



# the Emmanuel Connection

December 2024

## Success stories: Poimen Bibles

“For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.” Hebrews 4:12(NLT)



According to statistics, an average North American household owns more than one Bible. And yet, in places like the Philippines pastors and Christian workers have very limited access to God’s Word. We know that new believers struggle to grow in their faith without a Bible and are easily misled by wrong teachings.

It is our fervent desire to put a Bible in the hands of every believer, young and old alike who ask for it. We are also thrilled to be able to give Pastors the Poimen or Shepherd’s Bible.

Here are a few testimonies:

“We are so thankful for our Poimen Bible. It has helped us in our different roles as pastors.” So far, we have used the outlines for baby dedication (Ptr. Ermie); officiating a wedding (Ptr. Sta. Ana) and even encouraging relatives during the wake of their loved one (Ptr. Bungcas).

“Poimen was such a big help in my preaching as I used the ‘topical sermons’ section” (Ptr. Dagcom).

Emmanuel International in the Philippines praise God for generous donors from EIM and EIC who provided these Bibles.

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

- 1 Canada:** Canada Postal Office is on strike which effects the mail and receiving of donations made this way. Please pray for a quick resolution. Donation can still be made online, by phone or at our offices.
- 2 Canada:** El Canada will be hosting a missions information session for anyone interested in going on a trip in 2025.  
**Philippines:** We give thanks for the good results of the annual conferences that we, Tonton and Nona Caballero, attended.
- 3 Haiti:** We pray for Haiti for 30 minutes every Tuesday. If you would like to join us in prayer on Zoom, please let us know. We appreciate that people are praying with us in spirit, even if they are not joining us in the meeting. Haiti needs prayer!  
**Tanzania:** Rachel Monger is returning to the UK today. We had a wonderful 2 months with her here, working with the bee project and with MamaHive.
- 4 Uganda:** The school year is almost over, but we are leading the last set of Pads ministry lessons in four schools this week. We will be teaching the girls and their mothers how to sew washable sanitary pads using locally available materials.
- 5 Tanzania:** Andy and Ian are in Iringa to survey future water project sites.  
**Philippines:** The Caballeros will visit the project site in Bacolod, and the Water Refilling station in Bongabong, Nueva Ecija this week. Please pray for safety as they travel. Also please pray that the project proposal for Bacolod will be approved.
- 6 Uganda:** The Anglican Youth Fellowship (AYF) is a student fellowship which meets in secondary schools. The Diocese of Kitgum is hosting an AYF youth camp from today to the 10<sup>th</sup>, and they are expecting over a thousand students! This isn't an EI event, but we are providing some funding and one of our staff is the chairperson of the organizing committee. Please pray for this opportunity to disciple youth.
- 7 Brazil:** Praise the Lord for the Terena Bible School as they celebrate the 2024 graduation today.  
**Philippines:** Our children's discipleship program continues. Pray for all the children in our Bible clubs that they will grow in their faith. It is reporting time for us to our partner The Mailbox Club. Please pray that our teachers will prioritize getting the reports to us.
- 8 United Kingdom:** Andy and Ian are leaving Tanzania today and will arrive back in the UK tomorrow.  
**South Africa:** The Safe House children are writing final exams this month. We have 4 children who are writing Matric exams (grade 12) and we hope to sponsor them for college in the next term.
- 9 Uganda:** Michael and Elias Botting will be traveling to Canada today. Marianne is already in Canada meeting with supporters. Please pray for safe travels and a productive time in Canada.
- 10 Haiti:** The United Nations considered replacing the Kenyan Peacekeeping Force with a UN one, but met with resistance from China and Russia. Please pray for the UN to be united in their decisions so that much needed help can be sent to Haiti.  
**South Africa:** Thank you for your prayers for Rachel as she traveled to Canada to help her parents prepare for the winter and for her time in Alberta with Danielle, Josh and baby Hendrick. So glad Rachel could enjoy that time in these early weeks.

- 11 Canada, United Kingdom and United States of America:** The EI Christmas Catalogue has been sent out and/or published online. Continue to pray for people to respond generously to the Christmas Catalogue.
- Malawi:** Good, non-destructive rains are very much needed so that we can have a good harvest. For the past two months we've been going through fuel scarcity, so we also pray for good governance.
- 12 Tanzania:** Many of our partner churches have evangelistic activities over the month of December. Please pray for those organising the events as well as those attending.
- 13 Philippines:** We are always thankful for God's protection and provision. Please pray for continued good health and protection from any sickness.
- South Africa:** We plan to send several children to Christian camps during the school holidays and look forward to many outings with them before they head back to school mid-January. Pray that they would be impacted by the Gospel of Christ and be drawn to Him.
- 14 International:** EI offices are working on their end of year financial reports. Please pray as they prepare the documentation for audits (International and Canada) or independent examination (UK).
- 15 Brazil:** Pray for the Monte Alegre indigenous villagers who have made a decision to follow Jesus; for a continuous growth in Christ and for opportunities for them to be the salt and light to their people.
- 16 Malawi:** Scott MacLean is developing a systematic theology course for both he and Lorilee to teach at Chisomo Theological school beginning in January 2025. We are excited about this new opportunity.
- 17 Haiti:** The violence in Haiti, in Port au Prince in particular, is escalating as gangs try to secure their hold over the city. Please pray for peace and mercy.
- 18 Tanzania:** Most of the EI staff are taking their annual leave during this month. Pray for safe travels and good time with family.
- 19 International:** Information from all our EI countries is being gathered for the annual review of the first year of our strategic plan, the STEP 24-28. Pray that each country will be able to get their information submitted in good time.
- 20 Tanzania:** Both the EI Mwanza team and the EI Tanga team are meeting with district church leaders during December to report on EITZ work.
- South Africa:** The leadership team at African Hope Trust are evaluating the Safe House mothers in December. It's an objective measure we put in place at the beginning of the year, but it is a difficult process because there is always room for improvement or a difference of opinion. The language barrier does not help.
- 21 Philippines:** The ministry trip to Boracay (Southern part of the Philippines and 1½ hour flight from Manila) was fruitful. We were able to share the gospel through songs and a basketball clinic as well as one-on-one evangelism. Please pray that the new believers will continue their faith through our partner churches there. Pastors and church members will follow-up with them.
- 22 International:** People are travelling over Christmas to spend time with loved ones. Pray for safety as they move around.
- South Africa:** Nathan is studying for his SAT's early next year. Our last child in the house is preparing to leave the nest and start tertiary studies soon. So, this means prayer for mom and dad as well.

- 23 Philippines:** The Livelihood project with mothers in our community needs prayer - that we can sustain the project and that the mothers will be able to master the entire production process, including packaging. Also that their Department of Trade and Industry license will be processed soon.
- 24 Haiti:** We are praying for Christ, the Prince of Peace, to bring peace over Haiti this Christmas season.
- 25** We wish you a blessed Christmas and New Year! May the peace and joy of Christ fill your heart and home this Christmas!
- 26 Canada:** The EI Canada office will be closed for Christmas and Boxing Day.  
**United Kingdom:** The EIUK office is closed from Christmas Day till 5 January 2025.
- 27 Malawi:** Farmers in the Chisomo area are coming off of two years with little to no harvest. Pray for God's favour on them, that the Lord would send good rains resulting in a good harvest in this coming season. Pray for Scott and Lorilee who have many people coming to their house on a daily basis asking for work or food, many who have nothing to eat besides boiled mangoes these days. We need wisdom and energy to be good neighbours but to discern what we can do and what we can't.
- 28 Philippines:** Our water project in Marabuhay is in its last phase. Pray for the community to experience Jesus through the water they enjoy and to break free from their poverty mentality, and for the mothers who are attending the health teaching class to put into action what they have learned. Pray for our host family to experience Jesus more so they can spread His love and gospel to the community, and also for the children of our host family and the husband to have a relationship with Jesus.
- 29 Malawi:** Pray that God will raise up eager young men and women to attend the one-year theological and vocational training offered at Chisomo January to November 2025.  
**Philippines:** We need God's guidance on how to encourage/minister to the fishermen/recipients of fishing boats to continue with their faith.
- 30 International:** We pray God's blessing and peace over all those who have touched the heart of Emmanuel International through 2024. In our Jubilee year, we praise God for each one of you.  
**South Africa:** Our Trust board is planning for the year ahead: our budget, our programmes, our support for the mothers and for the needs of the children. Running 3 homes and 18 children is no small task when they completely depend on our ability to sustain them. Pray for wisdom as we go forward.
- 31 Haiti:** There are reports of increased violence, including sexual violence, against children in the country. Please pray for the children of Haiti, for protection and safety; also that they will not be emotionally scarred by the continued traumatic situation they are experiencing during this unrest.