

EMASSARY

A PUBLICATION OF EMAS CANADA

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Photos courtesy Myanmar team

INDESCRIBABLE GRACE

Trying to bring a tangible gospel to the world can at times be overwhelming. A pod cast about Haiti is titled “Could Haiti Get Worse?”

Haiti is on its knees again, and Haiti is not alone. We have first-hand knowledge of people in Burkina Faso and Myanmar, partners of EMAS Canada who are living in the immediacy of violence due to political instability and harsh economic circumstances. We all know about the brutal, intense, and acute suffering in Ukraine.

A prophecy about the work of Jesus speaks to the needs of today: “you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders and the rod of the oppressor.” When we told you about preventable deaths in Zimbabwe and Haiti (EMASSARY Dec

2021), you responded with Christian generosity.

The gifts given to God by you made it possible to start work on a food depot in Haiti and for midwives in Zimbabwe to get training in skills for responding to life threatening emergencies for mothers to be.

Even if things were to get worse, the wellspring of your response, the love that Christ has put in your hearts for Himself and for others is inexhaustible.

We know that Christ lived and died for us so that we should live for Him and for others. It is He who works through us to meet the needs of those suffering. As we celebrate God’s indescribable gift at Christmas, know that we are truly thankful for your generosity, you

are making a difference.

This letter is a snapshot about your gifts at work.

Rejoice, for out of the abundance of His grace we face our 75th year fully assured that He will continue to make you a blessing to many.

Quoted Isa 9:4

CELEBRATING
INDESCRIBABLE



Dr. Peter Agwa
Executive Director.



EMAS
CANADA

REACHING A WORLD IN NEED

HAND-IN-HAND WITH HAITI: EMAS CANADA GRANT NEWS & EL SHADDAI COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

By Krista Waring

News of Haiti is being overshadowed by worldwide extreme right-wing politics, a war in Ukraine, devastating floods in Pakistan, extreme climate events and environmental degradation, all important issues in their own right. As a result, Haiti has practically been forgotten following the assassination of their president in July 2021, an earthquake and a destructive hurricane in September 2021, the kidnapping of foreign missionaries including children in October 2021, and in the intervening year nothing but escalating widespread demonstrations on the streets making it impossible for people to move about safely and random gang violence fueling political chaos and instability that continues to worsen on a daily basis. And of course, we are just coming out of a global pandemic which further drove Haiti's already fragile economy into oblivion.

This is the worst that we've seen Haiti since our first involvement in 2004.

The current situation in Haiti made it impossible for us to send healthcare teams to the El Shaddai community in winter 2021 and 2022 and will likely make it impossible again in 2023.

Nevertheless, the community that EMAS has supported since 2004 remains very active with ongoing community projects funded by EMAS CANADA including community health education initiatives during the pandemic, a primary/middle school from kindergarten to Grade 9, potable water access for the school, and a community agricultural initiative furnishing fruits and

vegetables to the school kitchen which was recently renovated and modernized.

Amidst all the chaos and terror faced by the El Shaddai community, and despite sky-high unemployed rates and astronomical inflation, the community manages to continue to plan and deliver modest projects with the assistance of EMAS CANADA.

FIVE PROJECTS FUNDED:

Most of them were completed as of early 2022:

Following the complete destruction of the agricultural project by a hurricane in September 2021, extensive repairs to the irrigation system and total replanting of mango trees among various other fruit and vegetable plants was completed in October-November 2021. Since then, due to the short growing seasons, the gardens have been able to supply the school kitchen and cafeteria with abundant essential low-cost nutrients.

School kitchen renovations, completed in early 2022, included the installation of propane burners to replace charcoal burning stoves resulting in a reduction in carbon emissions from the kitchen and reducing the impact on deforestation to produce charcoal. It is estimated that the amount of charcoal needed to operate the Imago Dei School kitchen for one day was equivalent to the destruction of one small tree per day.

The school and church/community center buildings which were constructed about 10 years ago after the 2010 earthquake needed repairs and repainting, which was completed in March 2022. These repairs included replacing most of the student desks in the school.

The most recent project, funded by a special grant from EMAS Canada has been the establishment of a fish farm, to supplement the agricultural project. Three large basins have been constructed out of concrete and have been prepared to receive a local fast reproducing fish that is easy to cultivate. These fish will provide a reliable renewable source of protein for the school kitchen and cafeteria, adding to the reductions in food costs over the long term.

The community's initial plan for the fish farm was to draw water from their existing underground rainwater collection reservoirs, also used by the school kitchen. However, the elders and kitchen staff realized that the large demand for water by the fish farm could threaten the reliability and sustainability of the kitchen rainwater source. Hence, a new borehole was drilled, and a separate deep groundwater access secured so the fish farm is exclusively supplied with a long-term source of water.

EMAS Canada funding has helped sustain several community development projects for over a decade, since the 2010 earthquake, in effect creating a small economy in a peri-urban community (El Shaddai) on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince, that has essentially brought hundreds of people out of extreme poverty into what could be considered a "poverty with dignity" to quote former President Jean Bertrand Aristide.

The ongoing primary/middle education assists over 200 children obtain a quality basic education, the agricultural projects provide daily (Mon - Fri) affordable healthy nutrition to hundreds of children and adults, the school kitchen renovations have taken advantage of more environmentally friendly technology, and the fish farming project promises to provide an affordable sustainable source of protein for children and adults.

This has been no small contribution by EMAS Canada supporters to the health and well-being of a community living under the most difficult circumstances.

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PROGRESS IN BURKINA FASO
*By Sisters Nadine and Catherine,
on behalf of the Holy Cross team.*

The health centre project is progressing slowly but surely. We are happy to say that a contract has been signed with eMi, a non-profit organization of engineers who have agreed to accompany us throughout the project. Even if the pandemic has slowed down the process, progress has been made. Several zoom meetings have been organized and continue for us to reflect together on the design of a master plan for our 15-hectare property.

In August, eMi's team scheduled a visit to Songdin from October 8th to 15th, 2022. This visit has been postponed to a later date because of the events that have shaken Burkina Faso. On the night of September 30th, a coup d'état was carried out by the military because of the existing security crisis. After a week of tension and demonstrations, things have returned to calm. Life is slowly returning to normal in the country. The people have returned to work and the schools have opened.

In this new pastoral year, the Songdin community has been enriched through the arrival of two

sisters, Rasmata Nadine Ouédraogo and Catherine Yampa. They join Sisters Monique Boumboundi and Rose-Marie Ouédraogo who have been living there for about a year. While waiting to begin with the construction of the infrastructures such as the sisters' residence and the health centre, we are farming the land during the rainy season. We have cultivated corn, beans, peanuts, etc. In addition, we are raising about 70 chickens. We also continue to strengthen our relationship with the village community of Songdin through our participation in certain activities such as home visits, Sunday celebrations, etc.

We would like to express our gratitude to EMAS Canada for the grant that will help us in our partnership with eMi and also for the help and encouragement you give us.

**SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CONGO
PAVING THE WAY FOR THE
FUTURE.** *By Dr. Nancy Wood*

Support for the **Scholarships for Congo** has enabled 4 specialists and 3 PhD's to advance in their last year of training and we hope to see them complete their programs as early as December 2022 or as late as March 2023.

The lab research for two of the specialists has been particularly expensive and they need more support for November and December. The doctoral students are required to publish 2 - 5 papers each and that costs about \$400 US for each paper.

There have been two younger men hard at work. Dr Justin MM in Dakar has successfully completed his first year of specialization in Internal Medicine in Senegal and David DT, a nursing instructor with a Masters from Belgium, is advancing well in his first year of his doctoral studies for a PhD in Diabetes in Cameroon.

Djakisa UD, a Pediatric nurse, has

just arrived in Cameroon to begin his Masters and PhD in Infant Health. (photo below)



In 2023, we look forward to the 4 + 3 completing their studies so that the next 7 can begin. They are waiting eagerly. Three doctors need a PhD to be fully recognized by the Congo government, and one pharmacist, one laboratory graduate, one graduate and licensed midwife, and one Pediatric nurse also all need a Masters and a PhD to be recognized teachers at the ISTM Nyankunde college where we teach each time we return.

Please stand with us in this big financial challenge.

**MYANMAR TEAM MAKING A
DIFFERENCE DESPITE THE
UNREST.** *By Linda Ling*

The situation in Myanmar has deteriorated further since my last report. Many villages are burnt down or destroyed by air strikes. Inflation has skyrocketed and half of Myanmar's population have fallen below the poverty line. Due to the ongoing civil war and COVID-19, traveling is difficult, but our team continued to outreach and serve our surrounding communities.

In October, a medical mission, led by our volunteer, provided care at a remote village. (see photo on front page)

We conducted two sessions of online emergency medical training for front-line volunteers over Zoom in March 2022. The training

covered First Aid and emergency medical care, CPR, transportation, chemical/biological warfare injuries, prenatal, birth and postnatal care, tropical diseases and herbal medicine. The attendees then further shared what they learned with other front-line workers. Hands In Missions distributed training materials and backpacks containing essential equipment for the volunteers.



Our Oaks of Righteousness farm, sitting on 70 acres of land, is being developed as a sustainable, self-sufficient sanctuary for displaced families and poverty-stricken people seeking refuge. We raise cattle, chicken, geese and fish and grow plants all organically. Besides providing food, shelter and clothing to those seeking refuge with us, we share the gospel with them and hold regular devotions with singing and prayer and resulted in conversion and an invitation to become followers of Christ. At a baptism ceremony in April 2022, one of them gave a powerful testimony about his life as a chronic alcoholic before, and how he changed after arriving at the farm. He gave up drinking and is now faithfully studying the Bible and taking online Bible courses.

The donations received from our partners like you have helped us greatly in accomplishing our work. Our future projects include in-person emergency medical training for 60-70 Bible class students and setting up additional dwellings at Oaks of Righteousness farm early next year.

Thank you for supporting His work as you are able, by giving to the **OVERSEAS MINISTRY SUPPORT**



Photo by Jamie Street on Unsplash

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE



FROM SANDY'S DESK

In September, Peter and his team of cyclists and supporters embarked on their epic 5-day ride from Burlington to Ottawa to make a difference in maternal and infant care in Gutu District.

The Ride for Gutu Mission Hospital

was a resounding success with the cyclists raising 114% of their fundraising goal! As a result, EMAS Canada sponsored a medical conference in Gutu in November 2022.

Thank you to all who donated.

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