



# the Emmanuel Connection

February 2022

## Focus on: International Council

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.

### Fred Silva (EI Brazil)



**Where were you born and raised?**

Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais State capital city, Brazil.

**Your favourite childhood memory:** Going to my family cottage (a very simple place).

**When and where did you meet Jesus?** I made a decision for Christ when I was 6 years old, in an evangelism campaign.

**Are you married? Children?**

I'm married to Carla. Four children and one grandchild: Raquel (Pedro), Isabella, Maurício, and Ivan.

**Your favorite pastime:** Reading and watching some TV programs and series.

**Your favourite Bible verse:** 2 Corinthians 6:10 – “sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.”

**When did you start working with EI?** In September 1980 I went to Canada for EI's Training School. The first project carried out in Brazil started in February 1981.

**Something special about the country you are working in:** It's my home.

**A word of encouragement for the rest of us:** It's great when we walk along with people, support them in their needs, help them establish the basis for a better future and one day they feel safe to continue their journey by themselves.

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

- 1 International:** The International Office will be meeting with our Board in early February. Pray for wisdom and continued unity in all discussions.  
**South Africa:** Florida's son passed away suddenly from cancer 2 weeks ago. She took 10 days off to help prepare the funeral and to be with her other 2 sons. Pray for comfort in the Lord and for strength for all the family. Please also continue to pray for Florida's health. She had a mild stroke last year and some of the symptoms have returned but the doctor has discharged her but will continue to observe her. We are also asking for her to take it easy and giving her assistant support.
- 2 Philippines:** Praise God that funds have now been raised for the Mindanao Water project. Please pray as the team continues work this month.  
**South Africa:** Thank you for your prayers for our new house mother, Kungeka who is settling in as our House 1 mom. She has worked as an assistant and knows the children already, so the transition has gone very well.
- 3 Canada:** The Fund for Innovation and Transformation (FIT) proposal is due today. Please pray as our proposal is put across the review board that we have been clear in our approach and descriptions
- 4 Tanzania:** Theopister and Laura are teaching at Bugogwa Secondary School every Friday for the next 3 months. This is the final school of the "Nguvu na Hadhi" project (translated "Strength & Dignity), so please pray for direction on what to do next. There are many ways we could expand the project, but we need God's leading on what's best for the community.
- 5 Uganda:** A team of four from one of our partner churches is going on a 7-day cross-cultural exposure visit to Kaabong, to learn about cross-cultural missions and the gospel need among the Dodoth and Ik peoples of Karamoja. Please pray for safety in their travels, and for God to open their hearts to the need.
- 6 Philippines:** Continue to pray for our children's discipleship program. In spite of the recent lockdowns, some areas have opened up and teachers are reporting new kids coming to the once a week classes. Pray for protection for teachers and students.
- 7 Brazil:** El Brazil has been involved with Morro Alegre Xukuru kariri indigenous village, in partnership with Uniedas, the Terena indigenous church. Some projects have been discussed.  
**Malawi:** Cyclone Ana passed through Malawi in January, causing extreme weather and severe flooding. El Malawi had to suspend its work in Nsanje and Chikwawa due to the weather disruption. Please pray for all affected by the cyclone and in particular those in the areas where we work.

- 8 United State of America:** Both my (Mark Abbott) mom, Jo Ann, and my mother-in-law, Joanne, need prayer. My mom is slowly getting weaker and thinner but does eat some, so appears to be comfortable, at least while in hospice care. Joanne has been staying with Sherry's sister, Lauri, while we were gone last month. She did OK but her mind is slowly deteriorating and in need of more assistance. Thankfully both are passive for the most part and not aggressive.
- 9 South Africa:** Our church has outgrown the community hall we've been hiring and we are looking for larger venues in the area until we are in a position to build our own church. We praise God to be in this position but pray for wisdom as we move forward.
- 10 United Kingdom:** The EIUK Annual Conference and AGM is taking place on 5 March 2022. Please pray for the preparations and that we are able to meet in person on the day. It will be great to see each other face to face again.
- 11 Philippines:** Two new churches are using the "Understanding True Love" series of lessons for their youth groups. Please pray for wisdom for the facilitators.
- Tanzania:** In the Ibumu water project we will continue with Hygiene and Sanitation seminars at schools and to the community during this month.
- 12 South Africa:** Please continue to pray for Danielle who needs to decide which city in Mexico she will spend 3 months volunteering as a Paramedic. She's hoping to travel with some of her classmates and work along side them for her 750 hours. It looks like she will leave in March, Lord willing.
- 13 United State of America:** Continue to pray that the experimental drug that Don Cressman is taking will continue to shrink his spleen to a normal size but prevent his haemoglobin from dropping. Thankful that he has no pain but does experience tiredness just before the next transfusion. Pray also for his wife, Julie, who cares for him.
- 14 Brazil:** In December and January a number of Águas Formosas families suffered with floods in the area, including some families helped by PROPAC Day Care Center. We praise the Lord for the funds raised to help them in that difficult time.
- 15 Uganda:** Concy, our former Child Discipleship field officer, together with her husband Peter are preparing for a six month internship as a first step towards serving as long-term missionaries in Kaabong. Please pray for them as they prepare for this next step.
- Canada:** The EIC Board is meeting today.
- 16 International:** The International Office is meeting with each Country Director worldwide to review direction and goals for each country.

- 17 Philippines:** Our Club 10:14 team in Davao city are ready to begin face to face training for teachers as soon as it is allowed. Pray for protection from the virus. A few of our team members had COVID the last few weeks.
- 18 Brazil:** Fred and Carla Silva are very excited with the visit of Raquel, their daughter, Lucas and Pedro, their grandson, from Germany, at the end of February. Prayers are welcome for the long trip with a 8 month old baby, protection against COVID-19, and a great time of family reunion.
- 19 Haiti:** The country is still experiencing difficult times. Please keep our partner church, Oeuvre Evangelique Baptiste Bethesda, in your prayers as they reach out to help those in need.
- 20 Tanzania:** The IMARIKA project will be working on strengthening the two new groups in Izazi and Kising'a villages, but also visiting villages that are implementing conservation agriculture activities to advise and teach various conservation farming techniques. Please pray for them.
- 21 Canada:** In Ontario we are celebrating "Family Day" - a day where families can time spend together.
- 22 Uganda:** We are interviewing today for a new Child Discipleship field officer. Please pray for the right candidates, and for wisdom as we decide.
- 23 Philippines:** More people, both young and old, have expressed a desire to own their personal copy of the Bible in their own language. Pray for the Bible distribution project, that we will have the funds to purchase more Bibles.
- 24 Tanzania:** The Health for Development project is in the community engagement stage, which is sometimes stressful. Please pray for those involved.
- 25 Philippines:** The "Primary Health Care" class is being handled by the MBBs (Muslim Background Believers) in Cotabato. Pray for the trainers and the participants as they seek to use what they have learned to enter new communities. Praise God for funds raised to purchase first aid kits for the graduates.
- 26 International:** The International Office is continuing work on the organization documents that needed revision. The next goal for the International Office is the development of an organization-wide strategic plan. Please pray that we will hear God's voice in all we do.
- 27 Malawi:** We pray that the Omicron virus doesn't spread so much.
- 28 United Kingdom:** Today is EIUK's 38<sup>th</sup> birthday! We thank God for his faithfulness in providing for us. Please pray with us that we will continue to fulfil his will for EIUK in the world.