



the Emmanuel Connection

August 2021

Focus on: International Board

The International Board has 9 members. Please see previous and following months for the complete board.



Pastor Michael Tesema

Pastor Michael joined the International Board in 2020. He brings strong cross-cultural experience, his understanding of cultural dynamics when working with churches cross-culturally and a history of leadership, mentorship and discipleship. He is Senior Pastor of the Gospel of Love Church in Toronto, a congregation of Ethiopians and Eritreans. Pastor Michael grew up in Ethiopia and moved to Canada in 1993 for studies at Tyndale University. He has pastored at Gospel of Love since 2003. He is chairman of the Ethio-Eritrean Evangelical Church Pastor Fellowship since 2019. Pastor Michael and his family have maintained close ties to family members and church connections in Ethiopia as well as sponsoring charity work in Ethiopia through a school that his wife, Yene, is running. He is currently establishing a Theology and Leadership Training Center in Ethiopia. They have spent most of the COVID pandemic in Ethiopia, maintaining communication with their children and church in Toronto.

Sarah Eggert

Sarah joined the Board in 2020 and shares EI's heart to encourage partner churches to be Christ in their communities. She and her husband Mike served with EI in 1997 and 2007, spending a total of four years in Uganda and Malawi. Together they were involved in teaching English for the Diocese of Northern Uganda and in Malawi doing monitoring and evaluation for a Machinga Food Security and Nutrition Project. Sarah has worked in community and corporate relations, as a business analyst and a manager. She is currently providing bookkeeping services for small businesses. She also serves as an Instructor for New Life Prison Ministries since 2016. Sarah brings to the Board her strong people skills, cross-cultural sensitivity and compassion, creative problem solving and communication skills. She lives with Mike and their 3 sons in Wellesley, ON.



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Please keep these concerns in your daily prayers...

- 1 South Africa:** Our area is in peak rainy season. The flooding in Masiphumelele has been bad this year and is affecting our homes, with backed up water drains and sewer systems unable to cope. There isn't a health risk yet but we are watching it closely. The children are warm and dry for now.
- 2 United Kingdom:** Victoria Ewing is returning to Tanzania today, while Simon and the children will stay in the UK for another couple of weeks. Please pray for safe travels for Victoria and that the remainder of the furlough will be good for the rest of the family.
- 3 Canada:** Ken Orser will begin working for EIC as a fundraiser. Please pray for him as he begins to meet people in the business world who may be interested in our projects.
Malawi: Word of Grace is needing school supplies for the year 2021 to 2022. We also need to raise a lot of money for transportation and food for the Word of Grace Women's Conference in August.
- 4 South Africa:** The political situation in South Africa needs your prayer, please. The rioting in July has created many shortages of food, medicine and clothes for many communities. The economic impact is still being calculated and job losses are in the 10's of thousands... overnight. The supply chain disruption will be felt for months, with many large warehouses burned to the ground. The silver lining in the rioting is how communities did not rely on the government but came together to protect one another, assist the police and initiated the clean up afterwards.
- 5 United Kingdom:** Andy Sharpe and Chris Parrott are leaving for Tanzania today to work on the water project in Ibumu, staying 1 and 3 months respectively. Please pray for safe travels and a productive time in Tanzania.
- 6 United States of America:** Don Cressman, EIM board member, has been diagnosed with MDS-EB, an aggressive form of pre-leukemia blood disease. Please pray for him and his wife Julie as the doctors try to bring the cancer into remission.
- 7 Tanzania:** The Mwanza team is busy preparing their quarterly reports.
- 8 Brazil:** The 2nd semester at the Terena indigenous Bible School has started, after a mission trip. We praise the Lord for the students who, despite all difficulties, specially being away from home, continue their studies.
United Kingdom: Simon Ewing is speaking at St John's Church, Rowlands Castle about his work in Tanzania. Please pray for him today and also for other dates that he'll be speaking at churches.

- 9 South Africa:** We are looking for a new house mother to replace Rachel as she retires in December. They will be very big shoes to fill! She will still be involved with the ministry part-time and will visit the children often.
- 10 Haiti:** Continue to pray for peace in Haiti and for the leadership that will be put in place following the death of their President.
- 11 Uganda:** Most church leaders in Uganda depend on weekly offerings to supplement their incomes, but churches have been closed again by COVID restrictions, and it's worse because the first agricultural season failed due to poor rains. We are planning to help 100 church leaders with food relief in the first two weeks of August.
- 12 International:** Pray for continued guidance and wisdom for the work being done to update the Bylaws and the Policy Manual for the organization. Pray that God will open our eyes to things that will be important to consider not only for now but for the future service of the organization.
- 13 Philippines:** Praise the Lord for Antonio and Nona Caballero and for their work in the office of ERRP.
Malawi: Word of Grace needs to expand their irrigation scheme, and also water from the Shire river.
- 14 Brazil:** The Ninheira Project has started, aiming at providing Music, Sports, and Circus activities for 180 children. The beneficiaries and leadership need wisdom to carry out all the activities and at the same time take all safety measures because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 15 Uganda:** We have been running an 8 week study, called MissionMode, to help raise awareness and understanding of cross-cultural missions. As we finish this study by the middle of August, please pray that we will have wisdom to know how to continue to engage and grow the members of these groups.
- 16 Canada:** Pray for the unity of the church as painful divides are increasingly apparent in some faith communities due to differing perspectives on government handling of the pandemic.
- 17 Malawi:** The students at Chisomo Theological & Vocational Training School will be finishing their third and final term this month. Pray for the MacLeans as they teach an intensive course on Romans to these students.
- 18 South Africa:** We are still waiting for visas for Danielle, Nathan and Rachel. Don and Hudson have valid visas but we are still waiting on the other 3. Please pray for a favourable outcome.
- 19 Canada:** EIC is reaching out to churches in Canada that have donated in the past with the goal of renewing relationships and encouraging recruits to consider Mission with EI.

- 20 Brazil:** Food distribution to families and communities in the North of Minas Gerias Sate, and in the Northeast of Brazil, continues. Pray that the people who are receiving the food packages would also see God's love to them.
- United Kingdom:** Sue Fallon is helping out on a Bereaved Family Holiday, from tomorrow till the 27th, but she is travelling there today.
- 21 Malawi:** Pray for the music and discipleship project the MacLeans are working on that will help youth choirs grow in their faith and more deeply understand the Biblical significance of the Scripture-based indigenous songs they sing each week.
- 22 Uganda:** Please pray that we will know how to support our church partners to adapt to the COVID restrictions which continue to be a reality for churches in Uganda. We are trying to encourage small Bible study groups, which can continue to meet even when church services are restricted, but this is difficult in rural areas.
- 23 International:** As things open up, pray for opportunities for the International office to connect with churches and Christian schools on behalf of the organization.
- 24 Philippines:** Pray for the Caballeros and the Board as they look for ways in which ERRP can help partner churches. They are hoping to visit churches and projects as COVID restrictions allow.
- 25 Tanzania:** In August the water project work will start in Ibumu village. We thank God that the villagers are showing great willingness to participate in the project work. Please pray for us so that the project works as successfully as we planned.
- Malawi:** There is need for resources for the Bimbi church building project.
- 26 Haiti:** The OEBC continues to care for children through schools and orphan care. Pray for God's provision through these difficult days.
- 27 Malawi:** Our partner church, EBCM, is holding their AGM today. This was delayed from 2020. Pray for God's peace and wisdom among the church members.
- 28 Tanzania:** Theopister and Laura are working with a new group of girls on the Nguvu na Hadhi project. Please pray as they get to know these girls and educate them on their value in God's eyes and on how to manage their menstrual health.
- 29 Haiti:** The OEBC Board is working towards a strategic plan in the midst of much uncertainty in Haiti. Please keep them in your prayers.
- Malawi:** Please pray for pastors and church elders and their families. May God bless them and make them effective ministers in their churches.
- 30 Tanzania:** Joel is introducing regular social media posts for EI Tanzania.
- 31 Canada:** EIC is continuing planning for an online Gala event in the Fall. Pray that the videos we need from the field staff will be sent in good time. Also pray for Kristy and Cindy who are working on preparing this event.