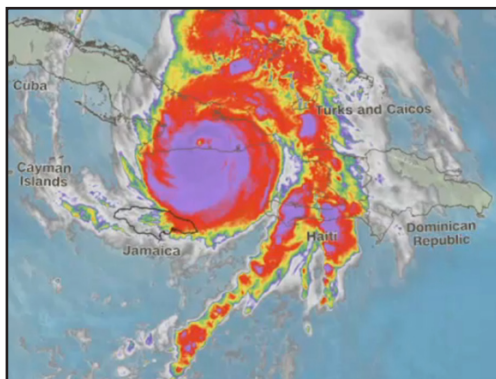


## JANUARY 2026

### Haiti relief after Hurricane Melissa



In late October 2025 Hurricane Melissa, a Category 5 storm, caused unprecedented damage in the Caribbean.

Rural communities in Haiti suffered major damage, affecting both an early education facility (a Marbial preschool) and farming livelihoods in the communes of Cabaret, Fond-Blanc, Conoyer, and Rechimeau. Food supplies and crops were devastated, deepening the ongoing food crisis. Remote areas became even more isolated, making it difficult to reach local markets and obtain essential supplies. Humanitarian aid distribution remains difficult due to insecurity.

Haiti is, and has been, facing a severe crisis characterised by rampant gang violence, political instability, and a



humanitarian emergency since the assassination of the president Jovenel Moïse in 2021.

Emmanuel International Haiti is partnering with Oeuvre Evangelique Baptiste Bethesda (OEBB) church, under the leadership of Phanel.

OEBB is offering relief to 40 smallholder farmers in communities of Cabaret, Fond-Blanc, Conoyer, and Rechimeau. They are distributing quality seeds and soil preparation tools to the smallholder farmers. They will train farmers in climate-resilient agriculture while also supporting temporary food aid to ensure families can plant. Women-led farm recovery will be a priority to ensure long-term stability for families.

OEBB is also restoring the preschool building in Marbial. Work at the preschool includes repairing classroom walls, floors, and electrical systems; installation of basic flood-prevention drainage; provision of sanitation and access to clean water; and replacing essential learning and educational supplies.

Emmanuel International has been praying for Haiti every week since July 2023. We have seen so many answers to prayers, even if the situation in Haiti seems unchanged. God has been faithful!

If you would like to join us in our weekly prayers, please let us know and we'll send you the link. Every Tuesday at 12:30 till 1pm (except on a second Tuesday.) Even if you cannot join us at the prayer meeting, please do keep Haiti in your prayers.

## Linda is retiring

In April 2026, Linda Fitzmaurice will have been with EIUK for 20 years! She will retire at the end of April. We are very grateful for all Linda has done over the years, and will have a chance to celebrate that and thank her formally at our EIUK Conference and AGM on 28<sup>th</sup> February.

Please do pray as we look to consider how we might restructure the UK office and activities and functions. Pray especially that we find the right person to join the EIUK office. If anyone is interested/knows anyone interested in working part time in the Chichester office supporting EIUK administration and comms please do speak to Sue Fallon (email [info@eiuk.org.uk](mailto:info@eiuk.org.uk) or phone 01243 931094).

## Life's Journey with EI



*Paul and Helen Jones have been the EI Country Representatives in Malawi for 31 years before Paul, from the end of 2018, became the the EI International Director. Helen has been assisting him in this work until she retired at the end of November 2025. She writes...*

The year? 1980. The opportunity: relief work in Somalia. The invitation to join EI came from people whom I had known in my childhood in Ethiopia where my parents worked with SIM. The first stint in Somalia was 10 months. It renewed in my heart a desire to serve God in missions....and a recognition that I am a follower, not a leader. Till then I had hoped to work as a nurse on horseback in rural Ethiopia...!

So, I applied to EI... and heard nothing for 6 months. Finally, I phoned Mark Middleton whom I knew from attending Bingham in Ethiopia together. "Mark, do you really not want me to work with EI?" It turns out that the person who was meant to follow up on my application had failed to do so. But it also highlights the fact that EI had A LOT of young people joining their ranks. New teams were going out every few months.

Driving from California, I reached EI in Stouffville on January 1, 1982. Three months of training school was a great introduction to the ethos of EI, which to this day I love and appreciate. Working in partnership with churches in building their capacity to reach their communities! Ahhh! I have to tell you. It has been a total pleasure and privilege that this was God's design for my life.

My first assignment was 'Health Coordinator.' It was a new role which meant much of my time was spent trying to figure out what that meant for the organization. EI in the Philippines had an exemplary program so I was sent off to the Philippines to learn. It was fun, it was fascinating and it gave the foundation for writing the first edition of the manual on "Health Principles and Practices" that other countries would use as a guideline for their programs. While there, God blessed me with wonderful friendships which are still going strong today.

It was at EI that I met my husband, my best friend and life partner, Paul Jones. We were married in 1984. God blessed us with 2 children and now 4 grandchildren. Imagine your whole working career alongside your husband! Paul and I are very different people,



which no doubt was part of God's design. Paul is a 'big picture' person. He could see to the heart of an issue very quickly and he worked solidly in line with EI's ethos and principles. I'm more of a detail, "give me papers to file" sort of person but also opinionated. So, you know there were challenges, times when we had a difference of opinion. But God held us steady, taught us to love and cherish, brought counsel when we needed it and gave us a treasure chest of wonderfully memorable moments in our journey together. It was front row seats to experiencing God's incredible love and faithfulness.

Are you familiar with the book by Dr. Suess, "Oh, the Places You'll Go"? Over the years with EI, we worked in Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Malawi. In the first three of those countries, we worked primarily in relief situations. Tanzania was a training ground; we spent 7 months with Andy and Judy Atkins learning the role of "In-Country Representative." This was a new direction for EI at the time. We were privileged to have Andy and Judy to guide us and set us up with the tools of understanding we would need when we finally reached Malawi in 1987. And this is where God kept us until we returned to Canada in December 2018 for Paul to begin his work as Director of the International Office.

Fast forward to November 2025, my retirement from EI. All the places, all the experiences, all the people met and served, my prayer is that through it all, God has been glorified. The lines written by Charles Thomas Studd in his poem, *Only One Life*, summarize my life with EI: Only one life, 'twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last."



# Emmanuel International UK Conference & AGM

Saturday, 28 February 2026 10:00am-4pm

## ST JOHN'S CHURCH, SOUTHBOURNE

Our annual conference and AGM is on 28 February! We are looking forward to hearing about EI's work, praying together and spending social time.

We look forward to hearing from, amongst others...



Simon Ewing



Fred Silva



Mike and Marianne  
Botting

Cost: only **£15 per person**, to include lunch and tea/coffee.

**RSVP by Friday  
20 February 2026**

### Plans for Saturday night after the conference?

The conference is one day only, but many of the board and other attendees will be staying overnight on the Saturday to catch up.

For those who can stay longer, we will have dinner together at the church, allowing for more time to catch up socially.

Please let us know if you would like to join us (contact details on front page).



The Conference brochure and booking form can be also found on our website on [www.eiuk.org.uk/eiuk-conf-agm](http://www.eiuk.org.uk/eiuk-conf-agm) or scan the QR code on your smartphone.



**Everybody welcome!**

If you have not yet renewed your EIUK Membership for 2025 - 2026, please do so before the AGM.  
Details on [www.eiuk.org.uk](http://www.eiuk.org.uk).