

# DOWN to EARTH

Emmanuel International UK News  
Forum House, Stirling Road, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 7DN Phone: 01243 931094

Registered Charity No 289036 [www.eiuk.org.uk](http://www.eiuk.org.uk) [info@eiuk.org.uk](mailto:info@eiuk.org.uk)

## MARCH 2025

## The EIUK Conference and AGM 2025



On a sunny morning on Saturday 1 March 2025, we hosted our EIUK Annual Conference and AGM at St John's Church in Southbourne. In spite of some traffic and train delays or cancellations, we were very happy to welcome 35 people to the event.

After a welcome from **Sue Fallon** (EIUK General Manager), **Alison Smailes** (EIUK Board Member) set the tone for the day's proceedings with devotions and prayer. Her message was based on Ephesians 2:10 and very appropriately an acronym that spelled EIUK: Expression of Christian Community, Intention, Unique and Kingdom!

**Simon Ewing** (EIUK missionary in Tanzania) joined us online from Mwanza, with his wife **Victoria** and children **Tabitha** and **Reuben**. They have been in Tanzania as EIUK missionaries for 8 years! They are thankful to God for keeping them safe and healthy during this time. The family shared their news and it was lovely to see some of the activities the kids are involved with.

# Praise God!

- 30 Milk Goats distributed
- 300+ bibles distributed (500 on pre-order)
- 1 Billion Shillings (£300,000) in savings accounts
- Displaced tribes finding churches for the first time
- Strong national church leadership showing the world how to love our neighbours
- Increased harvests
- £650 raised for El Brazil through local church collections
- 350,000 seedlings distributed
- 100 hives, 1000 litres + honey

Victoria shared about her work and Simon about his involvement with Petra Church where he is running the youth club. Simon then gave an overview of the work in Tanzania, which includes Holistic Mission, Agriculture and Nutrition, Caring for Creation and Strengthening Communities. During this year there were some great successes to be celebrated, for which we praise God.

**Mike and Marianne Botting** (El Uganda Country Representatives) together with **Gidudu Vincent Stephen** (Missions Mobiliser), joined us next from Uganda. Mike and Marianne shared that the work they do is whole world, whole person discipleship. They work with the churches in Uganda in the following projects: GROW (previously known as the Jesus Film Ministry), Child Discipleship, Girl's Hygiene Project, Community Health (CHE) and Missions Mobilization. This year two of the churches that we work with trained their own Sunday School teachers, independently from the Child Discipleship team. The girl's hygiene project has seen success in getting the parents involved in providing in their daughters' needs.

Social issues are being addressed through a 6-lesson curriculum in addition to educating girls about their bodies. Vincent shared about his epic 600km bicycle ride from Kampala to Gulu last year. This year he plans to repeat the feat, but stopping in various cities to host mission awareness seminars, leveraging the church connections he's established.

A tasty lunch of chilli with accompaniments and dessert was served by the team at St John's Church. It was also a great opportunity for people to get to know each other or catch up with faithful El friends.

The Annual General Meeting was led by **Clive Tydeman** (Chair of the EIUK Board). Paul Jones (International Director) shared highlights of the review of El's strategic plan, one year in. El internationally is celebrating its Jubilee Year, sharing stories every week on social media. An in person celebration will be held in Stouffville on 21 June 2025. After nearly 30 years on the EIUK Board, **Lucy Harding** stepped down at this meeting. She will be greatly missed! Clive and Sue presented her with some flowers and gifts.

# What We Do with Churches in Uganda



GROW



Child Discipleship



Girl's Hygiene Project



Community Health (CHE)



Missions Mobilization

**Daniel Jovin** (EI Haiti Country Representative) joined us online from Canada and shared a powerful message of God's faithfulness and "Trusting the Lord during A Season of Darkness and Experiencing His Providential Care". He shared about the situation in Haiti: that there has been political unrest and regular coups in the past, but the current situation is unprecedented. Yet, God has kept the mission safe so far. We work in partnership with OEBB (Oeuvre Evangelique Baptiste Bethesda) church and though some of their projects had to be paused during recent times, 2 schools, a home for boys and a home for girls as well as a reforestation project are able to continue. When it is safe to do, some of the churches are still able to meet, conduct weddings and train young people. Throughout these difficult times, the church is able to offer the hope of Christ, trusting the Lord for greater things to come.

**Fred Silva** (Country Director of Missão Emanuel do Brasil) shared some of what God is doing in Brazil, through Emmanuel International and talked about the involvement of the Global South in

missions, which was a good opportunity to create awareness for this new missions trend.

**Andy Sharpe** (EIUK Board Member) visited Iringa, Tanzania twice last year., He talked briefly about the visit in May, accompanied by Ian Baker, Sue and Alison, to attend the official opening of the Ruaha footbridge. In November Andy and Ian assessed two possible future water projects: A funding application for a rainwater harvesting project at Mtitu Secondary School has been submitted. If funds are secured, it can go ahead later this year. At Fita village it was more difficult to identify the best solution and Andy needs to return to the village for more survey work before an optimum solution can be developed. He also shared success stories from Imarika and Health for Development and what an encouragement those groups are to all their members.

Sue is celebrating 40 years with EI this year and Paul and Clive took the opportunity to thank Sue, presenting her with some flowers and a gift. Half of her time with EI has been with EIUK.



There was opportunity for family prayer time, where we shared prayer requests from each of our project countries. We also prepared a handout with a photo and prayer requests from each of our staff members worldwide, which people could take home and continue to pray.

In spite of a few technical hitches with internet connection, the day was very well received by all - a good opportunity to hear the latest about EI's work.

*"I really enjoyed the day. It was particularly interesting for us to hear first hand about work in Uganda and Tanzania. We've seen firsthand how important it is to train people and give them a leg up so they can help themselves and each other. Grub was good and there was lovely sense of family as we had time to get to know visitors. You don't get that at big conferences."*

*"I thought the talks on the screen were so enlightening and informative. It is good to see those working abroad "in person" and sharing their views and work. It made you feel more part of the organisation. Well done to all the organisers, the event went extremely well."*

*"Very pleased to meet so many of the EI team who I now appreciate do so*

*much good Christian work. Despite the presentation issues, hearing the stories from overseas was so encouraging. I hope I will be able to contribute in some way."*

For those who were able to stay after, a delicious meal was served by St John's Church members, with more opportunity to catch up.

We at EIUK are so thankful for everyone who were able to join us in person, to our speakers who joined us online, to St John's Church, Southbourne for their warm welcome and hospitality, and most of all we thank God for his faithful provision in all our work over the world!

## **Sue is abseiling to celebrate 40 years**

This year, on 4 May 2025, Sue Fallon (EIUK General Manager) will celebrate 40 years with Emmanuel International.



To celebrate this milestone, Sue is absailing off the Spinnaker Tower in Portsmouth! You are welcome to support Sue on the day. She starts the absail at 2pm! Please contact us at the office (details on front) for more information.

Sue is hoping to raise some funds for EIUK. If you wish to support her financially, it would be very much appreciated. You can make a donation directly into our CAF bank account: Account holder: Emmanuel International Ltd Bank: CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME 19 4JQ Sort code: 40-52-40 Account no: 00033722 Reference: Abseil