

DOWN to EARTH

Emmanuel International UK News
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Emmanuel International Canada Gala



EI Canada's annual Gala Auction Fundraiser took place on October 28, 2023, with 165 attendees enjoying a night filled with delicious food, lively bidding on highly sought-after items, and insights into Safe Houses in South Africa. The evening began with an hour of mingling and silent auction bidding on

180+ items, followed by a delicious meal by World Class Executive Chef, Donald Williams. The live auction included an Apple Pie selling for \$200 (nearly £117)! and a Strawberry Rhubarb for \$110 (£64), making for an entertaining and engaging night of bidding.



Tables for the auctions

Before our Keynote speaker, Don Sayers, our program continued with Brittianny deVoogd-Zegarra, an International Development student at Tyndale University. Brittany interned with EI Canada and spent her one-month placement in Tanzania. She shared insights from her experience living in Tanzania, highlighting her interactions with community church leaders, leaving her feeling enriched by her experience.

Don Sayers, El Country Director in South Africa, told the inspiring story of how the Safe House ministry began, with wonderful children benefitting from loving house parents who care for them as their own. A video presentation showcased the Safe Houses, featuring several children, and included an interview from Rachel Madola, a dedicated house parent. She left a lasting impression on all of us.



Scan the QR code on your smartphone or watch on tinyurl.com/3zfykdmn

During the interview Rachel shared a heartfelt desire to care for the children and the challenges they face daily. Her decision to become a house parent was motivated by her observation of children on rainy streets with nowhere to go. She knew she could make a difference by serving them. Thank you, God, for sending Rachel to love, guide and support these children.

Don shared, *"The El Gala was such a pleasure to attend. It was so enjoyable from the starters, the auction, to the fantastic SA themed meal that I nearly forgot I was the guest speaker as I tucked into my malva pudding. The*

financial blessing of the evening is more than I could have imagined as was the reception from those who spoke with me afterwards about the Safe House ministry. I felt far more special than I deserve, thanks to the kindness and generosity of those who attended, and I know the Safe House children will be blessed by the love shown."

Quotes from attendees

"Don Sayers was beyond excellent and very humorous. The Intros of the Board Members was a meaningful touch."

"That was the best one yet."

"What an amazing night! I am just raving about it to my mom" who wasn't there.

"It was truly amazing. Fantastic job."

"Every aspect was very well thought out. All and all the night was a pure delight and very meaningful. Everything flowed so well. "



Now, for what we have all been waiting for! We are excited to share that we have raised over \$53,000 (nearly £31,000) to support the Safe Houses ministry. This generous contribution will go a long way and can cover various important aspects, including:

- Running costs of the homes
- Repairs to the homes (e.g. floors, cupboards, etc.)
- Replacement of bunk beds and mattresses
- Towards a vehicle that takes them to appointments and activities

We are deeply grateful for the generosity of the EI family in helping us make a difference in the lives of these vulnerable children.



The Safe House Ministry

The Safe House ministry was formed by Emmanuel International South Africa (EI SA) in 2009 and is located in the informal township of Masiphumelele, south of Cape Town. EI SA's partner in keeping orphans and vulnerable children safe is African Hope Trust.

After working in HIV care and prevention for 6 years prior, Don was all too familiar with the plight of children that were left behind in the wake of the HIV pandemic – the desperately high number of abandoned and abused children left to fend for themselves and the increase in drug and alcohol abuse in the impoverished townships.

The concept of foster parent-led homes in the informal settlements of South Africa, as a practical and sustainable way to provide a family for the children who did not have that hope, was formed. These Safe Houses are partnered with

local churches to improve the spiritual support of the mums and children, as well as logistical support in counselling, transport, tutoring and discipleship.

The goal of the Safe House ministry is to build homes, not just of safety, but genuine places of familial nurturing for children who have been abandoned, abused or orphaned. The children have the opportunity to be raised in a Godly home environment where permanent foster mothers or parents, from the same culture, raise them as their own (but legally as a foster parent).

Each home is led by a full-time and devoted house mother who raises and cares for 6 children in each home, 24 hours a day, every day. This size allows for a genuine sense of 'family' for the children who are referred to the safe homes and enables the house mother to spend quality time with the



children rather than simply feeding and sheltering them. It is a place of love and discipleship. The small scale has very real benefits as compared to larger institutional sized orphanages where the children often come out 'institutionalised'.

The mothers view their work with the children as a calling rather than a 'job'. It is through this devotion that we are able to create a genuine home environment where the children begin to view the foster-mum as 'mum' and the other children as siblings.

The children remain in the house indefinitely or until extended family members can be found. However, even when extended family is found, they are often not willing or able to care for the child that has been left behind or removed from an abusive home environment.



Emmanuel International UK Conference & AGM

10:30am-4pm Saturday, 2 March 2024

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, SOUTHBOURNE

We are celebrating 40 years of serving God in mission next year! We'd love to celebrate together with as many of you as possible! Please book your place!

We look forward to hearing in person...

- **Fred Silva**, EI Country Representative in Brazil
- **Paul and Helen Jones**, International Director
- **Richard and Pam McGowan**, EI Canada Director
- **Simon Ewing**, EIUK missionary in Tanzania

...and on Zoom...

Thanks to technology, we'll be able to hear personal updates from our project countries and staff. Watch the media for news updates on who will be joining us!

Our **2024 Annual General Meeting** will also take place during the day.

Cost **£20 per person**, to include lunch and tea/coffee.

RSVP by Friday **16 February 2024**



The Conference brochure and booking form can be found on our website on www.eiuk.org.uk/eiuk-conf-agm-2024 or scan the QR code

on your smartphone.

