



# the Emmanuel Connection

March 2020

## Focus on: Florida Banisi



Florida Banisi is the house mother for Emmanuel international's third Safe House in the informal settlement of Masiphumelele, Western Cape, South Africa.

Florida is a widow who has raised three of her own boys, by God's grace, through difficulty and hardship. After her boys moved from the family home to find work, Florida felt a calling

to continue to help disciple and mentor children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

When EI found Florida, she had already been working part-time as a child care worker in the township of Khayelitsha, about 40 kilometers from Masiphumelele and was a perfect fit for our need for a Godly and loving foster mum in our new Safe House in Masi.

When Florida isn't running the home and meeting the needs of the four children in her care, she also sings in the choir at church, helps with outreach events and is a huge encouragement to many single or struggling mums in the community. Her calling to work with the poorest of the poor in Masiphumelele has been a blessing to EI, but especially to the ones who now call her 'mamma'.



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

- 1 South Africa:** Don has been battling with severe bronchitis for most of February and has also been diagnosed with mild pneumonia. He's been resting in the afternoons and is on his second round of antibiotics. Please pray for a quick recovery.
- 2 United Kingdom:** We are meeting with Richard and Pam McGowan from EIC today. We are looking forward to spending time with them.  
**Tanzania:** We thank God for the EITZ retreat at Mwanza. It has been so good and we learnt a lot of things. The retreat has brought EI Tanzania to be one body.
- 3 Canada:** Pray for the safe delivery of David and Alyssa's third child due early March.  
**Haiti:** Martinez and Emma Jovin, retired Country Representatives, are in Miami and continue to attend various medical check-ups. They are both in good spirits as they enjoy an extended time of rest. Martinez's mobility is becoming an issue and they welcome your prayers.
- 4 Canada:** Richard and Pam McGowan will be returning to Canada today from a visit to the EI office in England.  
**Tanzania:** Suzan is expecting to start visiting PHM Village churches this week.
- 5 South Africa:** The ministry of the Living Hope Bible Church SA continues to go well. We are starting our month of outreach in March and pray that many people would hear and understand their need for the gospel. Please continue to pray that God would continue to work in the hearts of the unsaved and bring them to repentance and salvation.
- 6 Tanzania:** Today and tomorrow Tim Monger is at the Africa Society of Evangelical Theology Conference in Nairobi. He is presenting a paper on an East African perspective of Jesus' teaching on Prayer.
- 7 Tanzania:** Theopister and Laura meet with the youngest group of girls (11-14 years) in Igombe today. There are only five sessions left in this phase so please pray that the girls continue to arrive on time, ask good questions and share personal experiences.
- 8 Tanzania:** Please pray for Amisadai travelling to Nairobi to see an orthopaedic surgeon about her knee. Pray for healing and good treatment. And please especially pray for Tim as they return, that he would be able to get a visa to get into Tanzania, now that his current permit has expired.
- 9 Canada:** Pray for Andre, Alex, Lara, Talia, Ezera and Aniya VanWoerden as they settle back to life in Canada after 4 years serving with EI in Iringa, Tanzania.

- 10 International:** Richard and Pam McGowan (EIC) and Paul and Helen Jones (International office) are looking forward to visiting our EI Brazil country representatives, Fred and Carla Silva and Tarcisio and Jurema Porto. We thank God for this opportunity to see first hand what God is doing through these EI folk in Brazil.
- 11 Tanzania:** Joel Newby is meeting this month with the North Mwanza bishop and his team to help the church begin developing its own community development strategic plan.
- Haiti:** We would appreciate prayers for the Mission in Haiti: that God would open the door for suitable post-secondary programs for the girls and boys from the homes; for wisdom for the new leadership team and also for Daniel Jovin's planned trip in July.
- 12 Malawi:** There is political stability despite legal battles surrounding our May 2019 elections. Please pray that this peace will continue.
- Haiti:** We give praise for the ordination of Jameson Fleurentin in January 2020, at the Bethesda Jacmel Church. Jameson received his theological training in Jamaica and was married in December 2019. We are grateful for God's provision for a shepherd/pastor for the second largest church in the mission. Please keep him in prayer.
- 13 Tanzania:** Today Victoria Ewings's dad arrives from the UK. Pray for his time with the family and a productive teaching at the PAG Bible College (17-20<sup>th</sup>).
- 14 South Africa:** Our (Sayers') visa renewals have been submitted around the middle of February. Please pray that they would be approved in the next month or two.
- 15 Brazil:** The project to install photovoltaic energy at the Terena Bible School is facing some technical difficulties. Please pray for open doors.
- Tanzania:** The construction is continuing on the Mkulula water project. Please pray for the work there.
- 16 International:** We thank God for new Board members and look forward to all that God has ahead for us.
- 17 Canada:** The EIC AGM will be taking place at the EIC office today.
- Tanzania:** In the IMARIKA project, we are expecting distribute the beehives to the two group that have already been trained on beekeeping.
- 18 Malawi:** We are thankful for good health for our staff who are settling down in the field, especially for the Mangochi Project. Please pray that their good health will continue.

- 19 United Kingdom:** Sue Fallon is travelling to Canada today, returning in April. She will be visiting the EIC office, her supporters, EI alumni and churches. Please pray for safety in travelling and for good reunions with everyone.
- 20 Malawi:** This month takes us into the harvesting season. Let's pray for good harvest in this year.
- 21 Canada:** We are looking forward to celebrating with Sue Fallon 35 years with EI. Friends and past co-workers are gathering at EI Canada to celebrate this milestone with Sue on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March.
- 22 Tanzania:** This month we are running a Bible and Sanitation training on Kome Island for pastors of Buchosa District. Pray that this will be well received.
- 23 Brazil:** Emmanuel International Brazil is hoping to partner with two more churches in the near future: 7<sup>th</sup> Presbyterian Church and Jaíba Presbyterian Church. We are discussing with them the final details of the partnership.
- 24 South Africa:** We are thankful for funds that have come in for repairs to the third Safe House. The work has progressed well, starting with waterproofing the roof properly before the rains come in the next month.
- 25 Brazil:** Praise God for his blessings on the raising of support and the actual work at building the Águas Formosas Day Care Center roof.
- 26 Tanzania:** This month work is ongoing to renovate The Hive, a honey processing centre and Beeswax and Honey shop in Mwanza. Please pray for the work to proceed well and on time and within budget!
- 27 Haiti:** The political tension remains high. Please pray that school-age children will be able to salvage the academic year.
- 28 Tanzania:** Theopister and Laura, in partnership with Maryknoll, will be having a seminar for girls. A Maryknoll missionary asked if we would come and share about our project and do some menstrual health training. Praise the Lord for new opportunities!
- 29 Uganda:** Mike, Marianne and Elias Botting are on furlough. Please pray for safe travels and fruitful times as they meet up with family, friends and supporters. Please also pray for the team in Uganda and the project work that they are carrying forward.
- 30 International:** Continue to pray for EI country leaders as they discuss issues for growth for EI.
- 31 Philippines:** The teams in the Philippines are working to provide relief to victims of disasters. Please pray for the teams as well as the people who have lost so much.