



# the Emmanuel Connection

April 2025

## Success stories : Mlowa IMARIKA



The IMARIKA group in Mlowa closed their VICOBA round in December 2024, after 5 months. The meeting was started with delightful singing from the group. After words of encouragement from the group chairman, Ibrahimu and Jesca, all the shares that had been bought by group members over that time were handed out, with interest.

Every VICOBA group member is able to buy a number of shares at tsh2,000 (about 60p) each week. The group makes cash loans to members, and later the loans are repaid with interest. This interest adds to the share value over time, so that when the VICOBA round is closed the shares are all repaid at higher value to those who have purchased them. On this day at Mlowa, the share value had gone up to something over Tsh2,200, more than a 10% gain.

The IMARIKA Mlowa group has 113 members and has been particularly good for the many maasai women in the group as it gives them a confidence they do not usually have.

One notable success for the group this year has been the group cultivation of 22 acres of groundnuts. The harvest produced 85 bags of groundnuts with a value of £1,700. In due course they plan to buy a machine to process the nuts, which will increase the harvest sale value in future.

Iringa Rural District Council has recognised the good work that the IMARIKA group is doing in the community. Their development officer has visited the group a couple of times and the Council has awarded the group a £14,000 grant for 2025. As the meeting drew to a close there was a time of prayer thanking God for the many blessing the group has had this year, and finally a collection was made to support the work of EI Brazil where funds are being sought for bible students to go to college. The collection raised £30 for EI Brazil.

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

- 1** **Haiti:** Daniel Jovin and family are relocating to Florida to be near his parents. We are grateful that Pastor Martinez and Madam Emma are in relatively good health, though aging and needing more care. Please pray for all the preparations that need to be made for the move.  
**Philippines:** Ruth is meeting with The Mailbox Club (TMC) Mindanao partner, Sandy Bae, a Korean missionary fluent in Cebuano who teaches children in a public elementary school in Davao City. Please pray as they discuss potential future partnerships with other public schools.
- 2** **Canada:** EIC staff will be speaking at the Springvale JOY (Just Older Adults) gathering today. They will be encouraging those in attendance to chat with their children and grandchildren about Mission and joining mission trip opportunities.  
**Philippines:** For about 3 years, Pastor Jean has led Bible studies with inmates in Davao city jail using our children's materials. Please pray for these men and women receiving God's love and forgiveness through Jesus Christ, and for the small gifts we share to show God's love.
- 3** **Uganda:** We praise God that Marianne has received her work permit for the next three years, but Michael has still not received his work permit because of an administrative error. We pray that Michael's work permit comes quickly in early April.  
**Malawi:** The Chisomo students are writing final exams for Term 1 today and tomorrow, will be attending a marriage seminar on April 7-9 and then going home for four weeks of break between terms. Continue to pray that their relationship with Christ will deepen and their understanding of their faith would bear great fruit in the years to come.
- 4** **Philippines:** Today and tomorrow we are finalizing preparations for our first TMC Mindanao conference with 27 delegates. Pray for our volunteer team to have unity, creativity, and joy as they oversee the event.  
**Uganda:** This month we are partnering with two denominations to train parents how to disciple their children at home. The first training will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, and the second training will be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. We pray many parents will grow in their own faith and discipleship skills, as they go back to their churches and share with other parents.
- 5** **South Africa:** We would like to give praise to the Lord for the wonderful and blessed trip for Nathan and Don to the Shepherds conference in Los Angeles last month. We fed richly on the Word and encouraged to hear of pastoral ministry challenges/successes around the world. 5000 expository pastors at one event is a unique opportunity to learn from their experiences and their faithfulness. Nathan was also given a personal tour of The Masters University and was given lots of encouragement that "scholarships are available". The Lord knows that we would need about 95% scholarship for him to attend, so we will move forward with applications if the Lord wills.
- 6** **Tanzania:** We have some EITZ projects that currently need funding. Please pray for project funding.  
**Malawi:** The implication of the reduction in USAid funding to Malawi means some staff losing their jobs. Please pray for them to find alternative employment.
- 7** **South Africa:** We are also thankful for the time we've enjoyed with Dani, Josh and our grandson Henk. We love our new role as grandparents! But the distance will be hard when they return home.  
**Tanzania:** We need God to guide us during the project handover of the Kwetu projects in various villages.

- 8 Haiti:** Gangs have recently been more active around the Port au Prince area, pushing people out of their communities. Please pray for innocent people who are losing all they have in the relentless violence of the gangs.
- Tanzania:** Joel, Peter, and Elisha have weekly meetings with church leaders at the pastors' training center.
- 9 Philippines:** Our TMC Mindanao conference is taking place from today till the 11<sup>th</sup>. We have prepared diligently for this conference. Please pray for safe travels for delegates to Davao City and for our resource speakers. We have 5 workshops: Engaging Children to Learn, Basic Photography, Video Taking, Nurturing a Child's Faith, and Filling Up Report Forms. Pray for good weather and receptive delegates.
- International:** Trust with us God's continued guidance through activities of our strategic plan, STEP 24-28. We are in Year 2 of this plan.
- 10 Tanzania:** We would appreciate prayer for EITZ as we work with partner churches in implementing projects successfully.
- Malawi:** We praise God for signs of a good harvest in our area in Malawi. This is a huge relief after three very hard years. Please pray for Malawi as high inflation and ongoing fuel shortages bring many challenges to everyone.
- 11 Tanzania:** Two groups in Tanga need to register with the government. Please pray this works out well.
- Brazil:** The Terena Indigenous Church is holding its general gathering from today till the 13<sup>th</sup>. Pray for a good and profitable time.
- 12 South Africa:** Thank you for your prayers for Beauty and Themba last month. Beauty is handling some of the challenges with one of the children better and isn't taking the issues as personally as before. She is doing a wonderful job under very difficult circumstances.
- 13 Philippines:** The church in Isabela that we visited are asking for help for cementing the front area of their church as it is muddy when it rains. It will also serve as a basketball court so they can invite young people.
- Brazil:** Praise God for one church that decided to partner with El Brazil; pray for a fruitful partnership.
- 14 International:** Praise God with us for His goodness. We are in the middle of our Jubilee year. This month we are sending out invitations for an in-person gathering of El alumni, staff and donors on June 21, an opportunity to thank God together.
- Tanzania:** It is the rainy season. Please pray for good rainfall across Tanzania.
- 15 Haiti:** Since the main airport in Port au Prince is still closed and the port under gang control, it has been difficult to import essential medicines into Haiti. People with chronic illnesses, eg diabetes, are not able to control this as they don't have access to medicine. Please pray that a workable solution will be found to bring medicines in, in spite of the current situation.
- Philippines:** Ruth will return to San Diego this afternoon. Pray for a safe flight.
- Uganda:** Today we are meeting with the senior leaders of our seven partner denominations to continue planning the launch of the pastoral training program. Our first meeting in March was very successful, and we pray that this meeting will help us to agree on the details that will let us start later this year.
- 16 South Africa:** The winter season is arriving. We had some record rains last year with much flooding and sewerage problems in the informal settlement.
- Malawi:** Malawians who have become believers out of a Muslim background commonly face persecution from their communities and rejection by their families. Pray for S. who has experienced his family's rejection and serious attempts on his life. Pray especially for his wife who sometimes wavers and feels that just going back to the way things were before would at least bring some temporary relief. They need your prayers to stand firm.

- 17 Canada:** The CCCC Accreditation Review is being done today. This accreditation is important for the ongoing wellbeing of EI Canada.
- 18 International:** The EI offices will be closed on Good Friday and on Easter Monday.
- 19 Philippines:** We thank God for the approval of the water project in Bacolod. Please pray that no problem will arise as they start with the construction until it's finish.
- 20 Tanzania:** Many staff members are facing transportation issues. Please pray that these will be resolved.
- 21 International:** Paul and Helen Jones are in the midst of preparing a mission team from their home church for service in Malawi this summer. Pray for the 7 people who are willing to serve God through this team.
- 22 Haiti:** The police and peacekeeping force are outnumbered by the gangs. They have been using drones to target some of the gang leaders, but with limited success. Please pray that the peace keepers will be able to make an impact and halt the progress of the gangs, with no loss of innocent lives.
- 23 Tanzania:** Our plans over the next few months involve a visiting team and summer travel for the missionaries. Please pray for this as well as our normal work.
- Uganda:** In Gulu we are working to establish and grow a local network of different church leaders involved in missions mobilization. As part of this process we are starting a six month journey partnering with the Upstream Collective where missions mobilizers will join online from across Uganda to talk about how we can help churches move from awareness about missions to sending missionaries. The first session is today, and we are praying it will help churches transform their awareness into action.
- 24 United Kingdom:** Sue and Linda will be visiting the projects in Brazil during May. Please pray as we make preparations for our trip, and that we'll be able to continue the work remotely.
- Philippines:** We are distributing Bags of Hope next month to the less privilege children in Quezon. Last year we gave away 100 bags. This year we will only able to give to 30 kids due to budget.
- 25 United Kingdom:** The EIUK board of trustees are meeting today via Teams. Please pray that internet connections will be good.
- 26 Canada:** We will be hosting an "Afternoon Tea" at the EICanada office. Please pray as we continue the planning and invites for our donors.
- 27 South Africa:** We need to improve the security gates around the properties. The opportunistic crime is on the increase and so we're planning on adding extra layers of security through bars on the windows and improved locks on the gates.
- 28 Malawi:** Praise God for the 10 farmers who are part of the Farmer to Farmer initiative out at Chisomo. They are harvesting their maize and already preparing for the next planting season. They will continue work with the half-acre they have dedicated to this project, implementing better farming techniques and learning through practice with the help of farming experts.
- 29 Haiti:** The church is still able to run 2 schools and the orphanages. Please pray for the safety of the children, and for the staff who continue to keep these running in spite of the very difficult circumstances.
- 30 United Kingdom:** Sue Fallon is abseiling the Spinnaker Tower in Portsmouth on 4 May, the 40<sup>th</sup> celebration of her starting her mission with Emmanuel International! She is raising funds for EIUK as well. Please pray that all will go well.