



the Emmanuel Connection

December 2025

Focus on: Project Psalm 100 (Choir project) in Malawi



Choirs have a prominent place in the life of the church in Malawi. They lead worship for most congregations and significant events like funerals and baptisms. Yearly competitions gather youth choirs for a weekend where they sing all night and “compete” with one another for that coveted first place. Youth choirs also travel to other churches to minister, encourage, and make new friends. In many ways, you could say that

Small groups practice using the devotionals

the choir IS the church youth group. Why are we focusing on the youth choir? Our team wants young choir members to grow in their understanding of what they are singing about and in their own relationship with Jesus so that Jesus will be greatly exalted in our corporate worship.

How are we doing this? We collected over 300 choir songs across southern Malawi and created a devotional book. Each devotional highlights the spiritual and Scriptural significance of a song, shares discussion questions and suggests ways to prayerfully prepare for worship. We had our first choir conference to launch the first devotional in October 2024. We are hosting choir competitions across Malawi. This is the preliminary level of competitions with 33 choirs competing to enter the semifinals. The semifinals and finals will be held during our second worship conference in August of 2026.

These choirs must compose original pieces for this competition AND they can only use percussion instruments as accompaniment. If you could hear them sing, you would know WHY they don't need anything more to help them sound good! We will also produce a second volume of devotionals. We praise God for the opportunity to make a Gospel impact on our youth through music.

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Please keep these concerns in your daily prayers...

- 1 United Kingdom:** Sue Fallon is visiting supporters from today till the end of the week. Please pray for safe travels and good times with people who have been supporting her.
Canada: Cindy Bates' son-in-law Jordan signed up to be a stem-cell donor eleven years ago – he was contacted recently to say he was a match and could help save the life of a young man who lives in Texas. The transplant will happen on December 4th. Pray that Jordan stays healthy prior to the procedure and that he and Annie arrive in time to help this man.
- 2 Haiti:** Hurricane Melissa caused damage in some of the areas where we work. We are hoping to provide relief to farmers who have lost their crops and livelihoods, providing seeds and tools. We are also helping our partner church to repair damage to a school classroom.
South Africa: Hudson Sayers returned to Canada at the end of November, after a 2 week holiday back home in South Africa. Pray for the family as they are separated again.
- 3 International:** We thank God for Amy Maglayo who has joined the work of the International Office. Amy is working part time in addition to her time with EI Canada.
Tanzania: In the KWETU project, some groups are getting started with the Dream save app training. Please pray for us that we can deliver good training.
- 4 Canada:** Today the EIC office staff and Board will be celebrating Christmas together by sharing a special meal.
South Africa: We have many December outings and Christmas parties planned for the children. We thank those that contribute each year for presents for the children and bonuses for the House moms. Pray that the Gospel of Christ is proclaimed and that the Lord would open the eyes of the children and bring them to repentance.
- 5 Tanzania:** The students in the Strength and Dignity project break for the Christmas holiday today. Pray for hope, joy, and love as they celebrate Christmas with family and friends!
Uganda: Tonight we are helping to organize our second quarterly Gulu for the Nations event, a city-wide worship and prayer initiative connected to the Northern Uganda Missions Network (NUMIN). Please pray for strong participation from a wide range of churches and denominations as we seek to cultivate united, concerted prayer. Pray also for the choir and musicians - especially the university students who are juggling exams - that the Lord would strengthen and sustain them.
- 6 Canada, United Kingdom, United States of America:** The EI Christmas Appeal it out. Please pray that many hearts would be touched to respond.
Philippines: The Bible translation project for one Mindanao people group is at the community checking phase. Pray for the three mothertongue translators. Pray for wisdom, protection and that it will be well received by the community.

- 7 Tanzania:** In the beekeeping project, some of the churches we are working with, along with the pastors and their families, face hardships; please pray. Do pray for the churches in the villages to be the salt and the light in their communities, so that the communities can be transformed by the gospel of Jesus. Nyamkolechiwa church is waiting to receive a new pastor and in the Kayenze group their money issue is not yet settled. Please pray for more strength and unity among the beekeepers.
- 8 United Kingdom:** We are continuing our EI wide Biblestudy "Growing in Christ" today.
- Uganda:** This week Vincent will be in Kotido (in the Karamoja region of Uganda) speaking at two different youth gatherings. The first is a two-day seminar for high school students preparing to enter university, aimed at equipping them to stand firm in their faith as they transition to tertiary education. The second is a larger youth camp drawing young people from across the Diocese of Northern Karamoja. Please pray for fruitful ministry and safe travels.
- 9 Haiti:** Phanel will be traveling between areas that our partner church, Oeuvre Evangelique Baptiste Bethesda, serves. Please pray for safety as it can be dangerous to travel at the moment.
- Uganda:** Please pray for good rest for our staff over the Christmas holidays, especially as Uganda approaches national elections in mid-January. The campaign period has been mostly peaceful so far, but with election unrest in other parts of East Africa we are praying for continued peace.
- 10 Malawi:** So far the rains have been really good in the area around Chisomo school. Farmers have planted and seeds are germinating. We ask the Lord for good rains to bring reprieve to our area and all of Malawi after several years of poor harvests.
- South Africa:** Don Sayers' hip has completely healed and the good news is that he doesn't need a replacement. However, do pray for Don as he goes for a 2 hour surgery to have the rod and many screws removed from his femur today. He will need a couple weeks' of bed recovery while the void in the femur fills again.
- 11 Canada:** Today is the deadline for applying for a grant to hire summer students. We are considering hiring one or two next summer, so please pray for the whole process.
- 12 Tanzania:** We would appreciate prayer for all the groups in IMARIKA projects who are completing their VICOPA cycle in December. In the Health for Development project we also have five project groups completing their VICOPA rounds this month. Please pray that all people will be able to pay their debts, that the calculations go well, and for the safety of all the money.

- 13 Malawi:** The Psalm 100 Project, fondly known as the choir project, is holding 9 competitions all through the month of December at different locations around central and southern Malawi. Choirs are excited and nervous! The top two choirs at each location will be heading to the semi-finals and finals to be held in August 2026. Pray for unity among all the participants. Pray for the judges who have the hard job of choosing who goes forward. Praise God for the great committee who heads up this initiative under the leadership of Shadreck Manda and Lorilee MacLean.
- 14 International:** During the busy Christmas season, please pray that we will stay focused on God. Pray that the LORD would help us be aware that it is not performance that HE looks for, even though we strive for excellence, but for our heart as we serve HIM.
- United Arab Emirates:** We are planning various Christmas and New Year services that are evangelistic in nature. Pray for God's wisdom for us as we organize and plan these services. Pray for those who are going to be invited, that their hearts be prepared and touched by the LORD.
- 15 South Africa:** The status of the Safe Homes in South Africa may change as the Department of Social Development is making changes that may affect our partnership with our affiliate organization, Home from Home. It may mean we may have to register directly to DSD... a massive undertaking administratively and financially. Pray that the current arrangement will satisfy DSD and that we can keep the current partnership relationship.
- 16 Haiti:** We are celebrating that Haiti has qualified for the World Cup in 2026, only the second time in its history. Good news is welcome in this dark time.
- Malawi:** The Reading Club will have their Christmas party today. We praise God for the 35 children and five tutors who have faithfully helped the children grow academically. We are seeing good progress! We start again in mid-January.
- 17 Tanzania:** In Tanga, please pray for the goat and sheep project to bear good fruits. All the groups in Tanga would appreciate prayer. Also pray for all the field trips to villages in the area.
- Malawi:** Scott MacLean continues to write the Dogmatics course for the coming school year at Chisomo Theological and Vocational Training school.
- 18 Brazil:** We continue to discuss the plans for the visit to Mozambique next year. We need God's wisdom to deal with all the challenges that a trip like this brings.
- Tanzania:** In the Entrepreneurship project, some groups need to get their district authorities' permits for project implementation in their villages. Two groups are being trained on business knowledge. Please pray for the success of identifying successful small businesses for the beneficiaries. 4 groups are collecting loans.
- 19 United Arab Emirates:** We have an opportunity to be involved at a conference held by The Farsi Home Church Ministry today. 20 people will be present. I (Daniel Singh) will be teaching on "What does it mean to be a disciple of Christ?" and Hephzibah will be praying for everyone there. Pray for the LORD to lead us and give us HIS grace and strength to be able to minister effectively.

- 20 International:** The Directors of all our EI countries are compiling information for the STEP 24-28 Strategic Plan monitoring and evaluation report for 2024-2025. Wisdom and guidance through this process is vital.
- 21 United Kingdom:** The EIUK office is closed from today until 2 January 2026. Thank you so much for your support and prayers during this past year.
- Tanzania:** We are compiling data from the successful pastors training's beneficiaries and continuing the mentoring program with partner church personnel, on income generating related activities.
- 22 Philippines:** We have so many requests for Bibles in Mindanao. Praise God for a bequest from Ruth's mom. We were able to buy hundreds of Old and New Testament in the Cebuano dialect for small churches in the area. Pray for the pastors as they put these Bibles in the hands of those who earnestly seek God.
- 23 Haiti:** We continue to be thankful for Pastor Martinez and Madam Emma Jovin as they still assist Haiti as much as they are able. Please pray for their health.
- 24 Tanzania:** We are surveying new villages for future water projects.
- 25** We wish you all a very blessed Christmas! May the joy of Christ fill your hearts and homes today and in the coming year.
- 26 Malawi:** We praise God for the good completion of Phase 1 of the transition to the new mission-training program at the Evangelical Baptist Bible College in Liwonde. Pastor John Kamwaza is doing a good job leading this transition. Please pray as our US advocates look for funding of the next phase which would allow us to do the renovations needed and go ahead with implementing this new training program. We know that God's timing and purposes are perfect.
- 27 Brazil:** One of EI Brazil partner churches has contacted us about expanding to Almenara, a new area, Northeast of our home State. Praise God for this new ministry opportunity he is giving us.
- 28 United Arab Emirates:** The LORD has provided the funds needed for medical insurance for both of us - thank the LORD with us. Pray that we will make a good decision in terms of a good medical insurance plan for both of us. Also, the weakness Hephzibah feels comes and goes and it is discouraging to her. Pray that we will be able to make a decision on the insurance soon so we can get her checked out at the hospital or the LORD supernaturally heals her.
- 29 South Africa:** Praise that Nathan has been accepted at the Masters University in California! Lord willing, Nate will be travelling to Canada to work for 6 months in March 2026 and will (Lord willing again) begin his semester in September 2026. The prayer is for scholarships. He is currently applying for 4 and we know God is sovereign and if it is His will, Nathan will be attending in September.
- 30 Haiti:** Daniel and Shantelle Jovin are in Florida, having recently moved there to be closer to his parents. Please pray as they work out their own needs alongside helping Pastor Martinez and Madam Emma. They are looking for employment and planning for their own home.
- 31 International:** As the year ends, may God bless all of those who are a part of the EI family, refreshing hearts and minds as we celebrate Jesus.