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News from EMMANUEL INTERNATIONAL

PARTNERING WITH CHURCHES IN SERVING THEIR COMMUNITIES

Issue 2 of 2020

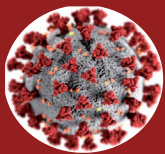


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Update on the work of Emmanuel International in COVID-19 times

From our International Director

Interestingly, Psalm 16 has come up in a number of conversations over the last few weeks. It is a Psalm rich with meaning but for this brief moment, look at verses 7&8:

"I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken."
(ESV)

It has been 8 months since COVID hit our world full force. The impact in each of our 10 EI countries has varied... from Tanzania where little was said by the government, to continued lockdown in Bacolod, Philippines (home to the Catanus EI missionary family). In all this time, in all the places we work, we know of only one person in our EI ranks to have contracted the disease. Thank you, Heavenly Father! Thank you for protection, for wisdom in navigating this new challenge and thank you for each of our missionaries, staff and partner churches who have continued to reach out to others with your message of life and hope through these months!

Paul and Helen Jones

BRAZIL

Since March, some of Emmanuel International Brazil projects had to be put on hold because of the pandemic. But, by God's grace, we have been able to respond to the basic needs of so many poor families that have been greatly affected by COVID-19, people that saw their low income in informal jobs to be dangerously reduced. These are some of the activities we have carried out in the last months:

- Supported sanitary checkpoints at the entrance of indigenous villages - we helped the Terena people with some food packages, cleaning materials, etc.
- Distribution of 400 food packages to poor rural communities in the north of Minas Gerais state. The partner churches we work with looked for families at risk and showed them God's love in practical ways,

helping them with food packages. We also distributed Bibles in some communities.



Food distribution in Espinosa

- Support of Águas Formosas Day Care Center families with food packages. In this time when PROPAC daily activities are on hold, the team visits the families and helps them in their immediate needs.

- Support of a Terena indigenous village with food for 17 students from neighbouring villages that come to stay at the pastor's home to attend school. Those teenagers and youth are from other ethnic groups and pastor Cirênio and his wife hold Bible studies with them.
- We raised funds to purchase another 400 food packages. This time we added a special kit for 500 children to be distributed during the celebration of Children's Week. Each kit has a Christian story colouring book, colouring pencils, a simple toy, and some candies/chocolate.



Indigenous students helped in the Matupá Terena village

The Terena Bible School continues its activities, with some restrictions, as they decided to go on lockdown since middle of March. We helped them get better quality internet and purchase a television, so the students can have online classes with teachers from different places. The classes are working very well and both the leadership and the students are very excited with the results.



In 2019 school aged children missed school for more than 3 months, due to various reasons. After a brief resumption of classes in 2020, schools were closed again due to the coronavirus pandemic. Virtual schooling has been impossible since most homes do not have internet and television access. In August, schools reopened, however many parents can no longer afford to pay tuition.

The OEBB Bethesda schools and services have had a major impact in many communities for many years. However, due to little revenue from underemployed parents and the inability of schools to remunerate faculty and staff, the restart of the school year has been difficult.



Tropical Storm Laura reached Haiti on Sunday morning, 23 August, complicating life that is already difficult. Air and sea traffic was temporarily suspended and the international airport in Port-au-Prince was also temporarily closed due to flooding. Numerous rivers were flooded across the country, including in the communities of Marbial and Jacmel. Preliminary reports of the damage from the storm indicate that numerous houses were flooded, destroyed or damaged and a number of roads were blocked. Telecommunication services were temporarily interrupted.

We welcome your prayers for this difficult impasse. Our God is able help where situations seem impossible.

MALAWI

El implemented Titukulane project in Mangochi in collaboration with partners: Care, Save the Children, Water Aid, IFPRI and NASFAM. It was funded by USAID. Activities include:

COVID-19 Awareness campaigns in Mangochi. A total of 21003 people were reached.

COVID-19 sensitisation meeting to Faith Leaders. Oriented 51 participants on COVID-19.

Conducted **Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) status assessment** in 14 health centres and 8 market centres and one border post.

Training session on COVID-19 Sample Collection to Environmental Health Officers. Trained 25 Environmental Health Officers, 168 Health Surveillance Assistants Oriented Titukulane staff and government Frontline staff on **prevention measures** and steps to be taken when one tests positive.

Training on **National COVID-19 protocols** and guidelines. A total of 46 Titukulane and government frontline staff.

Training of on New COVID-19 **Community Based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) and Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYFS)** - 510 Government Nutrition frontline staff



Kids demonstrating social distancing

Symbolic presentation and handover of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and Non-Food items (NFI) at Mangochi District Council offices - 42 participants attended the function.



Handing over the PPEs and the hand washing facilities at Mangochi District

Conducted 12 **Radio Panel Discussion on COVID-19** on Radio Islam, Lilanguka, Dzimwe. The main objective was to disseminate COVID-19 prevention messages to the communities and encourage them to practice precautionary measures. At the same time, the discussions aimed at giving room for the communities to voice out their concerns or fears towards COVID-19.

Distribution of PPE. 259 items were distributed to the Mangochi district hospital and the Mangochi Maternity unit.

WASH needs Assessment in primary schools, in collaboration with Malawi Red Cross. A total of 299 primary schools were reached and assessed.

The COVID-19 response activities were very helpful in providing information in the community. The distribution of PPE's and WASH NFI's helped facilitate prevention measures in hotspot areas particularly in markets and churches. In addition to this, the Radio Panel Discussions provided a dialogue platform for community members to present burning issues, myths and questions on COVID-19.

PHILIPPINES

Mindanao Region

In the Mindanao region, where Ken and Ruth Copsey work, they partnered with their SALT team in Davao, Pastor Paul Abraham, an evangelist with International Commission and leader of the Ministerial Association of Sultan Kuderat and the Bahaghari South Baptist Church in Lipilipian for a COVID-19 relief outreach from 3 to 30 May 2020.



Emmanuel International Titukulane project vehicle branded with COVID-19 messages.



PPE distribution at Somba Health Clinic in Traditional Area Mbwanyambi



Pastor Paul in yellow shirt

In mid-March in the Philippines declared quarantine in most places of the country due to the global pandemic. People were in lockdown in their homes and unable to do their regular work. As with many communities in the Philippines, if people are unable to work for their daily wage, they don't get paid. And if they don't get paid soon they will run out of any reserve funds and need assistance. The government had various alleviation programs but these weren't really enough. We stepped in to help and were active in these areas:

Balaan tribe. Tacurong, Sultan Kuderat
61 families were helped with grocery packs. These were itinerant workers to the area who were stranded when COVID-19 lockdown occurred and couldn't return to their homes.



Mangochi district hospital stores department receiving and verifying PPE's



COVID-19 relief in Balaan

Teduray tribe Lipilipian, Sultan Kuderat

We have worked in this community before with a water project. Since they are high up in the mountains, they are far from getting any help. During quarantine they were unable to have their regular means of livelihood, get produce to market. etc. 49 families were helped.

Tacurong, Sultan Kuderat area ministers

Pastors from smaller evangelical churches have been unable to conduct services during this time, even until now as large groups are prohibited from gathering, including churches. Some of the larger urban churches were able to have online services. 30 pastors and their families were helped with grocery packs.

Arroyo Compound, Davao City A place of urban poor / non-home non-land owners, some from the Badjao tribe. 42 families were helped and New Testament Bibles were given out.

Maguindanao and Badjao 40 families, urban poor (includes our student scholars from Tucarong, Sultan Kudarat province).

Baroyon, Carmen, North Cotabato helped 160 families in a community from the Manobo tribe, a far flung area. Their buy and sell farming business was effected by COVID-19. We distributed food aid: packs of rice, beans, canned fish and soap.

Cateel Municipal Hospital c/o Dr. Sunni, and c/o Myla at SPMC (South Philippine Medical Center) We provided 10 personal protection equipment, 500 masks, 700 gloves and 2 gallons hand sanitizer.

A total of 384 families were helped to survive during this COVID-19 pandemic. Food aid was given such as rice, eggs, dried fish, beans, crackers, milk, corned beef, coffee, sugar and also soap.

Manilla region

In the Manilla area, where Edna Santos works, COVID-19 outreach was mainly providing food for people who lost their livelihoods through the virus and are going hungry.

In June, and again in August, food was distributed to 250 families, who enjoyed the blessing of food for a week, at least.

Pastor Gerry Corpuz leads a church plant in Bongabon Nueva Ecija, in the hills of the former New People's Army who are now saved. The church was built by a church in Norway. Here they distributed boxes and boxes of *pancit canton* (noodles cooked Filipino Chinese style).





There are many people still going hungry in this region. We welcome your prayers for the people who are suffering because of the economic effects of COVID-19.



SOUTH AFRICA

Apart from ensuring food and safety for the safe houses in the care of EI in South Africa, they have also been helping to purchase food parcels for the elderly in the informal settlement community of our partner church. Thirteen grandmothers were fed as they are unable to queue for 6 hours in the hope of collecting a small government food parcel.

TANZANIA

The response of the Tanzanian government when COVID-19 was first a threat to the country, was to call for prayer and fasting!

The EI team in Mwanza provided education and hand washing stations while the team in Iringa also provided education and information. This outreach took place in March 2020 though they have been able to safely carry on with projects.

UGANDA

The EI team in Pader, Uganda, responded early on with outreach to the local pastors we work with as they lost their income through churches, as well as the national staff who struggled to afford food when the prices increased sharply.

COVID-19 is having an impact on how our existing projects can go forward. The EI Uganda team met with church leaders to reevaluate and adjust our ministries before relaunching in an appropriate manner.

Read more details about earlier outreach activities on our website on eiuk.org.uk/covid-relief

We are grateful for the technology that allowed us to keep contact with each other during this troublesome time.

The EI offices in the **United Kingdom, Canada and United States of America** could meet together regularly to discuss how to best support the COVID-19 outreach activities in our project countries.



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