### A PUBLICATION OF EMAS CANADA

**MAY 2024** 

## ON THE JOURNEY

Time-bound and sometimes oppressed by deadlines the eternal nature of our work is not always obvious.

A man swore to find a wife for his employer's son. He journeyed to the employer's ancestral home, found his relatives and from among them a wife for the employer's son.

He had divine guidance and an escape clause: If God did not work, he was off the hook. The basis of the oath and escape clause was a promise made by God to bless the entire world through the employer, Abraham.

The servant succeeded saying: "As for me, the LORD has led me on the journey to the house of my master's relatives."

This is how Rebecca, daughter-in-law to Abraham and Sarah was found.

At Easter, we celebrate what God promised to do for the world and its benefits hinged on finding Rebecca. I wonder in the moment of loading donkeys and during the Mesopotamian trek, did the servant have eternity in mind?

Since Christmas of 2023, teams have traveled to Tanzania, Cambodia, Honduras, and Zimbabwe, among other places.

We treated patients in Honduras and Cambodia, renewed contracts for health workers in Haiti, painted and refurbished a room in Zimbabwe, and taught histology in Congo.

It is a long journey and God is leading us. He keeps His promises to bless the world through the gospel, and for many giving eternal life through our message embodying the gospel in our labour.

At EMAS Canada, we go about: "healing today and teaching for tomorrow and for eternity."

The eternal is not always obvious, but we believe that the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is relevant and becomes a tangible reality for all when we serve well on His behalf. Journey along with us.

Dr. Peter Agwa Executive Director.



Genesis 24 and Galatians 3:8-9

Please donate to THE GENERAL FUND 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



## TANZANIA, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY!

By Tammy Wu

We were called to Tanzania in July 2023, and have been planning our trip since then. We patiently waited and prayed, until God finally opened the doors for us to enter this beautiful country in January 2024.

God led us, protected us, and prepared everything for us. We originally planned to perform eight surgeries, but ended up completing ten.

Our youngest spinal bifida patient was only 10 days old—the youngest patient we've ever had! Among the patients that we operated on was a 6 year-old with 50% burns along with other patients with chronic head, face, or leg burn wounds.

Every morning, we sought God together and prayed for our patients, as we knew that we wouldn't be able to achieve anything without His presence. Prayerfully choosing our patients, carefully preparing for the surgeries, and relying on God's help to complete them successfully—that really humbled us.

God also blessed us with a great partnership with the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center (KCMC), a hospital that solidly builds their mission statement on the Good Samaritan story in Luke 10:25-37. They aim to provide medical treatments to those who are in need in Tanzania and rely solely on God's provision every day. We built trust with them and by the end; we were invited back next year. We witnessed God widely opening a door for us. We prayed, we hoped, and God answered. May God be glorified!

Other than working, we got to learn about the Tanzanian culture and some simple Swahili phrases. We met some local friends and joined them for Sunday service. We tagged along with a group of students from Stony Brook University on a short hike to the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro. Towards the end of the trip, some of us also went on a safari. We were excited to see different animals in the Crater and the National Park, enjoying the nature that God created.

A simple call from God to serve Him in Tanzania is an open door to something much bigger: for us to experience His goodness and faithfulness.

We look forward to returning to Tanzania next year and are excited to see how He will use us to bless this beautiful country!



"Enter His gates with thanks giving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations."

(Psalm 100: 4-5)

# THANK YOU

FOR STANDING WITH EMAS CANADA

WE NEED YOUR HELP

HERE ARE OUR MOST URGENT NEEDS FOR THE GENERAL FUND

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## **URGENT NEEDS**

Please pray for our Haiti partners in **Port-au-Prince** as they navigate tremendous challenges because of the local gang activity.

Your contribution helps to offer services to 150 children living in poverty at the epicentre of gang violence. The needs are urgent.

Pray for encouragement and that God would intervene and protect our partners there.

Please pray for continued support for the Gambade Medical Clinic in Haiti. The clinic has been open for a year and is making a difference to the local people in need of health care. We need your help to keep the clinic running.

Please pray for teams planning to travel to Vietnam, Mongolia and Indonesia later this year.

## SURGICAL TEAM SERVED IN CAMBODIA

The EMAS Cambodia Surgery team in Phnom Penh was a primarily reconstructive surgical mission team grown out of the China South Team. Since the original scouting tour in 2018, we have successfully completed 3 tours to partner with our host Hebron Medical Center in February 2019, 2023, and now 2024.

With a multidisciplinary approach, the team was equipped with nursing, occupational therapy, anesthesia, plastic reconstructive surgery, family medicine, clinical psychology, and optometry. Our focus is 4 pronged for this team.

First, we work on the physical health of the underprivileged patients and families; many of whom travel from the rural province. Specifically, we treated conditions such as cleft lip, congenital hand deformities, burn contractures, acute burn injuries, vascular malformations, skin/soft tissue tumours, including

By Joshua Wong severely disfiguring scars affecting mobility and self-image, and vision pathology.

The second focus is the mental and spiritual health of patients and their families, who were all blessed with the gospel and prayer through the hospital ministry team. Thirdly, medical teaching was provided daily through teaching rounds on family medicine, mental health, surgery, and optometry. A nursing symposium was held at the nursing school.

Finally, we were able to provide spiritual encouragement to the local hospital staff in the form of daily testimony sharing, worship, prayer meetings and small group discussions.

We are excited to partner again in February 2025.

photo below: Cambodia Surgical Team 2024.





#### ZIMBABWE KARANDA

The Zimbabwe Karanda team focused on the spiritual component of the team's mission by hosting a conference for Youth and Pastors for the local spiritual leaders providing practical help, teaching, discipleship training and encouragement. Included was a worship team leaders' workshop which included vocal exercises and techniques.

In addition, the Youth Conference resulted in over 150 young people professing a new-found faith in Jesus.

In the community development aspect of the project, some new projects were initiated, such as seed programs for growing vegetables, a bakery and a soccer program for alcohol addicted youth.

Next year marks the 10th anniversary of the Karanda Team serving in Zimbabwe.

#### **HONDURAS UPDATE**

"This year, we performed dental treatments including prophylaxis, sealants and restorations, using the clinic at El Sembrador School as well as traveled to local schools to teach oral hygiene.

We have investigated the need for an EMAS medical/dental team for 2025 and are working toward sending a team in February 2025." - Dr Robert Clark, Honduras Team.

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 **GENERAL FUND.** 

To donate by e-Transfer use: donations@emascanada.org Keep checking our website, as more details are released at:

www.emascanada.org

Photo left: Zimbabwe Karanda Team hosted a Pastor's Conference in Feb/March 2024

# NEWS FROM THE OFFICE



EMAS Canada 2024 Annual Retreat

In **April 2024,** the EMAS leadership and staff met for a retreat and AGM in Burlington, Ontario (pictured above). Many good reports were shared and there is much hope for travel in the future to serve those in need in a Christ-like manner. Thank you for your prayers and support. We could not do it without you!

Thank you to **Susan Cheung** who is stepping down from the board after many years of service

If you would like to volunteer to serve with EMAS Canada there are several opportunities available, including serving on the EMAS Canada Board.

To volunteer, please connect with Peter Agwa:

peter@emascanada.org

#### FROM SANDY'S DESK

Plans are underway to support Dr. Peter Agwa and his team of cyclists who will be undertaking the third annual **RIDE FOR GUTU MISSION HOSPITAL.** The two-day ride from Dundas to Port Dover and back in September will raise \$60,000 in support of Gutu Mission Hospital.

This year, funds will go to much needed improvement of the water supply to the maternity wing.

The EMAS Myanmar team are hosting a **WALK/CYCLE FOR MYANMAR** on September 21st to support our partners in Myanmar. For more information go to:

www.ride.emascanada.org



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