



# the Emmanuel Connection

December 2020

## Focus on: EI Malawi Board



### Prof Dixie Maluwa-Banda, the Board Chair

I feel extremely honoured and humbled as the longest serving member of EI Malawi. I thank God that I managed to see the organisation through a leadership transition very well.

### Dr Elizabeth Tikondwe Kamchedzera

Having been on the Board of Directors for EI for several years, I must say that I have been impressed by the organisation's endeavours. I intend to put all my passion in assisting the organisation in every way possible.



### Dr Dennis Kayambazinthu

Dennis Kayambazinthu is a Forestry Consultant and former Director of Forestry. He joined the Advisory Board in January 2016 with a passion to ensure EI work in natural resources fully serves and benefits all EI beneficiaries, particularly the poor.

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

- 1 Tanzania:** We have a livestock seminar planned from today till the 3<sup>rd</sup>. It has already been postponed once. Please pray for good understanding.
- 2 South Africa:** Rachel Sayer's parathyroid surgery is scheduled for 11 December. Pray for safety as we (Don and Rachel) travel to the US for the procedure and that the doctors will be able to remove the tumor without difficulty. Pray for our children as we leave them behind in South Africa for the duration. They will be with Rachel's sister about an hour away. Because flying through Europe was inadvisable and many domestic flights from New York are cancelled, we had to find creative routes to get to Florida. We must be there 3 days early for a COVID-19 test and then the procedure on the 11<sup>th</sup> is 15 minutes. We fly home 2 days later if there are no complications and routes have not been cancelled.
- 3 United Kingdom:** The country is coming out of a second lockdown today, entering into a 3 tier system of restrictions. Please pray that the virus will be brought under control and that a vaccine can be rolled out in the country soon.
- 4 Uganda:** As Uganda is preparing for elections in January, please pray for a peaceful campaign and elections and for good leaders who will serve their people well.
- 5 International:** We will all appreciate prayer as we prepare for Christmas celebrations in a COVID-19 world. May we all make the appropriate decisions as we do our part to reduce the spread.  
**Philippines:** We are hoping to do a Christmas food distribution. Please pray that we will have enough money.
- 6 United States of America:** The EI Christmas Catalog is being mailed out for the first time in the US. Pray that it is well received and will help generate more support for EI programs!
- 7 Canada:** Pray for an open heart and mind to however God would have us celebrate Jesus' birthday while surrounded by COVID-19 precautions.
- 8 Tanzania:** Pastor Balela (TAG missions director) is searching for a few candidates to work in our new EI Tanga church partnership. We hope to do interviews later in the month.
- 9 Brazil:** The Águas Formosa Day Care Center activities have been resumed, with all sanitary measures. We praise God for the children who are participating in the Music, Computer and Tutoring classes and for the mothers who participate in the Sewing Course Classes.

- 10 Philippines:** Northview Christian Fellowship is looking for a place to hold our Christmas celebrations. Please pray that we find a suitable venue.
- 11 International:** Some of our project countries have or will have upcoming elections. Pray for a positive outcome and where applicable, a successful transfer to new leadership.
- United Kingdom:** We are still finalising the financial statements for the external examiner and our year end report. Pray that this will be finalised well.
- 12 Brazil:** The Terena Bible School Graduation will be held today. Let's praise the Lord for this great blessing. In the middle of the pandemic, even for months in lockdown, God graciously blessed the Terena Bible School.
- 13 Uganda:** This month we are starting to train parents in how to disciple their children from home, as Sunday School classes are currently prohibited. This will go alongside our weekly Sunday School radio program, for which we have received positive feedback.
- 14 Tanzania:** Our team is preparing project progress reports for our partner church today and on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Please pray for us.
- 15 Philippines:** Edna Santos is preparing reports that are needed for the food distribution that we did. Please pray that she will be able to complete these.
- 16 Malawi:** The Christmas Festive Season: let's pray for our staff members' safety during the holidays.
- 17 South Africa:** We are planning 'safe' Christmas parties for the Safe House children. It will be a little different this year as we must keep the groups small and outdoors. We pray it will be a joy for the kids nonetheless.
- Tanzania:** We are preparing the demonstration farms for IMARIKA groups this month. Please pray for us.
- 18 Uganda:** Please pray for our staff to have a good rest over the Christmas holidays, and for God's blessings on the new year.
- 19 Brazil:** Pastor Jader Oliveira is the chair of the Terena Church, a group of 38 indigenous churches and 10 mission fields, where Terena missionaries bring the Gospel to other ethnic groups. Pastor Jader needs wisdom and strength to lead the Terena Church.
- 20 Canada:** Erwin continues to connect with El Canada donors who have not given in recent years. Pray he is received well and that God will bless his efforts to reconnect with past donors.

- 21 United Kingdom:** The EIUK office will be closed from today and will be open again on 4 January 2021.
- 22 Philippines:** It is typhoon season in the Philippines and many people lost personal possessions when their homes were flooded. Please pray that our fundraising and collection drive will collect all that is needed and that we will be able to distribute it right away.
- 23 Malawi:** We would like to pray for our new office in Dowa District. It is a new place for us, which we just opened. We should pray for good relationships with the District Council. We need their support in our program. UN Women has given us an assignment in Dowa District to help economic empowerment for women and girls who have survived domestic and gender-based violence.
- 24 Canada:** The Canadian office will be closed from Thursday December 24<sup>th</sup> until January 4<sup>th</sup>, although staff will be going in a few times to pick up mail and prepare bank deposits.
- 25** We wish you all a healthy, safe and blessed Christmas time with family and friends. Please pray for safe travels for those who are travelling and also those who may not be able to meet up with loved ones over this season because of COVID-19 restrictions.
- 26 Tanzania:** The rainy season is starting this month. Please pray for productive rains for the farmers.
- 27 International:** We thank God for bringing us through this year. With all the changes, God has continued to provide ways for our missionaries around the world to reach out and serve through this COVID-19 pandemic.
- 28 United States of America:** Mark Abbott had several friends that have tested positive for COVID-19 recently, including some in their 60's and is thankful they were either asymptomatic or only had a headache/head cold.
- 29 International:** Thank God with us for our Board members and their faithful service, guidance and counsel as we seek God's continued direction for Emmanuel International.
- 30 Haiti:** We would appreciate your prayers for our partner churches in Haiti, for the work they are doing and their people.
- 31 South Africa:** Please do continue to pray for the shortfall we have with operating the Safe Houses. We have a very faithful support base, but we do need to grow it a little.