



the Emmanuel Connection

April 2020

Focus on: Theopister Shoo



Before we launched the “Nguvu na Hadhi” project, we prayed the Lord would send the right person... and we’re so thankful that turned out to be Theopister Shoo!

Theopister lives in Igombe with her husband, Bishop Rodrick Shoo, and their 5 children. On any given day, you can find her preaching, singing in the choir, teaching Sunday School, leading seminars, or visiting with the community.

When asked what she enjoys about this girls’ health project, she replied, “I like this project because it helps the community. There are many problems in the village of Igombe. Many parents and girls don’t understand about menstruation. Some girls don’t go to school because they don’t have pads. It’s a big problem, but this project is helping these girls and families.”

Theopister’s humble nature and love for people is what makes her so effective in this role. She’s a wonderful addition to the Mwanza team, and we couldn’t be more thankful!



Please keep these concerns in your daily prayers...

Our work has been affected by the spread of COVID-19. Life is uncertain at the moment and many events cancelled in our project countries. People cannot move as freely as before. We are providing the prayer calendar in a different format this month.

Please pray every day for those affected by the coronavirus.

International

- 1** Praise for the people God is bringing to our Board and for cohesion as we work together, that we will be united in God's peace.
- 2** Pray for the ongoing discussions among the leadership in all 10 of EI's countries, as well for a spirit of unity and open ears to God's direction.
- 3** The Jones and McGowans had to cancel their planned trip to Brazil.
- 4** Please pray for: Paul and Helen Jones

Brazil

- 1** The work at the Águas Formosas Day Care Center roof continues, with some delays because of the rains. Praise God for providing the resources needed.
- 2** Pray for Jaíba and 7th Presbyterian Church and EI Brazil plans to partner with them. The churches need God's wisdom and clarity to understand His will to reach out to needy people.
- 3** Please pray for: Fred and Carla Silva and Tarcisio and Jurema Porto.

Canada

- 1** The Promise Project activities have finished. Please pray for the next few weeks as the reporting for the whole project is due April 20th to Children Believe (formerly Christian Children's Fund of Canada).
- 2** We praise God for the sacrifice of his son that we celebrate this Easter weekend, that bought us freedom from sin.
- 3** The EIC Board meeting was scheduled for the 21st. Please pray that the meeting can still go ahead in an alternative format.
- 4** Please pray for: Richard McGowan, Pam McGowan, Cindy Bates (Human Resources), Kristy Nowell (Finance and Promise Project coordinator), Amy Maglayo (Donations/Donor Relations), Helen Jones (Donor Relations) and David and Alyssa Forsythe.

Haiti

- 1** In Haiti, the government has begun to take precautionary measures to address COVID-19 challenges. There are 2 confirmed cases at the time of writing. Schools churches and other social gathering places are recommended for closure. Misinformation is a public health concern that is being addressed via public service announcements.
- 2** Please pray for: Daniel Jovin in Canada, Martinez and Emma Jovin in Miami and the staff in Haiti

Malawi

- 1** There are no cases of COVID-19 at the time of writing, but schools have been closed and public meetings of more than 100 people and unnecessary travel banned.
- 2** Please pray for: Charles Mukiwa, Breteron Mitambo, Scott and Lorilee MacLean, Ben Voss and other staff in the office and on the field, and the leaders of our partner churches.

Philippines

- 1** We pray for those affected by the coronavirus.
- 2** The farmers of Cabagan, Isabela are harvesting their corn crops. Please pray that it will be good harvest.
- 3** The Talanay Bible Club's planned closing ceremonies had to be cancelled.
- 4** There are still many people affected by the Taal Volcano eruption in January 2020. Please pray that they will be able to find a place for all of those affected in the evacuation centers.
- 5** On April 11 we hold a half day in prayer for our SALT team.
- 6** Our Summer Youth Camp is planned for April 22-25, if we are by this time allowed to congregate. This will be attended by students from different ethnic backgrounds but mostly all believers in Jesus. Pray for safety as the kids travel from various villages. Pray for the volunteers - facilitators, speakers, staff including cook, drivers, etc. Pray that God's name will be glorified and that the kids will be closer to the Lord.
- 7** Ken Copsey was invited to speak at a Pastors' conference in Marber on April 23. Pray for a blessed time of sharing and fellowship with village pastors in the area.

- 8** Also pray for all our graduating students whose graduation ceremonies were either postponed or cancelled. As expected, they are all disappointed. Pray that the schools will consider some kind of a simple ceremony, though late, for all our graduating students.
- 9** Shem and Fleur Catanus say that Bacolod City is also putting restrictions on the movement of people. They do not panic-buy but have the basic necessities. Let's just pray for the safety of all the EI family.
- 10** Edna Santos is awaiting an operation. She has a strong immune system but not young anymore. Please pray she will have peace as she faces the surgery.
- 11** Please pray for: Alex Pacis, Edna Santos, Ken and Ruth Copsey, Shem and Fleur Catanus, Noel Taban and Alex Pantua.

South Africa

- 1** The informal settlements are high density populations with 3mx3m shacks occupied by 4.5 people on average. There is no social distancing.
- 2** The average water outlet is shared by 6 families. There is no way to wash one's hands 10 times a day.
- 3** Nearly all the informal residents work a day to eat a day which means after day 5 there are going to be serious problems. Very desperate and hungry people.
- 4** To date SA has had zero deaths and all the infected have been wealthy travelers returning from overseas holidays, where they've been quarantined. Yet, there is a lockdown of the entire population.
- 5** Pray that there wouldn't be violence and riots and the government would take a more sensible approach.
- 6** Please pray for: Don and Rachel Sayers and the house mothers in the safe houses.

Tanzania

- 1** Plans for projects are very uncertain right now and could all change a lot in a short time. Please pray for all the people and groups we work with, for wisdom to know what to do and how best to help during this time.
- 2** As for the 'Nguvu na Hadhi' project, Theopister and Laura made the call to cancel sessions with the girls. The government hasn't placed restrictions on gatherings yet, but we figured if schools were closed, we shouldn't be meeting either.

- 3** There have been some reports of racial remarks against *azungu* in various countries of Africa. We ask God's protection and for people to be free from discrimination.
- 4** Our entrepreneurship project with the Tanzania Assemblies of God is going well. Our newest group is seeing the greatest success. They have just finished harvesting cabbages. Despite losing almost a third of their crop to a hippo, they still made money and are quickly chipping away at their loan. We are eager to start a new group in the area. They hope to start a lamb livestock project. Continue to keep all our groups in your prayers at this time of pandemic in the world. I am sure we will see changes as this pandemic continues. We have already put in place plans to continue implementation, monitoring, and discipleship by engaging local leaders to take part.
- 5** Praise for the opportunities the teams have had to do some solid teaching about COVID-19 in project communities.
- 6** Amisadai had an ACL replacement and is experiencing some complications. She has already spent a night in hospital and is on antibiotics. Please pray that this will help and that there is no need for opening up the wound.
- 7** Please pray for: Peter (Conservation Agriculture manager), Elisha (CA and entrepreneurship), Bhatendi (CA and beekeeping), Emmanuel (Health and Sanitation), Vicky (Maternal Health), Theopister (Girl's Menstrual Health), Laura, Simon and Victoria, Joel and Samantha, Tim and Rachel. And for our pastors working with Community groups through their churches in Kayenze and surrounding villages (CA and beekeeping), Malya (beekeeping), Ngudu (beekeeping), Ukerewe island villages (entrepreneurship), Kome Island (health and sanitation), Ngombe (girl's health), Sengerema area (CA) and Magu villages (entrepreneurship).

United Kingdom

- 1** Sue Fallon's planned trip to Canada, to visit friends, churches and supporters and fill them in on her 35 years with EI, had to be cancelled.
- 2** Claire Hemingway, a student who visited the Acholi Girls Fairer Future project in Uganda in 2019, is raising funds for the project. She planned to run the Manchester Marathon but the marathon has been postponed.
- 3** All bar essential travel in the UK has been banned and people are told to work from home. Sue and Linda are abiding by this rule and working from home.
- 4** Please pray for: Sue Fallon, Linda Fitzmaurice and Andy and Angela Sharpe.

Uganda

- 1** In Uganda, all group gatherings of any kind (school, church, court, wedding celebrations, funeral mornings, bars and nightclubs, etc) were suspended until at least April 20, when they will be reviewed. Soon after, all human border crossing except for trade was suspended by air and road. This means the Botting family cannot return to Uganda on their planned dates of April 5th, and do not know when they will be able to do so.
- 2** The office in Pader remains open for administrative matters, but all field activities are currently suspended.
- 3** Following Uganda's first COVID-19 case and border closures, prices suddenly jumped, with some food items doubling or tripling in price. In the North of Uganda, this is particularly poorly timed, as it is the beginning of the hungry gap - the time of year when families run out of their crops from last year and need to buy food items to last until harvest time.
- 4** Please pray God will calm the fears of us all, protect Uganda from COVID-19, guide the team on the ground and the timing of the Bottings' return, and help us all find the opportunity behind the challenge of how to minister to our people in this situation.
- 5** Please pray for: Okidi Walter (School Discipleship field officer and office general manager), Agenorwot Concy Lilly (Child Discipleship field officer), Okot Ceasar (Jesus Film field officer), Akello Milly (Pads Ministry coordinator), Rev. Patrick Labanya (Community Health Empowerment coordinator) and support staff: Odong Patel (Security guard), Okeny Tiberio (Security guard), Acaa Doris (Office attendant (cleaner)) and Oyet Polycarp (Bookkeeper).

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14:27 (NIV)

