



BushNet

News from EMMANUEL INTERNATIONAL

PARTNERING WITH CHURCHES IN SERVING THEIR COMMUNITIES

Issue 1 of 2025

In this issue:

Malawi: Farmer to farmer project

Tanzania: Kitchen gardens

Philippines: Edmar water station

Haiti: God is faithful

Brazil: Terena Bible Institute

Uganda: SEND centre

South Africa: Tamara's story

El Jubilee: Our 50th year

UK: Sue is abseiling



MALAWI

Farmer to Farmer project



How do we reach those who belong to another faith, or who see Jesus as a great prophet but certainly not their saviour? We must look for ways to build bridges of love and understanding to win a listening ear and open heart! As part of our Christian Worldview Development Projects, we want to address poverty around us and build relevant bridges of love to put “flesh and bone” on the Gospel of Jesus.. Nothing is more relevant to our community than farming! So, we started the Farmer-to-Farmer project. What does this mean?

We partnered together a Canadian farming family from Alberta with a group of ten Malawian farmers in our neighbourhood. In October 2024 these farmers received the implements needed to farm half an acre of land. Then our Canadian farmers came to visit in January this year. Besides visiting each farmer’s field, our farming group did field trips to different areas to see how newer farming techniques are implemented. This included best practices to improve soil health and crop production. It was an eye-opener for everyone. For some of our local farmers, it was the first time they had been exposed to new knowledge in a very long time and for some... ever!

Right now, the farmers are busy harvesting maize from these experimental half-acre plots. One woman said that in her lifetime, she has never harvested as much maize as she will this year. Wow! These farmers will continue to work with this half acre in the coming season, using it as an experimental plot for implementing new practices they learned. We will invite farming experts to walk alongside our farmers, deepening their learning, and advising our farmers as they put into practice what they are learning. Sustainability is a big part of our efforts, so each farmer is required to give back part of their harvest to help offset the costs of the inputs for this coming farming season.

Our Canadian farmers shared what farming looks like in Canada, and how they approach farming as followers of Jesus. Our hope is that over time, there will be long-term effect in two ways. First, we want to demonstrate that farming is a noble vocation and not just a default activity for the poor. Second, through exposing committed farmers to new practices and paying attention to their primary life activity, that we will build beautiful Gospel bridges with our neighbours resulting in them knowing Jesus personally.

Scott and Lorilee MacLean

TANZANIA

Transforming Lives Through Kitchen Gardens



As the last harvest of the year faded into memory, the villagers prepared for another dry season of uncertainty. Then, a light of hope arrived in the form of kitchen gardens. This is the impactful testimony of the Jitegemee group at Luchebele Village, a community transformed from scattered individuals into a successful, unified group.

The Kituo cha Wakulima na Elimu ya Teknolojia kwa Urahisi (KWETU) project arrived in Luchebele Village in 2022, gathering community members whose situation was dire. They faced food insecurity, poor nutrition, climate change, water scarcity, unsafe food (due to the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides), and reliance on traditional farming techniques that offered little resilience.

KWETU registered community members willing to join the project and immediately began training sessions. These sessions focused on improving awareness about organic farming, climate change, kitchen gardens, and the harmful effects of chemical fertilizers and pesticides (which poison the soil, plants, and ultimately, human health). Practical training on creating kitchen gardens was provided, and many members were enthusiastic about

establishing their own home gardens. Each participant cultivated a kitchen garden and began growing vegetables organically.

The produce not only fed their families but also provided surplus vegetables for sale, increasing their income and reducing the financial burden of purchasing vegetables. These project participants, now organized into a group, cultivated their plots using drip irrigation kits to conserve water. In the second year, the KWETU project introduced a Village Community Bank (VICOPA) for savings and loan services. This initiative enabled individuals to save money from surplus produce and invest in agriculture and business through loans.

Among the groups was the *Jitegemee* group where a member, Agnes Masanja, grew organic onions on less than 0.25 acres, harvesting 140kg of onions, having received onion seeds at half price. At the end of that first cycle, the group decided to support needy individuals, including three elders and two students. These once scattered individuals had become a supportive force within their community. The lives of the people significantly and gradually began to transform.

Judith Misilaba

PHILIPPINES

Edmar water refilling station



The proposed site

Handumanan Fundamental Baptist Church (HFBC) is a long term partner church of Emmanuel International in the Philippines. Shem Catanus was the pastor of the church until his retirement and was one of the first EI missionaries in the Philippines. They have renewed their relationship with EI recently.

The church, HFBC, has launched a church planting program in Edmar Village, Barangay Felisa, Bacolod City. The place used to be a sugar cane plantation that was owned by a rich land owner. Most of the residents in the area, about 80%, are poor people who used to be sugar cane workers.

There is not a good supply of water in the area. Most of the families are buying drinking water at a high price. HFBC has put forward a proposal to Emmanuel International for a water refilling project so that residents can access clean drinking water and water for everyday use at a much lower price.

The recent eruption of Kanlaon Volcano added to the urgency of this project.

HAITI

God is faithful



News of Haiti is layered and complex. The challenges are of a scale never experienced before; a downward spiral after the assassination of the president, with financial restraints, high inflation, political unrest, etc.

In the EI mission, we have seen God's faithful hand: we have not experienced kidnapping or the level of instability/insecurity in the rest of the country. God has kept the mission safe, e.g. when they travel. Four of 8 churches and 2 of the 4 church schools are still functioning. The Reforestation project is continuing, mainly in the Jacmel area. The health clinic, sanitation and small business loan programs are paused. The orphanages are doing well, though experiencing scarcity from time to time.

The church offers hope in God, that God will provide when things get desperate. Some of the active churches are only able to meet at times when it is safe but we were able to share some joy in weddings, in the success of national exams as all students who sat passed, and more.

Emmanuel International prays for Haiti every Tuesday. If you would like to join us in prayer, please contact us for more information.

BRAZIL

Our Journey at Cades Barneia Indigenous Bible Institute



My name is Kali Aurélio, and I have been married to Thainara Catharina for 10 years.

I'm Terena and Thainara is not indigenous. Together we serve at the Cades Barneia Bible Institute. Our journey so far has been marked by God's missionary calling that transformed our lives.

I grew up in a Christian home and, from an early age, I felt the desire to serve the Lord. I graduated in Theology and, at the same time, developed my career as a graphic designer, photographer and artist. Thainara, on the other hand, was not from a Christian background, but God reached out to her over the years. She built her career in retail and her promotion to shop manager took us to live in three different states in Brazil.

It was in 2019 that I heard a prophetic word that really touched me: "The Lord tells you, just answer His call and I will sustain you." Although this message sank in my heart, we continued our work routine. As the years went by, I became more actively involved in ministry, while Thainara still focused on her career.

In 2023, God began to speak to her heart. In January 2024, we prayed together asking for direction, and Thainara asked the Lord to clearly show us if our calling was to missionary work. Shortly after, she was laid off from her work, and we understood this was a clear answer from God. So, in April 2024, we returned to our home State to serve at the Indigenous Bible Institute.

Here we work with several indigenous ethnic groups, such as the Xavante, Kadweu, Terena, and Waura. This is a boarding school, and that gives us the opportunity for daily discipleship and closely monitoring of their spiritual and academic growth. At the end of 2024, I was elected the school director, and she took the secretary job.

We have many plans for the Bible Institute, including the reactivation of youth, teenagers and children's camps, as well as the continuation of the structural school renovation. We believe that God has great things to do here and we continue to trust Him for each step.

We ask for the prayers of all our family in Christ, so that we can continue to fulfill the calling that the Lord has entrusted us.

Kali Aurélio and Thainara Catharina

UGANDA

SEND: Shalom for Every Nation Discipleship Centre



In the heart of Northern Uganda, a new vision is taking shape - a place where faith, discipleship, and mission training will come together to equip the next generation of leaders. Emmanuel International Uganda is embarking on an ambitious yet essential project: the transformation of the Pader Restoration Resource Centre (PRRC) into the Shalom for Every Nation Discipleship (SEND) Centre.

Originally built in 2007 during the Lord's Resistance Army insurgency, the PRRC was meant to serve as a night commuter's shelter for children seeking refuge from abduction. However, due to government policy changes, it was repurposed into a centre for Emmanuel International's operations and a place of worship for the Pader Town Church of Uganda. Over the years, the facility has deteriorated, with structural assessments revealing significant issues, such as sinking foundations and buildings needing urgent repairs.

The SEND Centre will not just be a renovation but a transformation. Our goal is to establish a fully functional discipleship and mission training campus. The new facilities will include:

- Male and female dormitories for students

- A classroom for theological and mission training
- A residence for visiting trainers and facilitators
- A kitchen and secure parking area
- Separate male and female latrine blocks

This centre will provide much-needed pastoral training, discipleship programs, and cross-cultural mission preparation. To our knowledge, there is no such training facility in all of Northern Uganda dedicated to equipping local churches and missionaries.

Our short-term goal is to train 60 pastors within the first three years and send out at least 20 missionaries in the first five years. Additionally, the SEND Centre will continue to host vital programs like GROW training, child discipleship initiatives, and mission mobilization workshops. The impact of this work will extend beyond Pader, reaching communities across Uganda and beyond.

The project will require a significant level of funding, and funds are being raised through multiple sources, including generous donors. While some initial funds have been pledged, much more is needed to move forward with geotechnical surveys, drainage repairs, and the subsequent phases of renovation and construction.

SOUTH AFRICA

Tamara's story



Tamara is the youngest of 5 siblings that were referred to our second Safe House in 2011. The children were separated in care but reunited in the Safe House that year. Tamara was a baby when the children were moved into the Safe House.

Tamara and her siblings continued to thrive in the safe environment that mimicked Christian family life under the care of Beauty, the house mother.

Last year, Tamara has matriculated and was accepted at False Bay College for their Business and Tourism Diploma program. She has been enrolled since mid-January of 2025 and is enjoying the challenge in this next phase of life for her.

As a bonus, Tamara has moved into Home From Home's transition house in Lake Side, where she lives with 5 other young ladies who are also studying. They are all working together towards independence and she is feeling 'suddenly grown-up' with the big changes that have come all at once.

Beauty has been working with the Department of Social Services to fill Tamara's room with another child that needs parents and a loving home to grow up in.

Do pray for Tamara as she misses her brothers and sisters from Beauty's house, but she isn't so far away that she cannot visit on the odd weekend. Pray for Tamara as she journeys into the next phase of life the Lord has for her.



Tamara in 2017



EI JUBILEE

Our 50th year of existence



Emmanuel International, as an international organisation, was registered in Canada on 11 September 1975. We have been celebrating our 50th year of recognised existence, our Jubilee year!

In the Bible, the Jubilee year was designated for the 50th year after 7 cycles of 7 years, following the end of the 7th sabbath year. The Jubilee year was a year of acknowledging Sovereign God, His grace, His provision, His heart for His people. It was to be a year of rest and freedom... a reset year. The heart of this Jubilee year was a demonstration of God's heart for compassion, an unparalleled expression of goodness and care for His people, surpassed only through the gift of His son, Jesus. The Jubilee year required that people in poverty would trust God to provide. And it required the rich to trust that treating people in obedience to God's way would in turn be best for themselves.

Our Jubilee year is our opportunity to praise God with all our hearts, souls, strength and minds. We have been posting a weekly celebration on our website www.eiuk.org.uk.

UK

Sue is abseiling



This year, on 4 May 2025, Sue Fallon (EIUK General Manager) is celebrating 40 years with Emmanuel International! She spent a year working in Jamaica before joining the team in Canada in the training school for 10 years and then a further 9 in the finance team. In 2005 she returned to the UK, heading up the office here as General Manager for the last 20 years.

To celebrate this milestone, Sue is abseiling off the Spinnaker Tower in Portsmouth! The tower is 170m high and the abseil will be a length of 100m. If you want to come and support Sue on the day, she will be starting her descent at 2pm. Contact 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