



# the Emmanuel Connection

October 2020

## Focus on: El Canada Board (part 1)



### Rob Fish

Rob joined the board in 2006 and has been the Chair of the EIC board since 2019. Rob's education has been focused in the area of Business Management becoming a Certified Management Accountant in 1992. Rob's career has included working at Tyndale University College, The Gideons International in Canada, Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, Partners International, Baycrest Foundation and is currently the Executive Director of Stewards Canada, a

ministry that provides mortgages to churches. Rob lives in Brampton with his wife Sherri. They have a son, Kenneth.



### Bob Flemming

Bob graduated from Central Baptist Seminary in 1979 and served as a Youth Pastor at Forward Baptist Church from 1979-1982. He moved to Springvale Baptist Church in Stouffville and served for 28 years as Senior Pastor. Bob was the Central Regional Director for the Fellowship for 10 years and continues to serve the region in a part-time capacity. Bob and his wife Rhonda have two

adult married children, Jessica and Hannah, and enjoy spending time with their grandchildren, Jackson, Ario and Esta as well as playing golf, tennis and fishing.



### Martyn Hartley

Martyn came to Canada from England in 1966 spending the next 27 years in the insurance business. He and his wife Jill served at Emmanuel in 1990-92 and then ministered to Chinese in Canada, Hong Kong and Taiwan. In 1997 Martyn and Jill moved to Sichuan, China where they taught modern day sheep farming and English. From 1999 until 2015, God entrusted him to evangelize and minister to Chinese and Vietnamese in Diaspora by taking Mandarin and

Vietnamese speakers to Russia and Eastern Europe. Martyn currently teaches English at a local church and tutors refugee families.



### Josh Shurr

After Josh graduated from an Environmental Engineering Technology program, he served in Malawi for 2 years where he met his wife Mary Jane. In 2002, they both served in Uganda for two years. He has worked with World Vision Canada and is currently with the Regional Municipality of Halton. Josh served as an EIC board member from 2008 to 2013 and is honored to serve once again.

Josh, Mary Jane, their two sons Elias and Andrew and their dog Lucy attend the Meeting House Church where they are elders and lead a small home church.

**To be continued in the November 2020 issue of The Emmanuel Connection**

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## 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.*

*Please pray every day for those affected by the coronavirus.*

- 1 South Africa:** Don Sayers is taking on more teaching this month in a Marriage Counselling course and in the pulpit Sunday Mornings. He is also finalizing year end for African Hope Trust and Emmanuel South Africa, so it will be a busy patch.
  - 2 Malawi:** We want to thank God for the partnership we have had with Villages in Partnership. As they move to be independent from October 1, lets pray for continued stability between EI Malawi and VIP.
  - 3 Brazil:** EI Brazil is involved with the distribution of another 400 food packages to poor families that had their income affected by COVID-19 pandemic. 500 children will also receive a special kit with a Bible story coloring book, coloring pencils, a simple toy and some candies. Our prayer is that each family and child would feel God's love and care for them when they receive the food packages and kits.
  - 4 Tanzania:** In October we will start preliminary seminars for the IMARIKA Project in A new village called Mlowa. Please pray for us to have good cooperation with the community.
  - 5 Tanzania:** Joel and Elisha will be doing field visits in the Magu district for the new entrepreneurship projects.
  - 6 South Africa:** Rachel Sayers injured her back last month falling from a broken ladder. Please continue to pray for her. An MRI last months showed she has some degenerative problems on her spine. She is still in pain most of the day but is mobile with rests throughout the day.
  - 7 Tanzania:** Laura Kelly is returning to Mwanza today for her second term of service. Pray she has safe travels and that her residency permit will soon be approved. We are thankful that she has been given a renewed work permit. Also pray for Laura as she settles back into life in Mwanza.
  - 8 United Kingdom:** A second wave of COVID-19 is looming over the UK. People have been urged to work from home again. Please pray that it can be curbed and that we can return to some sense of normality.
  - 9 Uganda:** Michael and Marianne Botting are back in Uganda, after a repatriation flight and quarantine. Please pray for them to settle back into life and ministry in Uganda.
- Tanzania:** Peter, Bhatendi, and Elisha will be following up all the churches where they taught in during the month of September.

- 10 Philippines:** September was the end of our financial year. Please pray for the closing of the accounting books and getting it audited.
- 11 Malawi:** We seek God's guidance in the new fiscal year that we have just started.
- 12 Canada:** Today is Thanksgiving Day in Canada. We have much to be thankful for, this year even more so.
- 13 Canada:** Please pray as we finalize the Christmas Catalogue, as it is mailed, emailed and posted on the website. Please pray for all the details to be in place and that the printing goes smoothly.
- 14 International:** The International Board will be having their end of year Board meeting mid-October. Praise God with us for our Board members, their wisdom and guidance in our organization.
- 15 International:** The EI Council are meeting together today. Please pray.  
**Uganda:** The government is reopening schools today for students who are sitting their primary or secondary school exams. Please pray that this reopening will be done safely, and for wisdom as we plan for how we can safely minister to these students.
- 16 Uganda:** In September the office went through a process of reevaluating our projects, so that we can restart our ministries under the current COVID-19 conditions. During October we will be sharing these thoughts with our partner churches. Please pray for wisdom, and for strengthened partnerships.
- 17 Haiti:** Daniel Jovin is the EI interim Country Representative in Haiti. He is the headmaster of a school in Canada, a demanding task. Please pray for Daniel as he deals with the demands of both jobs.
- 18 Brazil:** Praise God with us for the medical teams that have finally arrived at the Terena villages to provide assistance in the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of deaths among the Terena people are starting to decrease.
- 19 Uganda:** COVID-19 cases are on the rise in Uganda, with a number of cases in our project area - including a pastor and wife who partner with us. Please pray for safety for all of our staff members and their families, and for the churches we partner with.
- 20 Philippines:** The Northview Christian Fellowship hope that we will be able to meet at the new Barangay hall in the month of October. Please pray as we resume The Mailbox Club lessons for our children's program on Saturdays. Please pray for wisdom on how to carry out the program under the new normal.
- 21 Tanzania:** Elisha plans to travel to Ukerewe to follow up with the chicken group in Nansole. One of the group members has been disconnected. Pray Elisha is able to reconcile the situation peacefully.

- 22 Malawi:** Let's pray for EBCM's programs as COVID-19 cases continue to drop. This year's AGM was cancelled. Pray that God will provide a space for an equally effective platform to happen.
- 23 International:** EI has a new tagline for our media: *Partnering with churches in serving their communities*. We thank God for the perseverance of our EI Council who, after some months of detailed discussion, agreed together that this tagline gives a first glance into our organization.
- 24 Tanzania:** The Strength and Dignity project is transitioning into phase two. Please pray that this will go well.
- 25 United States of America:** Please pray for Mark's wife, Sherry, and her mom, Joanne. Joanne's condition continues to deteriorate and she is sleeping less and less, which means Sherry sleeps less and less. Several times Joanne has fallen onto the floor and once Sherry was not able to pick her up so she had to call 911 to have someone come and help her back into bed. Sherry is looking for alternatives for her Mom's care and we pray that we find the right place for her.
- 26 Haiti:** Please pray for our staff, our work and the country of Haiti.
- 27 Tanzania:** Palapala will be harvesting many watermelons during the month of October for the entrepreneurship project!
- 28 International:** We partner with churches in the project countries where we work. Please pray for our partner churches. Our relationships with them are good but please pray that this will grow and develop even stronger. Also pray for potential new partnerships that are being investigated.
- 29 United Kingdom:** September was the end of the fiscal year. Please pray as we start preparing the financial documents, ready for the accountants.
- 30 South Africa:** The wife of Letson, one of our board trustees, has lost her job at one of the local primary schools. The school may have to close as well so pray that they could find work for her and that they could stay in the house they are renting.
- 31 Brazil:** The Terena Bible School leaders and students are very happy with the online classes, now that they have better access to internet and a good quality TV. We praise God for that and for the funds He provided that enabled the Bible School to improve the classes, even being in quarantine.