



the Emmanuel Connection

May 2021

Focus on: International Board

The International Board has 9 members. We'll introduce them to you over a few months.



Ben Sybring

Ben has been on the Board since 2011 and currently serves as Chairman. He is a Chartered Professional Accountant, and serves on numerous boards in the charitable or health sector. Ben provides financial oversight to the organization and is guiding Helen, current Assistant to the Director, in keeping accurate financial records. While Ben has never worked on the Mission field, he does have an affinity for Missions and has been married to Mary, an MK, for 38 years.

Mark Abbott

Mark represents the EIM/US Office on the International Board. Mark is the chairman of the EI US office, EI Mission (EIM). He joined the EIM Board in 2007 and took on the position of chairman in 2019. Mark works as a pilot for Fedex, a job that has continued through the pandemic. When asked if he was afraid travelling around the world during these times, he shared this testimony: **"The Lord has prepared me along my 58 years of life to trust in Him. As a Captain in the Air Force, I flew missions into the Middle East where I was briefed that 'intelligence reports that there may be an attack at the time you will arrive at the base you're landing at today'. When I flew for AirServ in Africa, my first flight was into an airport where the runway and taxiways were reportedly mined; I flew into airports where rebels stopped shelling the airport so I could evacuate people from the city; and landed in short airstrips in the mountains of New Guinea that were so dangerous to land at, my legs would shake uncontrollably after I landed. Early in my FedEx career I had an aircraft come apart in-flight during landing and the Captain (I was the co-pilot) landed the aircraft even though Boeing told us afterward that the aircraft was uncontrollable and their test pilots crashed the exact simulated damaged aircraft numerous times. Engine fires; the refuelling aircraft above me at 25,000 feet caught on fire; engine failures that caught the airport area on fire; landing gear failures - the list goes on."**



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Please keep these concerns in your daily prayers...

- 1 South Africa:** Please pray especially for our house mother, Beauty. Her last surviving brother was shot and killed in April and she has travelled to the Eastern Cape for the funeral. She lost her other brother 5 years ago due to a car accident. She is being very strong for the family but she is understandably devastated.
- 2 Philippines:** Tonton and Nona Caballero contracted mild cases of COVID in April and quarantined. They are recovering well but the handover from Edna Santos is suspended due to the illness and lockdown, so not quite complete. Please pray for Tonton and Nona, but also for Edna as she cannot complete her time with EI just yet.
- 3 Tanzania:** Edward and Joshua (our Tanga team) will travel to Iringa for two or three weeks of training with the Iringa team. We don't have an exact travel date yet.
Malawi: We pray for the individuals undergoing Gender Based Violence.
- 4 United States of America:** Mark and Sherry Abbott will be in South Carolina the first week of May and will be visiting Dave and Sue McCauley. While there, Dave, the EIM accountant Leigh Anne Gravley and Mark will get together for a EIM board meeting while the rest of the board will join virtually. Praying that the meeting will come together without a hitch!
- 5 United Kingdom:** Sue Fallon is attending a Global Connections webinar today and again on 11 May.
Tanzania: Pray for the upcoming executive board meeting for EITZ which is happening in the month of May.
- 6 International:** The EI Council is working together to review the organization's Bylaws and Policy Manual. Ask God with us for wisdom through this review process.
- 7 Philippines:** COVID cases are growing in the Philippines and lockdown continues. The rollout of vaccines is very slow and very few people have gotten them to date.
- 8 Haiti:** The political situation in Haiti is tense and kidnapping cases are on the rise. This is an unfortunate situation which needs much prayer. Pray that elections next year may offer some relief from this political and security quandary. Pray for Haiti and for EI mission for safety and security.
- 9 Uganda:** Rev. Patrick Labanya, who has worked as our Community Health Empowerment coordinator since 2014, had a significant motorcycle accident on April 3rd, and is suffering the after-effects of brain trauma. Please pray for a full physical and mental recovery.
- 10 Brazil:** As the COVID-19 pandemic gets worse, food insecurity is becoming a real threat to a growing number of poor families in Brazil. Emmanuel Brazil is willing to respond to that need in the areas where our partner churches are located.

- 11 Tanzania:** Theopister and Laura are teaching girls in Standard 6 & 7 today at Bugogwa Primary School. We thank God the girls are responding well to the Bible and health lessons!
- 12 Canada:** The Easter Appeal for Health for Development has received some funds to help support the project in Tanzania. We are thankful to those who made a donation and pray as money continues to come in.
- 13 Canada:** The MacLeans will be leaving Malawi today. Pray for safe travels and negative COVID tests as they travel home to celebrate two of their children's weddings.
- 14 Uganda:** Schools here in Uganda are teaching students by cohort, instead of having all students studying at the same time. At the end of April a new group of students returned to school, so we're looking to restart our Bible study groups in Secondary Schools and our Good News Clubs in Primary schools.
- 15 South Africa:** Our Safe House mothers have one of the most difficult jobs raising children (some of whom have come from dreadful street conditions) and instilling in them love, trust and responsibility. It is only because they serve the Lord in this ministry that they are able to endure. We thank the Lord for them often. Please continue to pray for them.
- 16 Malawi:** In neighboring Mozambique ISIS is causing conflict. Pray for this crisis situation and for God's intervention.
Tanzania: In May the IMARIKA project will begin a partnership with two new villages: Mtitu and Izazi. Please pray for God to bless these two communities to achieve a better transformation of Body and Spirit.
- 17 Philippines:** Our sponsored students will have overnight camps this May. Each of the three areas will have their own mini camp because of the strict protocol. Please pray that our students will have a great time of learning from God's Word and fellowshiping with one another. This will take the place of our summer youth camp which is no longer feasible until the quarantine restrictions ease up.
- 18 Malawi:** Although there is a bumper harvest in the country, some people did not harvest enough to sustain them through the year. We pray for those people.
- 19 Brazil:** Pastor Daniel and Mariana Poquiviqui, Uniedas missionaries among the Xukuri Kariri indigenous people, are doing some research to help them with community development projects. Please pray for wisdom for the Poquiviqui family.
- 20 Uganda:** Last month two teams travelled to Kaabong, in North-Eastern Uganda, to be exposed to cross-cultural missions in an area less reached by the gospel. The teams returned with changed hearts! Please pray for these individuals as they seek to share this experience with their churches, including possibly leading a course on cross-cultural missions in their churches.

- 21 Malawi:** The Evangelical Baptist Church of Malawi were due to have leadership elections last year. These have been delayed due to COVID but the hope is they will take place later this year. Pray for EBCM leadership as they hold the course through these months of pandemic.
- 22 International:** International Board member Pastor Michael Tesema is opening a new Theological and Leadership Training Center in Ethiopia, even in these times of unrest. Please pray for him and this endeavour.
- 23 Brazil:** The Águas Formosas Day Care Center activities are temporarily on hold because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the children and their families still need to be assisted. Pray for creativity and ways for the Day Care Center to be a blessing to the children and their families.
- 24 Malawi:** El Malawi and the Word of Grace church are working together on a budget for the Bimbi Irrigation Expansion project.
- 25 South Africa:** The sewer pipe problem is an ongoing issue with the City of Cape Town. It has been escalated to the Department of Health and we hope that they will address the problem with a permanent solution. The sewer pipe keeps blocking, due to overuse, and it affects one of the safe houses.
- 26 Canada:** The Canadian office will be closed today in celebration of Victoria Day. Pray as families take the day off to spend together.
- United Kingdom:** We are putting together the monthly publications, ready to go out at the end of May. Please pray as we collate stories and prayer requests for the Down to Earth, BushNet and the Emmanuel Connection around this time every month.
- 27 United States of America:** I (Mark Abbott) am putting together a visit to El Tanzania/Mwanza for the first week of June. Six of us altogether are planning to make the trip: my wife, Sherry, and I; our niece, Rachel; Peter, the son of EIM donors; and his two cousins, Liza and Luke. Please pray that the current travel restrictions won't change so we can make the trip and that preparations go smoothly.
- 28 Malawi:** Pastor Maxwell Ngulande and the Living Gospel Evangelistic Church are developing programs towards economic improvement, for women and youth. The church is also trying to raise the funds to build their church building.
- 29 Philippines:** Ken and Ruth are doing most of their communication online. Because this has been going on so long, people are losing interest. Pray for them as they seek to revitalize their Bible study group. Pray for the encouragement of their SALT team volunteer members. Praise that they are still able to do the Kids Clubs outreach.
- 30 Malawi:** The President of Malawi is working hard to help the country through the increase in COVID infections. Please pray for him in his battle with corruption.
- 31 International:** Pray for open doors to connect with potential partner churches in spreading the word about EI service opportunities.
- Malawi:** Albino people are still being killed. We pray for a stop to this.