

EMAS SARY

A PUBLICATION OF EMAS CANADA

MAY 2023

TO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN, MUCH IS EXPECTED

Jesus spoke about Himself in a parable about a master who found loyal and vigilant servants, so he took off his coat, and began to serve the servants. Such was the pleasure of the master at finding faithful workers, who were alert, and on the job.

The astonishing scenario prompted one of the hearers to ask if the parable was for everyone or an inner circle?

Jesus replied, *“Who then is the faithful and wise servant? They are the one the master will put in charge of their property and to look after other servants?”* In the same parable Jesus said, *“to whom much is given, much is expected.”*

We are thankful to the donors and volunteers who make their offerings of money and service to God through our organization.

For 75 years EMAS Canada has been entrusted with generous donors, eager volunteers, with beneficiaries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and South America. We have goodwill with many churches locally and with numerous institutions abroad and at home. Our finances remained stable through the pandemic. We have much to be thankful for.

We are amazed that God has trusted us with His work for three quarters of a century.

It is our prayer and aim to be prudent and alert, finding opportunities to enable future healthcare workers to be loyal and watchful over our Master’s business.

Servants are identified by their loyalty and prudence. There is self-selection, and there is nurturing of servants by the ones entrusted with responsibility

over the master’s business. As we see new self-selected leaders joining us, we will come alongside to nurture them and support their development, and we have set up a scholarship fund for healthcare workers interested in missions.

We believe Jesus is pleased to have faithful and wise servants.

Dr. Peter Agwa
Executive Director.



Based on Luke 12:35-48

Please donate to **OVERSEAS MINISTRY SUPPORT** from which the board can freely fund teams and projects that are active and in need of additional resources. It will also allow the board to consider any new projects that arise.

Donate online:

www.emascanada.org/donate



Photo by Melony Teague Left to Right: Janet Greidanus, Dr. Tom and Robert Greidanus

FULL STEAM AHEAD

By Melony Teague

We are gearing up to go full steam ahead, sometimes to places we have never been before. God truly is at the helm of the work He is doing in and through us.

We invite you to come along:

Operation Esperanza, a group of healthcare professionals serving the under resourced in **Ecuador**, travelled in 2023 to provide life-changing hip replacement surgeries. In some cases, they treated patients who had lost hope and others who were immobilized and not able to take care of their families. The smiles on the faces of the patients as they were discharged after surgery were precious to the team who consider their service an act of worship.

The team, led by Dr. Tom Greidanus, celebrated 25 years of service by God's grace.

Our **Gambade Team** are grateful for supporters of the Gambade Medical Clinic. The new staff contingent is in place and are excited to serve the community of Gambade. The clinic is open and serving patients. In the first weeks of opening, they helped patients suffering from cholera and provided the life-saving treatment needed. **The Starfish Project** is a nutrition program that will work with the Clinic to provide nutrition to undernourished children.

The most urgent need now is the clinic's staffing fund. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Gambade Medical Clinic.

Our **Hand in Hand with Haiti Team** continue to support the El Shaddai Community by providing funds for the nutrition program, thereby helping those who had lost their jobs. The Urban Gardening Project produces enough to offset the rising costs of living. In the deteriorating climate of unrest, poverty and kidnappings

for ransom, pray for safety and protection for our partners in Haiti; as the situation is dire and they risk their lives daily for the Kingdom.

China East team are looking for more pediatricians. If you are interested in participating or supporting this effort, please contact the EMAS office.

China South team have been concentrating their efforts in serving with the **Cambodia Teams** through online teaching of nurses and healthcare students. The team hopes to expand the curriculum they are offering and once again travel for in-person training opportunities. God has been opening doors for service. The second **Cambodia** team was a Medical team exploring how best they can serve going forward. In addition, these teams are looking to send exploratory teams in 2024 into areas they have never gone before. If you are interested in serving with these teams, please contact the office.

The **China West Team** are excited to be exploring new opportunities of service in 2024.

The situation in **Myanmar** has not improved and our team remains vigilant in prayer for our partners in Myanmar, eagerly awaiting when they can travel again.

The **Burkina Faso** Team, with the Sisters of Holy Cross, are working with eMi to plan for the facility on the land God has provided. The Master Plan of the Hospital Campus is ready. The plan includes concept design for water, electricity, and sewer system. EMAS Canada and eMi are coming alongside Sisters *"To serve vulnerable women and children in Songdin."* The most urgent need is a good supply of water to meet the needs of the campus.

An exploratory trip to **Honduras** by **Dr. Robert Clark** (former board chair of EMAS Canada) investigated

new areas of service for a dental team. They were well received, and plans are being made to go back in 2024.

Gutu Mission Hospital Project in Zimbabwe is ongoing.

After our team of intrepid cyclists raised over 100% of their funds in the **RIDE FOR GUTU MISSION HOPITAL** last year, EMAS Canada served the district of Gutu by hosting a Medical Conference in the fall of 2022 in Masvingo Town. By equipping local healthcare professionals to deal with neonatal and obstetric emergencies, we hope to increase the safety of mothers and their newborns.

This event benefited Gutu district healthcare workers and midwives and gave EMAS Canada a better understanding of the needs in rural Zimbabwe. 70% of the healthcare available to the rural public is through mission's hospitals and church-based organizations.

Another **RIDE FOR GUTU** is planned for September and October of 2023 both in Canada and in Zimbabwe to raise funds for another education conference and equipment needs at Gutu Mission Hospital. You can keep up to date on what our cyclists are planning by visiting our website.

The **Zimbabwe Karanda** team returned from Karanda Hospital in April 2023 after responding to the dental and spiritual needs of the people there. Dr. Ajit Vargis provided dental care and Jeremy Thommy led pastoral care and training to local pastors. The team donated essential dental supplies. If you would like to join the dental team next year, please contact the office.

This year, on their trip to **The Democratic Republic of Congo**, Dr. Philip and Dr. Nancy Wood were joined by Dr. Sharmila Khullar to assist in setting up an improved Histopathology laboratory service. Dr. Sharmila had a year



photo above: Histopathology trainees with Dr. Sharmila r

to prepare and knew that she would have much less equipment than in Montreal, so she was well prepared. Despite Jan 4th being a local holiday, they moved and set up the equipment in the new lab which has better surfaces for cleaning. The tiled floors are also better suited to sanitization. (see photo below)

Dr. Philip and Dr. Nancy spent many hours teaching and mentoring medical student. Our EMAS Canada **DR Congo Scholarship Fund** helps medical students in DR Congo pay their tuition and living expenses. Recently one of the students, **Sarah Alesi Odhipio** (below) was given the award for spiritual and academic excellence by the Faculty



of Medicine, Shalom University, Bunia. She said, *"I would like to say a big thank you to EMAS for agreeing to contribute to my training at the school of medicine. Thanks to your sacrifice, I can realize my dream of becoming a doctor and take care of those in need. God bless you abundantly and may he keep on providing."*

If you have a particular interest in keeping up with news from the **DR CONGO STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP**, please contact the office.

We are thankful for the leadership of Dr. David Neima and Fr. Tran, 2023 has been another successful and fully funded mission, most of the work of this team is done by **Medical Aid for Vietnam.**

Some of our teams are prayerfully seeking wisdom on how they can best adapt to obstacles and challenges they have faced in the last few years. They are open to new opportunities for service in geographical areas they not served in before. The exciting news is that there are a few exploratory trips planned for 2024. As we gear up with renewed vigor, the year ahead is filled with opportunity. We covet your prayers. We are thankful for your support and commitment to serving those in need. You can do this, as you are able, by giving to the **OVERSEAS MINISTRY SUPPORT FUND**

Keep checking our website, as more details are released at www.emascanada.org



Photo: Staff in the new Histopathology lab, DR CONGO..

THANK YOU

FOR STANDING WITH EMAS CANADA EMAS CANADA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On April 29th, 2023 our AGM and Leadership Retreat, and 75th Anniversary Celebration was held in-person in Toronto. The Board Chair remains Dr. Emile Woo, with Vice Chair as Dr. Christopher Wang, Board Secretary is Sally Patrick, and our Treasurer is Krista Waring.

We welcome Dr. Timothy Tam, to the EMAS Canada Board. He is a mentor to dental students at the University of British Columbia and is an active member of the Vancouver chapter of the Christian Medical and Dental Association.

Dr. Marcelo Garcia has stepped down from the board after many years of service. He was among the board members who oversaw our name change from Evangelical Medical Aid Society to Education Medical Aid & Service. EMAS Canada in 2009. With gratitude we thank him for his practical wisdom and godly counsel. We wish him well in his retirement.

If you would like to volunteer on the board, please contact the office.



NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

In April, the EMAS leadership and staff met for a retreat, AGM and celebration of 75 years of service with our keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Harding Ng encouraging us and speaking about the history of EMAS. He emphasized the theme of the weekend being, *“To whom much is given, much is required”* inspired by the scriptures. (Luke 12:35-48)

Teams shared reports on what God is stirring in their hearts and we are encouraged by the opportunities God has opened up for the future.

At the 75th Celebration dinner the **DR ROBERT STEPHENS SCHOLARSHIP** was announced in honour of a man who has served and brought others along to serve with EMAS with a rich history of **making a difference for the Kingdom by healing and teaching those in need in a Christ-like manner.**



Highlights from our 75th Anniversary Celebration & Leadership Retreat, April 29, 2023.

FROM SANDY'S DESK

Plans are underway to support Dr. Peter Agwa and his team of cyclists who will be undertaking a **two-day ride from Dundas to Port Dover and back** to raise \$60,000 in support of obstetric training for Gutu Mission Hospital Staff, and to refurbish and equip a room for continuing medical education. Our aim is to bring **better healthcare to the mothers and infants**

in Zimbabwe and improve maternal healthcare at Gutu Mission Hospital. We are still looking for **cyclists and some eager volunteers** to support this endeavor happening on **Sept 8-9, 2022.**

If you would like to volunteer to serve with EMAS Canada there are several opportunities available. To volunteer, please connect with Peter Agwa:

peter@emascanada.org

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