



the Emmanuel Connection

January 2025

Success stories: Education

“Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding, for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her.” Proverbs 3:13-18 (NIV)



In the Philippines, one of the biggest barriers in getting proper education is poverty. Most students are unable to finish education because their parents do not earn enough to put food on the table let alone send their kids to school. Many students drop out to help care for their younger siblings or are made to work to help the family's daily needs. To have the means to support 39 students from elementary to college through the help of JOHIM (Journeys of Hope Int'l Ministry) and our church in Canada CABC is such a blessing!

Last school year, we rejoiced with 3 college graduates from the Kolibugan tribe and 2 college students from the Manobo tribe who were both Dean's listers. Ten students from the Magindanao tribe finished their year with honors! Praise God with us!

It is not just academic accomplishments but also their spiritual growth that we delight in.

By God's grace many of these students have made decisions to follow the Lord. Some lead small groups and share their faith to others.

Please remember to pray for these precious ones.

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Please keep these concerns in your daily prayers...

- 1 International:** God's great peace as you enter 2025. Lamentations 3:22-23: "The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." All year long!
- 2 South Africa:** Rachel Sayers' father in Canada has fallen in November and broken his hip. We appreciate your prayers.
- 3 Tanzania:** Simon will appreciate prayer as he prepares the year end finances for the auditor.
- 4 Canada:** The EI Canada Audit is continuing, please pray as items are reviewed and received
- 5 Uganda:** The Botting family are in Canada for the whole month, meeting with supporters and speaking at churches. We will have church presentations today and on the 12th, 19th and 26th. Please pray for fruitful times of sharing and fundraising.
- 6 Brazil:** Pray for the Águas Formosas PROPAC and Ninheira leaders as they plan the activities for this year.
- 7 Tanzania:** Simon and Joel are attending partner church national meetings from today until the 11th. We are very grateful they will be hosted in Mwanza this year.
Haiti: Daniel Jovin and family are planning to relocate to Florida to be closer to his parents, Martinez and Emma Jovin (retired EI Country Representatives in Haiti). They are less mobile and need support.
- 8 Uganda:** Michael and Marianne Botting are in the process of applying for new Ugandan work permits. Our current work permits don't expire until the middle of March, but right now the process is long and difficult and we need prayer that it will be completed in time.
- 9 International:** The International office is presenting the results of the STEP 24-28 Strategic Plan results for 2023-2024 to the ERRI Board. Please pray for the Board as they consider the continued work of EI around the world.
- 10 Tanzania:** We are seeking funds for the year. Please pray that all 2025 project budgets will be met.
- 11 Philippines:** The sewing project in one of our communities has been going through some challenges. Please pray that this new year will bring about excitement to begin again. The families involved had their homes flooded 3 times last year and were evacuated twice. Pray that this month will be a new beginning for everyone.
- 12 South Africa:** Pray for the new school and activity year for the Safe House Children; that they would excel and resist the temptations of the informal settlements.

- 13 Malawi:** We will welcome new students to Chisomo for a full year of Bible and carpentry training. Pray for their adjustment to learning in the classroom and for deepening of their faith over the year.
- 14 Haiti:** We are thankful to God that some of our partner churches are able to function in spite of the current situation in the country. The church in Marbial is doing fine, as is the school. Please do keep the Deacon of the church in your prayers as he is experiencing difficulties.
- 15 Malawi:** This is an unusually difficult year in Malawi on many levels. An ongoing fuel crisis has caused the economy to suffer and prices to increase. On top of this, many districts are experiencing a serious food shortage after two years of harvest failures due to Cyclone Freddy in 2023 and no rain in 2024. Our area around Chisomo is really struggling. Pray for good rains and for some kind of food relief to assist the villages in these challenging months.
- 16 Uganda:** The GROW ministry is trying to launch the showings of the Jesus Film earlier this year, to hopefully complete all of the film shows before the start of the rainy season. We pray that the team can get going quickly in the new year, and that the churches will have completed their community-based trainings on time as planned.
- 17 South Africa:** Rachel Sayers finally had surgery to her hand in December. This has been delayed many months due to Don's fall and injury and her travel to Canada to meet their grandchild. Please pray for her recovery.
- 18 Philippines:** Around 16 churches whose Sunday school teachers attended the training last year are set to begin their Bible Clubs this month. Pray for all the teachers as they prepare their lessons and for the neighborhood kids to come and be a part of this discipleship program.
- Malawi:** We are excited for the arrival of Kent and Jenn Pearson and their son Sawyer. The Pearsons are cattle and grain farmers from Alberta and have partnered with 10 local farmers in the Chisomo area to share challenges facing farmers in Malawi and Canada and how does our Christian worldview impact the farmer and his/her work. Pray for the learning and sharing of knowledge that will happen on both sides and for those who are not believers to hear the Gospel in a fresh way as it relates to their life vocation!
- 19 United Kingdom:** EIUK has been invited to speak at a few different churches this year. We are grateful for the opportunity to share about the great work of EI. Please pray for more of these opportunities to open up.

- 20 Brazil:** This month El Brazil and Equip Leadership Canada are planning the training of 4 Brazilian facilitators to lead ELC seminars in Brazil. Let's praise God for the opportunity to make available this training for Brazilian leaders.
- 21 Haiti:** Our partner church in Cabaret is closed completely. The gangs are roaming the streets and it is unsafe. Please pray for the people of the church and the community, and an end to the violence and intimidation.
- 22 South Africa:** We hope to begin child a sponsorship program in February. Please do pray for the success of this.
- 23 United Kingdom:** Today Sue Fallon has a meeting with the Group of 5, a group of smaller Christian charities who have been supporting each other, sharing knowledge and praying for each other.
- 24 International:** Throughout this year, please keep Emmanuel International in your prayers. We work in 7 countries: Brazil, Haiti, Malawi, Philippines, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda. Please pray for our staff and the projects they are working on.
- 25 Philippines:** Pray for our Club 10:14 team as they prepare for the upcoming teacher's training in at least 4 areas. Praise God for the books recently printed and received by our group in Davao city. Pray for strength physically and spiritually as they travel in various communities to train and distribute books as well.
- 26 United Kingdom:** We are planning our board meetings for the year. Please pray as we find suitable times and as we discuss the work of EIUK over the coming year.
- 27 International:** Preparation is being made for the ERRI AGM in February. Your prayers as we prepare are much appreciated.
- 28 Haiti:** Our hearts go out to the people in Haiti as we hear reports of the terrible situation there. People are fleeing the country but have no safe place to go to. Please pray for our Almighty God to step into the situation there and bring peace.
- 29 United Kingdom:** We are looking forward to meeting with the EIUK family again at our annual Conference and AMG which will take place on Saturday 1 March 2025 at St John's Church, Southbourne. We are hoping to see many people again this year. Please pray as we make our preparations.
- 30 Canada:** We are preparing (materials etc) for the upcoming Manitoba Mission Fest being held February 7-9, 2025.
- 31 Tanzania:** The EITZ project managers are finishing their 2024 project reports. Please pray for them all.