



# the Emmanuel Connection

March 2024

## Focus on EI countries: Philippines



The Philippines is an archipelago found in southeast Asia composed of 7,641 islands of various shapes and sizes. Around 130 ethno-linguistic groups make up these beautiful islands and the majority of its population practices Roman Catholicism, but Islam also has its influence, mainly in the southern portion of the country. Filipino and English are the national languages of the Philippines.

Due to its geographical location, the country has been prone to different natural disasters such as frequent typhoons and multiple seismic and volcanic activities.



Emmanuel Relief and Rehabilitation Philippines, Inc. is EI in the country and has been helping the country for 21 years. There are currently 5 active projects in different places in the country and around 3 staff members serving there who are nationals of the country.

### Nueva Ecija water refilling station

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

- 1 Brazil:** Fred Silva will be on a 3-week trip. He'll participate in EIUK's Conference and in other speaking engagements in England. He'll also spend a week with his daughter, grandson, and son-in-law in Germany. Pray for safe travels and no health issues.
- 2 United Kingdom:** Today is the EIUK Annual Conference and AGM. We are celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, along with many alumni and supporters of our work! Please pray that this will be day filled with appreciation for God's goodness and faithfulness to EIUK.
- 3 Uganda:** Last year in November we trained the Jesus Film sites for 2024, and from December to February they were preparing their churches and communities. This month we're starting to show the Jesus Film in these 18 communities while the dry season allows open air events and easier travel on rural roads. Please pray for a cover of protection.
- 4 Brazil:** The Terena Bible School year started at the beginning of March. The new indigenous students are coming, some from more than 1,000 km away. Pray that settling in will be smooth for them.
- 5 Tanzania:** From today till the 9<sup>th</sup>, the EITZ Mwanza team will be teaching church and transformation at the partner church Lake Victoria Bible College with both the students and church community. Pray for a fruitful event.  
**United Kingdom:** Today we are traveling to Cambridge to visit David and Jenny Bendell, together with Paul and Helen Jones. Fred will be meeting with a friend, also in Cambridge.
- 6 Uganda:** In September we are planning to hold the first ever missions conference in Pader, with high quality speakers from all over Uganda. Today is our first planning committee meeting, where we will be meeting with our partner churches to cast the vision and begin the preparations.
- 7 South Africa:** Thank you all who have contributed to the vehicle fund. Our goal is nearly reached and we trust that whatever comes in will be sufficient to supply us with a newer 7 seater for the various ministries.
- 8 Malawi:** We are experiencing a dry spell and we would like you to assist us praying for the rains.
- 9 Haiti:** We continue to pray for the situation in Haiti. It is really difficult for the people, and Christians in particular. Pray for God's peace over them.
- 10 Canada:** Scott Maclean is traveling back to Malawi around this time. Pray for him and Lorilee in this next season of teaching at the Bible School, for lessons on Romans and Psalms.

- 11 Philippines:** Ruth is flying to Manila, Philippines today. Please pray for traveling mercies and that she will have no problems with her papers this time.
- Canada:** Kristy Nowell is on vacation this week.
- 12 International:** EI International is having their AGM today.
- 13 South Africa:** The house moms have been enjoying the many upgrades to the Safe Houses thanks to the generosity of those who gave at the EI Canada Gala. And the children are now all sleeping in brand new beds, mattresses and duvets! It has brightened up their rooms and their faces! We are now going to be fitting new 'stable doors' and security gates, then floors. Thank you again to all who have contributed to this need.
- 14 Tanzania:** During the month of March two new groups will be started with Imarika in Tanga. Please pray for Edward as he gets ready for community mobilization.
- 15 South Africa:** We continue to search for a larger church venue. We have considered about 5 seriously and one in particular ticks the big boxes of location and size and even price. But the builder has not properly registered his creation with the city and therefore cannot legally be used for occupancy. A frustration we've encountered before, unfortunately.
- 16 Philippines:** Ruth is meeting with Club 10:14 for final preparation for the big event 'Children's Day'. Pray for each member to be excited at what the Lord will do in the lives of these children and their teachers, too.
- Uganda:** Together with University Community Church we are hosting a missions weekend with Ambrose and Esther, missionaries in Moroto (North Eastern Uganda), as guest speakers. Ambrose is a former student of Gulu University, so we are praying the students will be able to connect with them and see their role in missions.
- 17 Haiti:** EI in Haiti is continuing what it can do to keep the projects going, the boys' and girls' homes for orphans amongst others while also supporting our partner church, Oeuvre Evangelique Baptiste Bethesda.
- 18 Canada:** EIC is having their AGM today. Also, Paul Bertrand and his counterpart, Natan, will be participating in an annual leaders' conference from today till the 27<sup>th</sup> in Thailand for the Good News Clubs program.
- 19 Philippines:** Ruth will possibly visit a preschool using our Bible study materials for kids and to bring donated educational toys as well. Pray that the way going to Mabini will now be passable as the recent floods caused a lot of damage to the roads there.
- 20 International:** Paul and Helen Jones are traveling to Tanzania today. Pray for their trip and for their time with the teams there. It is exciting to be able to share the days of retreat and AGM with our Tanzanian team.

- 21 United Kingdom:** Sue Fallon is in Canada from today till 8 April. She is taking a well deserved break but will also be having EI meetings while she is in Toronto. Please pray for a good time with friends and her church family.
- 22 Canada:** Cindy Bates is on vacation from today for 2 weeks.
- 23 Philippines:** Today is our big event, the Children's Day! We are expecting 80+ children and around 50 teachers and friends to attend our very first Children's Day. There will be praise and worship, a Bible quiz, a memory verse contest, sharing of God's Word and a lot of games. Participants will come from 6-7 churches who are using our children's discipleship booklets. Pray for safety for those traveling.
- 24 Tanzania:** Board members and staff will be traveling to Mwanza today. Please pray for safety.
- 25 Tanzania:** We are holding the first ever EITZ AGM as an affiliate. Please pray for a good meeting and exciting time of fellowship. Also, EITZ's staff retreat is taking place from today till the 28<sup>th</sup>. We are looking forward to all being together. Our main speaker will be Helen Jones. Please pray for our time together as a team.
- 26 Canada:** EIC's Charity reporting and Accreditation reporting is due before March 31<sup>st</sup>. Please pray as these reports are being prepared.
- 27 South Africa:** Masiphumelele has changed a lot in the past 5 years. Please pray for our Safe House children. Masi is now very overpopulated with an associated increase in crime and other undesirable social challenges that are influencing the children outside of their time in our homes. Pray that their hearts would be receptive to the Gospel and that the moms would continue to be longsuffering in their love and devotion to the children under their care.
- 28 Philippines:** Today and tomorrow Ruth travels to North Cotabato to meet with our sponsored students and their parents during the day and have meetings with the coordinators in the evening. Pray for safe travel to the area (around 3 ½ hours from Davao city) and for fruitful meetings.
- 29 International:** Many EI offices will be closed today for Easter.  
**Tanzania:** Paul and Helen Jones will be visiting EITZ projects in the Mwanza region until the 31<sup>st</sup>. Pray for good visits.
- 30 Philippines:** Today we visit our Marabuhay water project and encourage the community to care for the water system. Pray for a good introduction for a Primary Health Class with Ruth teaching on 'Community and Personal Cleanliness' as requested by our partners.
- 31 International:** Please continue to pray for the ongoing work of the various STEP 24-28 strategic plan Task Forces. We are grateful for the spirit of unity and collaboration that God is giving us.