

DOWN to EARTH

Emmanuel International UK News
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The EI Ministry in Tanzania



Andy and Angela Sharpe worked with Emmanuel International in Iringa, Tanzania from 2010 till early 2016. Andy was the Water Project Engineer and Angela worked in the EI office. They had the opportunity to visit Tanzania again in February this year.

Emmanuel International has quite a lot going on in Tanzania, currently with two mission bases – the major one now in Mwanza on Lake Victoria, and the smaller one in Iringa, 1000km to the southeast. There are lots of small village church based EI projects going on in these two areas. The Monger, Ewing and Newby families and Laura are based in Mwanza, supporting 6 national staff. The VanWoerden family have been supporting the work in Iringa for the last 5 years and they have now returned to Canada, leaving the 4 national staff in Iringa feeling a bit remote.



The complete Tanzania team (both Mwanza and Iringa teams) at the retreat during Andy and Angela's visit

As an encouragement and to bring a greater sense of unity to all the EI Tanzania staff, country director Tim Monger arranged a retreat outside Mwanza for a few days in February. Angela and I flew out to catch up with the delightful Monger family, share in the retreat and then travel back down to Iringa with the Iringa staff for a week. Having worked in Iringa with the EI staff until 2016, our purpose was to encourage the staff and reassure them of EI's continuing prayers and commitment to them and their work.

The retreat was held at a small lodge just outside Serengeti National Park. As a treat for the Tanzanians, they all went into the famous game park for a day before the retreat. Almost all of them had never had the opportunity to go into the game park before, so it was wonderful that EI Canada were able to bless the staff in this way.



Retreat under the trees

The retreat, led by Tim, focussed on 'Being one body' in Christ, and also looked at how EI Tanzania can be more 'as one' even though the two bases are 1000km apart.

There is no easy way of getting from Mwanza to Iringa. The cheapest way (which of course is what we all did!) is to get a long-distance bus, which takes 16 hours. Fortunately the roads were not too busy or pot-holed, but even so the journey is a bit of an endurance test.

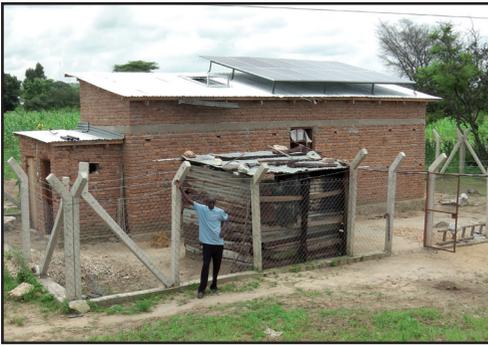


The new Iringa office

With the VanWoerden family having recently left Iringa, EI has had to make a number of changes there, including moving the office, terminating some long-term house rentals and selling a vehicle. Alex and Andre had done an amazing job doing all that before they left. There were lots of little things that Angela and I were able to do to make things better for the relocated office and house that EI has. In fact, the house is the same one we lived in when we were there long-term, so it was a bit weird staying there for that week.

It was good to be able to spend time with our Iringa colleagues, talk with them about their concerns and needs, and also see how some of the work is progressing. They are faithful workers, but the added responsibilities of working without missionary oversight feels a bit daunting for them. We reminded them that 'all things are possible with God'.

Message from the Chair of the EIUK Board of Trustees re COVID-19



Amani CTC solar pump system

I (Andy) visited Isimani RWH project and Amani Christian Training Centre solar water pump project, both of which I had a hand in designing, so it was lovely to see them in the flesh now.

The support plan over the coming months for the Iringa team is that at least one of the Mwanza staff will visit Iringa each month to strengthen the ties and resolve any problems arising in Iringa. Further visits from international staff such as ourselves will also be an encouragement as the national staff learn to continue the work without direct expat oversight. There is plenty of space for visitors in the Iringa house!



**The Iringa team – Ibrahim, Ajery,
Suzan and Jesca**

**There are also opportunities to be
involved in the work longer term!
Talk to us at the office!**

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:6-7

Dear EI UK Family,

It is certainly a rather unique time for all of us with Covid-19 and its impact on the world. I pray you are finding peace through this time and also able to keep in touch with others even if only virtually. It has been encouraging to see how people have come together to support one another.

As we continue to pray for each other and the situation at hand, I am reminded of those countries we work in that won't have the healthcare, planning or capacity to deal with what may potentially occur and ask we remember them in prayer over the next weeks and months.

God's richest blessings at this time.

Clive Tydeman

Update on EI personnel overseas

Brazil

Fred and Carla Silva: They are not leaving their homes but are fine.

Tarcisio and Jurema Porto: They are also fine.

Malawi

Scott and Lorilee MacLean: They are well and continue to remain in Malawi. Their trip home to Canada is in the balance, but they are being looked after well by the partner churches.

Ben Voss: Ben and his fiancé, Brooke, are trying to return to Canada. They have tickets booked but not sure if it will go ahead.

Haiti

Daniel Jovin: He is in Canada and schools are shut down. His parents are in Miami and by God's grace they are doing well; Martinez' mobility is a challenge and he is not able to drive regularly.

Philippines

Shem and Fleur Catanus: They are fine at time of writing, taking extra precautions against the virus. Bacolod City is also putting restrictions on the coming and going of people.

Ken and Ruth Copsey: They are staying home and are well, keeping busy with TMC translations and writing.

Edna Santos: She is awaiting surgery but with lockdown in the country, there is a moratorium on elective surgery. She is staying at home.

South Africa

Don and Rachel Sayers: South Africa has just gone into lockdown and they are prepared.

Tanzania

Simon and Victoria Ewing: They are staying in Tanzania. Victoria has been holding COVID-19 workshops to ensure that correct information is shared. On Kome Island they are concentrating on sharing messages about maintaining clean and safe environments through home visits, while maintaining safe distancing guidelines.

Laura Kelly: Laura is doing well and staying calm in Mwanza.

Tim and Rachel Monger: Amisadai recently had an ACL replacement in Nairobi. She is back home in Mwanza, but is experiencing complications. At the time of writing, she has spent a night in hospital and has had an IV with antibiotics. Please pray for Amisadai's health and for the best decision for the family about the next steps.

Joel and Samantha Newby: They are doing well, social distancing for the most part. Hephzibah is doing school at home and Ethan loves having Hephzie home all day. Samantha is now 3 months pregnant and she and the baby are both healthy.

Uganda

Mike and Marianne Botting: They are on furlough in Canada and are unable to return to Uganda.

EIUK Annual General Meeting and Summer Event

13 June 2020 at Trinity Church, Harrow

Given the current situation around COVID-19, it may be that we'll have to make alternative arrangements and hold the AGM remotely.