you that after such a long time of waiting and numerous challenges, we have now harvested honey with the Beekeeper groups in Malya and Kayenze. We took more than 100kg of raw honey!



Waggle Dance Honey!

The first harvest is bottled and labelled and ready to sell! We are still working on how best to package and label but the honey is already selling for 6000 Tanzanian Shillings (just over £2) a jar!

Beekeeping project in Mwanza

The beekeeping project links in with our work in conservation agriculture. As well as the benefit of honey, bee hives in a field can greatly increase crop yields. For example, for every 500Tsh a beekeeper earns in honey when offering pollination services to a farmer, the farmer could gain as much as 10,000Tsh in increased crop yield! Currently we have beekeeping groups in two villages and have three hives at the Demonstration Farm in Kisesa. Beekeepers are trained to manage and care for the hives, and harvest the honey and wax.

Women's groups are being taught to make beeswax products such as lip and body balms, BeesWraps, soaps and candles.

Julian Willford, from Bees Abroad UK, has been a tremendous help in getting this project off the ground and overcoming some of the difficulties. He was with us all again for two weeks this June for harvesting and also an "Introduction to Beekeeping" Seminar for local leaders across the region and beyond! With Julian, it was exciting for the two groups to harvest enough honey to bottle and sell in the city market for the first time!

The Process

As a group of beekeepers we set off for the hives, fully kitted out, at dusk. We are now working at night to reduce the danger to nearby people and livestock. It is definitely harder to work the hive in the dark with all the bees inside for the night, but we manage with the aid of a red torch (bees cannot see red light). Gently lifting one top bar at a time, we inspect the comb to see if it is full of brood, or uncapped nectar or golden capped honey. We only want the capped honey! Careful to leave the brood and enough honey for the colony to live on, we cut off our capped comb into a bucket.

All the buckets of raw honey are counted and weighed and taken to town. Our plan is to have a processing centre to collect from all the village groups (for now it is the Monger house!). There the honey is cut up and placed in a large straining cloth inside a large tapped bucket and left to strain overnight. The resulting honey is then ready to be bottled and labelled!

The comb and debris of bees left in the strainer is put into a large pot of hot water until the wax melts. The whole pot is poured through another strainer into a bucket so that only the water and melted wax pass through. As the water cools, the wax settles on the top and is ready to be weighed and sold.



Inspecting a top bar with a queen cell



Honey straining



Bottling honey



A top bar hive

John David Jonathan



John is now trained as a beekeeper and is training others!

EI staff member John has quickly become an expert in African beekeeping. Much of his work involves travelling around the region visiting the beekeepers, monitoring the hives and answering questions about the 'modern' techniques we promote. The 'traditional' approach of harvesting is to smoke the hive so that the colony either flees or dies, allowing the farmer to remove everything from the hive (honey, wax, dead bees) and extract the honey to sell. This destructive approach risks wiping out the entire colony. Our groups have been taught to use hives with 'top bars' which allow a trained beekeeper to non-destructively inspect the state of the hive and then, when ready, harvest only enough honey and wax as is safe, allowing the colony to replenish quickly. These top bar hives can be placed at manageable heights (as opposed to dangerously high in trees) which means that women can be beekeepers now!



Reflections and thanksgiving EI Australia (1983 – 2018)

One evening over 35 years ago, a small group met at the home of Bob and Eileen Taylor in Perth, Western Australia, and heard Rev George Middleton speak about a new organisation, Emmanuel International (EI) that he had founded in Canada in 1975. The vision of EI was informed by his experience as a missionary couple, together with his wife, Dorothea, in responding to the famine in east Africa, especially in Ethiopia, in the early 1970s. The EI distinctives, such as working with and under the leadership of local churches, holistic and impartial ministry, and using sustainable technology, resonated with the people present, and led to the formation of EI in Australia in March 1983.

Bob Taylor was the driving force for EI in Australia for many years. Some will also know that his son, Brian Taylor, has been with EI (based in Canada) since its inception and may well be one of its longest serving team members. We are grateful that God has enabled this service over the years.

We also acknowledge with thanksgiving, the service of Paul and Karen Derrington in Tanzania, and Glen and Wendy Lund in Malawi and Uganda. The latter's service was during a particularly distressing period in northern Uganda when a brutal uprising led by Joseph Kony and the Lord's Resistance Army resulted in much suffering and hardship in that region.

Apart from the direct service, our participation in EI's work has been in prayer and financial support. We give thanks to the faithfulness and giving of our members and supporters, who, over

the years, have contributed to many EI projects and staff. Although a small group, these have included contributions to the EI International Office; earthquake relief in Haiti; food relief during famine as well as irrigation, health and sanitation projects in Malawi; rebuilding efforts following typhoon damage in the Philippines; safe house for children and a vehicle in South Africa; irrigation, flood relief, and a project vehicle in Tanzania; and in Uganda, a library project, the Pader Children's Shelter, community health empowerment, pads for girls, and deaf ministries. A special note of gratitude goes to the people who have faithfully given to the Lay Reader Program, providing ministry training for leaders in rural areas.

Although remote, we have been blessed in having various EI leaders visit us, including Sue Fallon from the EIUK office. The weekly and monthly prayer notes, as well as personnel field reports and prayer bulletins have been invaluable in keeping us informed of what God and His people are doing through EI in many needy parts of the world.

As in many countries, the regulatory arrangements for charitable organisations are undergoing much change, often accompanied by



EI Australia board in 2013: Babu Simon, Allison Chapple, Mary Roskams, Margaret Ellis

requiring greater accountability. We have managed for long with an entirely volunteer committee. However, looking ahead, with the advent of new legislation here, as well as the reality of a relatively small support base, members and supporters met in May 2018 and resolved to wind up the association. This marks the end of EI Australia as an association in Australia after over 35 years. But as individuals, we hope to continue to maintain our links with the broader work of EI globally. The group that met at our final meeting expressed thanksgiving to God for the work of EI, and for the part that EI Australia had the privilege of being associated with over the years.

We are well aware that the needs worldwide have not diminished and the global ministries of EI and the church are still extremely vital – they bring hope and lives are enriched. We are grateful to God and the EI supporters who faithfully pray, encourage and provide funds for the various EI activities, and we pray that God's blessings will continue through the work of EI.

By Babu Simon

Welcoming Rowan Conrad



Ken and Ruth Copsey are proud to introduce their third grandchild, Rowan Matias Conrad, born on Friday July 13th, 8lbs 8oz, 20.5" long and a full head of hair. They would appreciate your prayers as Joanna and Jared get adjusted to being Mom and Dad to cute little Rowan!