



# the Emmanuel Connection

February 2020

## Focus on: Ibrahimu Abdul



My name is Ibrahimu Abdul. I was born in Iringa region. My tribe is Gogo, originally from Dodoma region.

My father moved to Iringa in 1974 from Dodoma, to work as pastor of an Anglican Church. I thank God he gave me wonderful parents. I love them, even though by the will of God, my father died in 2005 but my mother is alive.

I have graduated with a Diploma in Business Administration at Ruaha Catholic University in Iringa. I began working with Emmanuel International in April 2018. I'm happy to be working with this Christian organization, which is helping people to experience

the love of Christ through the church. By doing this work, I hope that all the time I will be connected with the power of Jesus Christ.

I am working in the IMARIKA project. This is a Swahili word meaning 'to be strengthened' and is also an acronym for 'imarisha mazingira, riziki, na kanisa', meaning 'to strengthen the environment, livelihoods, and the church'. The project is improving the lives of subsistence farming families through mobilized churches, economic empowerment, and environmental restoration. Project interventions

include village savings and loans (VICOBA, or VSL), tree nurseries and plantations, conservation agriculture, poultry and beekeeping, and the promotion of fuel efficient stoves. Our activities normally focus on rural areas where we work, in two districts of Kilolo and Iringa rural.

I like to learn from others, read different things on the internet and to develop skills to teach others.



Planting avocado seeds

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

- 1 Tanzania:** The Isimani Water Project is in its final stage with construction of rainwater harvesting tanks at the Mkulula Health Centre where water is extremely scarce. Pray for our construction crew, for Ajery's supervision, and for government assistance to install a roof on the last health centre building.  
**Canada:** Pray that the audit will be finalised.
- 2 Tanzania:** During this month, Emmanuel and Simon will be working on the training and distribution and installation of toilet slabs in several communities on Kome Island. Please pray for this!  
**Malawi:** We plan to have our Board meeting in the month of February 2020.
- 3 Uganda:** We will be holding a residential training for Sunday School teachers from today until March 7<sup>th</sup>. We are expecting 24 teachers from 12 different churches, as well as representatives from three primary schools. Please pray for this training, and for the children they will be trained to reach out to.
- 4 Philippines:** Volcano Taal has erupted on 12 January 2020. Please pray for funds to assist those that have been displaced by the eruption. We are providing ongoing help to partner churches assisting their communities; to those in the evacuation centers. Please pray that God would intercede and control the tremors still being felt in the communities after the eruption of Taal.
- 5 United States of America:** We appreciate your prayers for my (Mark's) mother, Jodi, and mother-in-law, Joann, as they age and deal with memory/dementia issues.  
**International:** Paul and Helen appreciate prayers for their newest grandson, Sam Alexander, who was born with some health issues. They are all very thankful for God's provision of great health care.
- 6 Malawi:** This month we await a response from UNICEF Malawi to our emergency response application.  
**Philippines:** Thousands of earthquake survivors are awaiting the plan of the government for relocation. Please pray for them.
- 7 Uganda:** Please pray for Michael, Marianne and Elias Botting as they are back in Canada to meet with supporters and raise awareness about the work of EI in Uganda. February is their busiest month for church presentations, and they will be travelling a lot during this wintery month.
- 8 Tanzania:** Today is the Pasha Craft Fair in Mwanza. Pray for the Upendo wa Mama group as they sell. Pray also for the group starting more training and looking for a shop and someone to help with financial management.
- 9 United Kingdom:** Sue Fallon will be leading the evening service at her home church, St John's Southbourne.

- 10 Uganda:** The new school year starts today, which will mean a busy time for our office as we relaunch the “Good News” clubs in primary schools, Bible study groups in secondary schools, and the distribution of sanitary pads. Please pray especially for the many trainings which will be held for teachers and student leaders as these ministries relaunch in this new school year.
- 11 Tanzania:** This month we are praying for a good harvest of tomatoes for the Mwanza projects department. Pray also for the Tunaweza kwa Imani group as they begin to harvest cabbage this month, that they would meet their expectations!
- 12 International:** Praise God with us for the new International Board member, Pastor Michael Tesema. Michael is from Ethiopia and leads a church in Toronto. He and his wife continue to serve in Ethiopia as well. We are so thankful for God’s provision. More Board members are needed. Pray for those who have been approached and are considering joining us.
- 13 United Kingdom:** Andy and Angela Sharpe are leaving for Tanzania. Please pray for safe travels and a good and productive time with the teams in Mwanza and Iringa.
- International:** Lord willing there will be a council meeting of the directors of all our EI countries during February. These meetings are done over Skype and are such a blessing as each country gives updates on their work.
- 14 Tanzania:** Pray for our IMARIKA groups during this rainy season, that farmers would produce good crops, especially in conservation agriculture, that newly planted trees would grow well, for ongoing VICOBA meetings, and beekeeping training in Mafuluto and Usolanga.
- 15 Philippines:** Today the Copseys will be speaking at a Valentine’s banquet for about 50 couples in Tagum City, 2 hours away from Davao City. A missionary couple who has a ministry in that area invited them to share about... LOVE... of course! Please pray for travelling mercy and for a blessed time of sharing and learning from each other.
- 16 Tanzania:** Andy and Angela arrive in Mwanza from the UK. We also have the Iringa team arriving in Mwanza; pray for protection as they travel. Pray for our time together this week as we meet and talk and also relax together for a short retreat (from 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>)!
- Canada:** Kristy will be travelling to Malawi for her final visit to the Maternal Health project.
- 17 Canada:** Today is Family Day in Ontario. Pray for our EICanada staff and their families. (The office will be closed due to the Public Holiday.)
- 18 South Africa:** We’re thankful that we have secured full-time tutors for the Safe House children to help them improve their school results. Two of our children have learning difficulties and we are hoping to place them in a special School in a different suburb. Pray that this will happen this year.

- 19 Brazil:** We are facing some challenges to install photovoltaic energy at the Terena Bible School. One of them is the Government discussion to change some rules that will affect the costs. Pray that we are able to get the project approved and installed before any change is made.
- 20 Tanzania:** This month the agricultural groups will be doing VICOBA training. Pray for Peter organizing this, that they would get off to a good start!
- 21 Brazil:** Pray for the new indigenous students who will attend the Terena Bible School in 2020; for good adjustment with the language and the new environment.
- 22 Canada:** We welcome the VanWoerden family to the Toronto area from February 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> before they travel on to BC. Pray for safe travels, and a good time of connecting with the EICanada staff.
- 23 Tanzania:** Andy and Angela Sharpe are joining the Iringa team for a week (22-29) to support and encourage the team in this new chapter of EI-Iringa; pray for Ibrahim as team leader, Ajery as treasurer, Jesca as IMARIKA project officer, and Suzan as PHM development officer.
- 24 Brazil:** The Águas Formosas Day Care Center leadership is planning to offer income generation courses for the children's parents this year. Pray for a good planning and for the needed funds.
- 25 Tanzania:** Phil from Bees Abroad is visiting us this week. Pray for our time with him as we visit beekeeping projects and talk about the future and potential for beekeeping groups in this area.
- 26 Philippines:** NCP is providing a place for the church to move to from Northview 1. Please pray that it will be ready this month of February so we can move.
- 27 South Africa:** We thank you for your continued prayers for our church, Living Hope Bible Church ([www.livinghopebiblechurchsa.com](http://www.livinghopebiblechurchsa.com)). The many visitors we've had over the months since our move have now become regulars and we have requests for membership already. Please continue to pray that God would continue to work in the hearts of the unsaved and bring them to repentance and salvation.
- 28 United States of America:** Pray for God's guidance as the EI leaders make strategic plans for the future.
- South Africa:** Don is preparing for a trip to Canada to meet with interested church partners to help with the Safe Houses and for Living Hope Bible Church. The trip hasn't been finalized yet but it will likely be at the end of March or early April, Lord willing.
- 29 International:** Over the next few months, EI will be in discussions throughout our leadership on results of a recent in-house survey. We are very much looking forward to God's guidance and wisdom as we continue to seek ways of serving Him to His glory.
- Haiti:** Please continue to pray for our people and our work in Haiti.