



# the Emmanuel Connection

October 2021

## Focus on: International Council

Emmanuel International's governing body is the International Board (featured in past issues). Now we want to introduce to you the working members that are the 'boots on the ground' of the organization. The Director of each of EI's 10 countries is a member of the EI Council. It is this Council that runs the affairs of EI and informs the Board for their governance.



**Michael, Elias and Marianne**

### **Michael Botting (EI Uganda)**

**Where were you born and raised?** Belleville, Ontario

**Your favourite childhood memory:** Camping at Sandbanks Provincial Park, and travelling all over Canada and the US with my family in the summers.

**When and where did you meet Jesus?** I grew up in a Christian home, with my father working for the church and my mother teaching at a Christian school, so I don't remember a time when I didn't know and follow Jesus. However it was in my church's youth prayer group, in grade 9, that I

learned to hear God's voice and walk more closely in my relationship with God.

**Are you married? Children?** Married to Marianne Botting, in 2010, with one child Elias Botting (2016).

**Your favorite pastime:** I would say reading books, though that's harder to do with a child! If I can combine a few of my favourite things, I would say reading a book in a hammock with a cup of coffee!

**Your favourite Bible verse:** Matthew 6:33

**When did you start working with EI?** I started working with EI Malawi in 2005, as an intern funded through the Canadian government.

**Something special about the country you are working in:** Uganda is called the "Pearl of Africa," and has many beautiful national parks to visit. Uganda is the second youngest country in the world, with a median age of 15.8 years old.

**A word of encouragement for the rest of us:** COVID-19 has been a challenge for all of us over the past year and a half, but we continue to see God at work and we continue to see a unique opportunity for EI to assist our partner churches to adapt their ministries during this time.

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

- 1 United Kingdom:** The end of September was the end of our financial year. Please pray as we prepare the necessary documentation for the auditors.
- 2 Canada:** Please be praying for Pam and Amy in the Finance office as they wrap up 2020-2021 fiscal year accounting and start the process of getting ready for the annual audit.
- 3 South Africa:** We are still waiting patiently for Nathan, Danielle and Rachel's visas. Danielle's is particularly urgent as she needs the visa to complete her driver's license which is required for her to complete the Paramedic Program, which she starts in 5 weeks.
- 4 Philippines:** The COVID cases in the Philippines remain high despite all efforts the government is doing. Please pray for safety for all but especially for the pastors, missionaries and church workers we labor with. We have several local coworkers (past and present) who have passed on and more are battling with the virus. We appreciate your prayers on their or their families' behalf.
- 5 Canada:** A proposal we are submitting to FIT (Fund for Innovation) for Tanzania is due in a few days (October 8<sup>th</sup>). It is designed to help women test and innovate new agricultural ideas on their farms. It is advised to submit early; please pray we are able to complete and get all the required documentation submitted.
- 6 Tanzania:** For the Ibumu water project, as after completion of the intake construction, in October, we expect to start digging the trench from the intake to the secondary school.
- 7 Malawi:** We pray for those who do not have sufficient food to last them through this dry season.  
**Haiti:** Daniel Jovin is Director for Haiti and is leading EI for Haiti from his home in Canada. We are thankful for Daniel. His days are very full with his work in Canada as well as all he does for the work in Haiti.
- 8 Uganda:** Uganda has allowed churches to reopen after four months of lockdown, though schools are still closed until 2022. Please pray for us as we scale up our work, and seek to support our partner churches in restarting their ministries.
- 9 Philippines:** Despite the restrictions, some areas are still able to continue meeting and teaching kids. Pray for The Mailbox Club (TMC) graduations scheduled this October: today 50 children at Pantukan SBC and on the 16<sup>th</sup> 20+ children at The Lord's Vineyard. Pray for on-going TMC classes in the Mindanao area; for the teachers and all the students. There is an excitement among the children in learning about God. One teacher reported that her students come to class way earlier than she does! Praise God!
- 10 Tanzania:** Suzan and Emmanuel will be getting married in Mwanza today. Please pray for the celebration to be good and for God's blessings to be with them.

- 11 Uganda:** This month we hope to complete our audit, along with several annual government reporting requirements. Please pray for favour with the government, as many government departments are still working slowly because of COVID restrictions on office capacities.
- 12 United Kingdom:** Sue, Andy and Linda are attending the Christian Resources Exhibition today. Please pray that we'll make good connections that may lead to new ways of finding missionaries to fill the need in the world.  
**International:** The EI family is meeting via zoom for our monthly gathering. Please pray for good internet. It is a great way for the family to connect in person, worldwide, and pray for each other and our work.
- 13 Haiti:** Phanell is leading the work of EI's Haiti partner, the OEBC church. Pray for him and for those who are working hard to help those affected by the recent earthquake and hurricane. Relief efforts in Haiti are very complicated. Please pray for wisdom for Phanell and the church leaders.
- 14 Brazil:** Pastor Daniel and Mariana need our prayers as they continue to work among the Xukuri kariri Morro Alegre village. Pray for a good relationship with the village leaders and the tutoring classes.
- 15 Tanzania:** We thank God we have got sufficient funding to extend the Strength and Dignity (Nguvu na hadhi) project into new areas. We're holding planning meetings this month to plan toilet renovations and the building of new facilities where necessary. This is a much needed next-step to help keep the girls in school, and we pray we can extend this help to all the schools the project has so far reached.
- 16 Canada:** EIC will be hosting an online Fundraising Zoom event featuring Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda. Please pray technology works and all participants can join. As this is a fundraiser, please pray we are successful; this is our first event like this.
- 17 Philippines:** Our group of Muslim Background Believers will start their Primary Health Care training the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of October. They will train 15 new followers of Jesus in primary health and first aid as a way of entering new communities. Pray for the leaders and the facilitators.
- 18 Tanzania:** This month we hope to make good progress with the structure and roof of the church planting school in West Mwanza. Please pray the logistics of erecting the steel frames will go smoothly and safely and will be done before the rains make it too difficult.
- 19 International:** Thank you for your prayers as we work on updating the Bylaws and the Policy Manual. Good progress has been made. Pray for those involved and for the progress towards our EI Strategic Plan.
- 20 Uganda:** Please pray that our cross-cultural mission mobilization trainings will gain traction with church leaders. We are very thankful that God has begun to accelerate our awareness raising work, but most of these trainings have not involved the senior church leaders.

- 21 International:** Pray for our countries around the world, for the Lord to raise up people eager to join EI in our partnerships with churches, serving in their communities.
- 22 Brazil:** Food distribution in the north of Minas Gerais is helping hundreds of poor families. The teams that are involved with the distribution need to show God's love to all those families.
- 23 Haiti:** EI's partner church in Haiti, OEBC, covets our prayers as they look forward to development efforts following the relief work they are currently doing
- 24 South Africa:** We praise the Lord for the growth of Living Hope Bible church and for the maturity of the Saints as He continues to sanctify us through His Word. Despite very dire financial times for many in the church, the praise and glory to the Lord has never been more evident in our body. Please continue to pray for Don as he teaches during the Bible hour and preaches every other month
- 25 Philippines:** There is a new water system just approved for communities in Mindanao. Pray for this project as it gets started over the coming months. Half of the funding needed is available; pray for our offices as they raise the remainder of the funds needed.
- 26 Brazil:** EI Brazil has planned for several months to install photovoltaic energy in the Terena Bible School. Different problems are taking place, one after the other. Please pray for open doors.
- 27 South Africa:** Please continue to pray for our family's spiritual and physical health. Pray for Rachel and I as we parent a house full of teens, for a strong marriage that brings God the Glory. Pray for Danielle as she prepares to leave home for studies, that she would remain steadfast in a hostile world.
- 28 Malawi:** Emmanuel International Malawi has moved it's offices to a new building. Pray as they settle and adjust to the new place.
- 29 Philippines:** Pray for Ken and Ruth Copey as they work towards transferring responsibilities for EI's work in Midanao to coworkers. Ken and Ruth are retiring at the end of 2021 and will be continuing support for Mindanao from California.
- 30 South Africa:** The Safe House mothers carry a huge spiritual and mental burden as they care for troubled and sometimes traumatized children. It's a difficult calling but we give praise to the Lord for their faithfulness and long suffering in the Safe House ministry.
- 31 International:** The International office is preparing for their upcoming Board meeting with an update on joys and challenges through the last fiscal year. Please pray for these preparations.