



the Emmanuel Connection

February 2026

Focus on: 45th anniversary of Passabém project, Brazil



In the 1970's God challenged a group of Brazilian teenagers and youth to minister to poor people in Brazil, responding to their spiritual and physical needs. In the next years God continued to confirm that. At the end of 1979 this group heard about

Emmanuel International's philosophy and that was music to their ears. In September 1980 one person from that group was sent to Canada to be trained and to meet the expatriates that would join the Brazilians to work in Passabém, a remote area in Brazil.

This month we celebrate the 45th anniversary of the beginning of the work in Passabém, the first EI project in Brazil. The team had to face the Caracol muddy road hills in a VW Kombi full of tents, kitchen utensils, and bags to get there, needing to set up the tents and a small kitchen before it got dark.

For four years Brazilians and expatriates worked there, doing projects like chicken coops, latrines, vegetable gardens, spring capping, and building relationships with the people, showing them God's love in practical ways.

God, in a wonderful and powerful way, worked in the lives of that young group and many people in Passabém. All glory to Him!

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Please keep these concerns in your daily prayers...

- 1** **Canada:** From today until the 5th, Richard and Pam McGowan will be visiting with their daughter and family in Saskatchewan. prior to attending a Missions Conference. Please pray for safety as they drive.
Tanzania: The Strength and Dignity project will be starting at Bugogwa Secondary this week. Please pray for a good partnership between the school and our team. Also, pray for Igombe Christian Centre (our local church partner) as they continue to take more ownership of the project.
- 2** The Águas Formosas Center main activities have been resumed this month. Pray for a fresh anointing in the lives of the leaders and staff, so that they may be a blessing to the children, teenagers, and mothers involved in the different projects.
- 3** **Haiti:** The mandate of Haiti's Transitional Presidential Council expires on 7 February 2026. Please pray for the decisions that will follow this date, and for peace and safety for all in the period of further insecurity.
- 4** **South Africa:** There was a major fire in the community of Masiphumelele in January. Please pray as we help those that have lost their homes. We are thankful our homes and safe homes as well as the families have been spared.
International: The EI International Board meeting is taking place today at 9am. Please pray for a productive meeting.
- 5** **Tanzania:** We are holding a beekeeping seminar on Kome this week. Please pray for the churches and pastors on Kome, for strength and growth.
Malawi: There are 28 new students at Chisomo Theological & Vocational Training School where Scott and Lorilee teach. The learning curve is steep in the first term and learning to live with one another in community can be a challenge. We have some students who have never left their home village, and so getting used to new surroundings, new people and a school schedule is sometimes difficult.
- 6** **Canada:** Pam and Richard will be in Winnipeg, Manitoba until the 8th for the annual Missions Conference where approximately 2000-3000 attend. This is an excellent way to connect with individuals in Manitoba. Please pray for good connections and safety in travels as they are gone about 10 days.
Uganda: Mike Botting and Gidudu Vincent are being trained today and tomorrow to become Head Facilitators for the Kairos Course.
- 7** **United Kingdom:** We are advertising for an Administrative Assistant in the EIUK office. Linda Fitzmaurice is retiring at the end of April 2026 and after some restructuring, a position will be available part time.
Tanzania: Good rains are needed for harvests on the farms of IMARIKA groups and for feed for the cows at the Pastor Training Centre. Pray for the health of animals in the groups and for success in controlling pests, in particular tsetse fly.

- 8 Malawi:** We praise God for great choir competitions in seven EBCM districts throughout the month of December 2025. We now have 16 choirs that advance to the semi-finals and finals to be held during a worship conference in August this year.
- 9 Philippines:** In December 2025, the Emmanuel Water Refilling Station in Edmar, Bacolod conducted a successful free drinking water distribution in Bacolod City. Many community members came to receive clean and safe drinking water. Before the distribution, the people gathered to listen to the Gospel message. We thank God that many stayed and heard about His love and hope. This outreach allowed us to minister to both physical and spiritual needs. Pray that the seeds of the Gospel shared will continue to grow in the hearts of those who listened, and for continued community support and participation in the Emmanuel Refilling Water Project. Pray for sustainability, wisdom, and strength as they continue serving through this ministry.
- 10 Haiti:** Our partner church, Oeuvre Evangelique Baptiste Bethesda, is providing relief to those who lost their ability to grow their own food as a result of Storm Melissa. Please pray as seeds and other help is distributed in the midst of all the insecurity in the country.
- 11 Uganda:** We are interviewing to hire a new discipleship field staff member. May God make the right person shine through!
- Tanzania:** We are starting the Mtitu Rainwater Harvesting project in the Iringa region.
- 12 Malawi:** Scott and Lorilee MacLean appreciate your prayers for the teachers at Chisomo - that we will teach faithfully and thoroughly, and the students will grow in their understanding of their faith in Christ. Pray as we transition to a new leadership style with a leadership team and as the search for a new principal begins this month.
- 13 Philippines:** In the goat raising project in Isabela, they started with 2 goats now it's four as two kids were added. Pray for the safety of the goats so it will continue to produce more kids.
- 14 Malawi:** We praise God for the visual evidence of benefit from the changes our farmers have made to how they care for the soil in their maize fields as part of our Farmer-to-Farmer program. One farmer's field is in a very sandy area. With just a few changes and the addition of manure, the difference between Mayi Soya's field and her neighbours' fields is truly eye-popping. People literally stop and ask, "What have you done to see these kinds of results in this type of soil?" Thank you, Lord!
- 15 Brazil:** This month we celebrate the 45th anniversary of the Passabém Project, the first carried out by EI in Brazil. We thank God for Ken Decker, our mentor, Rob Stassen, Cathy Roden, Debbie-Lea Kitler, Lois Robertson, Glen and Anita and their son Ben (the expatriates), Denio Reis, Daniel and Ivanise, Jurema Faria, Carla and Fred Silva (the nationals), who were committed to show God's love to a small town in the middle of nowhere.

- 16 South Africa:** The Department of Social Development have changed policies and how they are defining terms. This impacts how we can and cannot run the Safe House ministry.
- 17 Haiti:** El prays for Haiti every Tuesday. Please join us in praying, either by joining our Teams meeting or in your own time.
- Tanzania:** We have put in a funding proposal for the KWETU project to MCIC. Please also pray for God's protection on the staffs' trips to the projects and for good health.
- 18 International:** El International AGM is today at 9am. Please pray all the documents needed are ready on time.
- Tanzania:** We are doing follow up with the trained pastors and compiling data. Please pray for our partner church mentorship program to be successful.
- 19 Philippines:** El helped the church in Isabela to cement the front area to serve as a place where members of the church dry their goods (corn and veggies) before selling it to the market and playground and Sunday school for children. This has now been completed. More people will attend church because the church's frontage is no longer wet and muddy.
- 20 Malawi:** We praise God for good rains in our area this year. What a mercy this has been. There have been devastating rains in the north of Malawi where bridges have been washed out and roads which allow for international commerce to proceed have been seriously damaged. While we thank God for good rains and a hopeful outlook for harvests in our area, we pray for those whose lives have been turned upside down by floods and excessive rains.
- 21 Tanzania:** The Entrepreneurship projects in Sengerema and Ukerewe are awaiting approval. We are also in the process of linking our group projects to the government officials.
- 22 Philippines:** Tonton and Nona Caballero will appreciate prayer for good health (as there is sickness going around in the Philippines). Also please pray for guidance on which project to pursue this year.
- 23 Uganda:** Pray for this week's Kairos course to be well attended and to transform worldviews of future church leaders to see themselves as catalysts of global mission.
- Tanzania:** Do pray for village groups who participate across our varied projects to be committed in their project activities. Pray in particular for the chairpersons of the village groups as they provide leadership.
- 24 Haiti:** We would appreciate your prayers for the Jovin family in California - for the health of Pastor Martinez and Madam Emma and for Daniel and Shantelle as they support their parents and also look for employment.

- 25 International:** The EI council meeting today at 9am. Later today, Paul and Helen will be travelling to the UK to visit supporters and attend the EIUK AGM. Please pray for safety and a fruitful time connecting with others in the UK.
- Philippines:** The Bible has been the most sought after resource in the last couple of years. Pastors have asked for bibles to give their church members and new believers in their communities. Bibles are needed for teachers as they use it in their classroom Bible study. Please pray for hundreds of people who got their own Bible from EIC. Pray the Holy Spirit works in their lives as they read, meditate and reflect on God's word.
- 26 Canada:** Kristy Nowell, and Pam and Richard fly to the UK today for the EIUK AGM. Please pray for safety as they travel.
- Tanzania:** In Tanga, please pray for God's protection over our projects and our trips to field areas. We also require funding.
- 27 South Africa:** Nathan plans to depart for Canada at the end of February to start working and hopefully save enough to put towards his Maters University Engineering degree in September. Please pray for him.
- Tanzania:** The community leaders in Kitelewasi village are delaying in inviting us to introduce the Health for Development project to the village council and the village at large. Please pray for their cooperation.
- 28 United Kingdom:** Today is the Annual EIUK Conference and AGM. Please pray as people travel to attend, for a fruitful time together and for God to be glorified throughout the day. It is also EIUK's 42nd birthday!
- Malawi:** The development of the mission mobilization program at the Evangelical Baptist Bible College in Liwonde is ongoing. Pray for Pastor John Kamwaza who is providing leadership for this transition. We are still waiting for funding, but in the meantime, there is much to be done to lay the groundwork for a strong program. We also see God's will at work in the delay of funding, so we are not discouraged but trying to wait patiently for God's timing and work on the gaps that exist in the curriculum and the program overall.