

EMASSARY

A PUBLICATION OF EMAS CANADA

THE PURPOSE OF VISION

DECEMBER 2017

Our Vision expresses what we believe God wants us to be and to do; we see it through the eyes of faith, and it is confirmed to us by the witness of the Holy Spirit.

The EMAS Canada Vision is:

“Christ-centred healthcare teams proclaiming God’s love to all the world through healing and teaching” Our vision gives us clear definition: Christ-centred healthcare teams, and a sure direction: proclaiming God’s love to all the world through healing and teaching.

There is no mission without vision; without definition and direction there is nothing to become, nowhere to go, and nothing to do.

We are stronger when our personal aspirations find a common definition

and direction through a shared vision. That is what allows us to carry out our mission together.

The transition into 2017 was turbulent, as we wrestled with our viability, and relevance in the modern world. Would the aspirations of 300+ disciples of Jesus Christ remain on target within EMAS Canada?

Despite our challenges, God is still on the move among us: a driver in Haiti became a Christ follower through the Gambade team, desperate prayer was answered for a Guatemalan child in respiratory distress, a woman was miraculously healed in Myanmar where the gospel was openly proclaimed. Pastors in Zimbabwe were refreshed at a weekend retreat, led by our team. The gospel was proclaimed in China, life-saving skills were taught in India; and



we had invitations to Ghana, Canada, and Cambodia.

We continued to become what God wants us to be: Christ-centred healthcare teams, and we did what He wanted us to do: proclaiming God’s love to all the world through healing and teaching.

In this EMASSARY, learn about God’s Presence with us in Zimbabwe and Ecuador; why we still do Missions, and why we confidently say: **“Immanuel, God is with us, defining and directing us into our future.”**

Dr. Peter Agwa
Executive Director



EMAS
CANADA

For more information see our website
www.emascanada.org

A CANADIAN DENTIST ON THE MISSION FIELD

By Ajit Vargis

ALL GLORY TO GOD!

The dental team is a unique opportunity to be the hands and feet of JESUS. For us, our opportunity lies in Zimbabwe. We get to talk to people, and give them at least a few words of hope, no matter how busy we get. We make use of that time well to share the Good News, because it's not just the patients watching and listening, but also the translators, those who have come with the patient, and the helpers in the clinic.

I make sure I pray and ask for help before starting each day when on mission. I take the time to thank God and give Him all the glory at the end of the day. On our recent trip, it was not long before I realized that I needed God's help, especially when wishing for x-ray vision in order to see wisdom teeth for extractions and gauging the depth of cavities. We know that God showed up on our behalf and that we were able to make a useful contribution to this community, both spiritually and medically.

For the EMAS Zimbabwe team, a typical work day started around 8am and ended by 7 pm, depending on the crowd remaining and daylight left for the local people to get back. We tried to get back to base camp before it got too late. Even though we are taught



Photo Left: Before Treatment, Photo Right: After Treatment

to save teeth, the reality in Missions is that most of the time extractions are necessary because the access to care is limited and expensive. So most people choose to get rid of the tooth.

As part of a team we have to be willing to be flexible and to help wherever and however. Putting others before ourselves is the key, just as Jesus showed us by His example.

One day, a lady travelled from Harare to Karanda by bus for three hours to see us. Her teeth had been badly decayed for two years, but when she had heard about our visit to the hospital, she hoped that we could help her. The trip must have cost her greatly, and she likely had to borrow the bus fare to get to us and then back home.

There, in the land of the baobab and thorn trees, we had the privilege to restore this lady's teeth and her smile. The joy she showed after treatment was priceless. All glory goes to God alone. Who are we that we are chosen to go there and provide this treatment for a lady we have never met? What a joy for us, and her smile says it all.

The holistic approach is to provide physical care, but most important, to shine the light of Jesus.

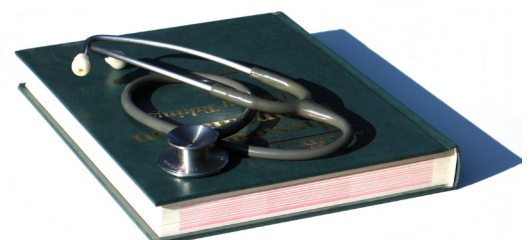
The long term vision, God willing, is to have local personnel take over from us and continue what we are blessed to have begun.

Thank you for being a part of bringing hope and smiles to the people of Zimbabwe through short-term missions, with a long term perspective.



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Giving to the
General Fund enables EMAS
CANADA to continue serving

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WHY BOTHER WITH MEDICAL MISSIONS?

By Henk Visser, MD, CIME

Many people would argue that the time for medical missions has ended. They contend that resource poor countries that once had little health care are now developing their own healthcare systems. They might suggest that Christian healthcare workers have no right to proselytize patients of other faiths or to impose their moral ethics on others. Still others say we have underserved people groups in our own country, such as our first nations or our inner cities.

My response is that Christian healthcare professionals are all called to serve patients in a Christ-like manner no matter where they are called to practise. Jesus put it this way: “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’”(Matthew 25:34-36)

When Jesus was further questioned

about this statement, he said, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” (Matthew 25:40)

Furthermore, the Great Commission in Matthew is still Christ’s last word for his followers to this day, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20)

When we look at what it was that Jesus had commanded them, we see in his sending of the twelve and the seventy-two, that he taught them to preach the gospel, deliver people from demonic oppression, and to heal the sick (Luke 9:1-2 and Luke 10:1-9). And that is what we find the early church doing after Christ’s ascension and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

Christians throughout the centuries have taken these words of Christ seriously. In the early church, the

Middle Ages church, in the great missionary movements—followers of Christ have always been at the forefront of ministering to the sick. Needs are no less today, particularly where in many western nations, healthcare has become increasing secular and void of ministering to the whole person, body, soul and spirit.

Paul entreats Christ followers, “to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.” (Ephesians 4:1)

I believe those of us in healthcare are called, just as those in pastoral or evangelistic ministry are called.

Thank you for partnering with us to answer the call.

*All Bible Verses are taken from the New International Version.



TO DONATE ONLINE GO TO
www.emascanada.org/donate



MAKE YOUR YEAR-END DONATION TO THE GENERAL FUND

God responds to people’s cry for help through missions by sending EMAS Canada teams. By pooling resources, we lighten the load on our volunteers, freeing them up for mission. Somewhat similar to the situation of the early church (Acts 6:1-7); core administrative staff carry out important behind-the-scenes work so that our teams remain focused on mission.

Your donations to our **General Fund** administered under board supervision provide for **all** our teams to serve **everywhere**.

Photo left :Henk Visser serving in Malawi

BLESSINGS THROUGH SERVING

By Janet Greidanus

Ana arrived at the clinic lying in the back of a SUV. She could not walk. She had fallen a month before our mission team arrived in Cuenca, Ecuador, sustaining a fracture of the mid-femur. Five years earlier, Ana had received a hip replacement (we don't know where), and this fracture was just beyond the end of the prosthesis. No doctor, she was told, was able to treat her. Ana had been lying in bed for a month awaiting our team's arrival. The surgeons, an anaesthetist, and a couple of nurses, went out to the car to see Ana. Everyone was very moved by her plight. Fortunately, Dr. Nelson Greidanus, one of Operation Esperanza's orthopaedic surgeons, has expertise in complicated hip revision surgery in his hometown of Vancouver. To make a long story short, we were able to obtain special revision instruments and a longer prosthesis from Quito, paying for them with some of the money raised from our donors back home. Ana recovered well from surgery. Two days later, she went home with a walker.

"I feel blessed to be part of the team that helped her," said nurse Rhonda Watt, so moved by Ana's situation that she can hardly talk about Ana without crying. She continued to keep in touch with Ana's son via Facebook. "Her son has sent many thoughtful notes and wants to volunteer next year with the mission in any way possible. This surgery has brought their mom back and she's becoming more herself daily. This family has certainly benefitted from the skilled professionals of this mission."

We have many such life-changing stories to tell. Usually, the disability and pain that many of our patients present with, has prevented them from working and being able to support or care for their families. After surgery, relieved of disability and pain, most are able to work again and as a result, an entire family's life improves.

Rosa, a very short Ecuadorean woman, came to the clinic 13 years ago with a baby boy in her arms. She was in a

desperate situation. The dental team extracted most of her teeth due to severe decay and infection (Later, they were cosmetically replaced). The next day, Rosa had both hips replaced. This year, Rosa showed up at the clinic with her son, who had grown to be significantly taller than her. She demonstrated how well she can walk and has been working over the years. Her beautiful smile said it all.

There is no doubt that the lives of patients and their families are dramatically changed through the work of Operation Esperanza. There is also no doubt that the opportunity to serve on such a mission is also life-changing for its members.

www.emascanada.org

Photo Left: Ana unable to get out of the car to get into the clinic.

Photo Right: Ana, with physiotherapist Kendra, learns how to walk with a walker



SHORT-TERM MEDICAL MISSIONS WITH A LONG-TERM PERSPECTIVE



EXPLORATORY TEAMS

Uganda: EMAS continues to explore opportunities in Uganda. We have a medical/dental team in Uganda this fall seeking to develop teaching and clinical opportunities for the future. Our focus on South Sudanese students may shift due to uncertainty about the future location of their school.

Myanmar: Our second team traveled this November with HIM International after a successful exploratory mission in April. Going forward teams will continue to collaborate with volunteers from Australia, Myanmar and USA

Guatemala: In partnership with Impact Ministries, we are sending another medical team to Tactic in May 2018. This is an opportunity to support and expand the missionary work of Canadians who planted churches and established schools in Guatemala.

Bihar: A team is visiting the GEMS Hospital near Varanasi in north-eastern India this fall, participants will engage in clinical teaching, and attend to patients in a hospital setting. The team will also lead morning devotions for the staff during their visit. This venture will explore the needs with a view to forming a teaching team.

Ghana: We are in the process of recruiting for a medical/dental team for Ghana. The immediate need is for ophthalmologists, nurses and family practitioners.

Other opportunities for service are in Saskatchewan, Panama, Cambodia, Nigeria, Haiti, China and Zimbabwe.

YOU CAN SUPPORT THESE INITIATIVES THROUGH DONATIONS TO THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND. For information about these new initiatives, contact Dr. Agwa at peter@emascanada.org

Jwaye Nwèl



Heri ya Krismasi Kutoka EMAS Canada

Merry Christmas

Saludos Navideños EMAS Canadá

Joyeux Noël

EMAS Canada ki ore see Christmas ki badhahi, chote urse ka chikitsa mission,
醫療短宣事工的長瞻 lumbi avadhi ke nazariye se

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

by Walter Woo

October 31st was my last day of service as the director of China projects with EMAS Canada and the executive director of EMAS Hong Kong.

When I look back, these 14 years seemed to pass by in a flash. During this time I have served with all the nine China teams, traveled 15 provinces, 3 other neighboring countries besides China and worked at 35 sites.

I remember so many names and faces, some are already with the Lord, some are fully retired and out of the action, some are young, bright and upcoming, but most are still serving the Lord diligently with burning passion in their heart. They have all greatly influenced, inspired, and enriched me tremendously and leave me

with fond memories that I would treasure forever.

The activities and business of EMAS in China and EMAS as a whole literally became part of my life which I lived with and cared about throughout my daily life instead of just the one working day per week as required by the job description. During all this time I could sense that the Lord was using this in training and molding me. I have come much closer to Him, learned to be more patient, and trusting Him under all circumstances. He has also built up my character in perseverance, humility and I have grown to be more compassionate and forgiving with my fellow coworkers.

By serving Him at EMAS I have been gradually rebuilt to be a more useful tool that He

can use in His other ministries. I thank and praise the Lord wholeheartedly for giving me this precious opportunity to serve Him and allowed me to witness His greatness in action. I would strongly urge my fellow Christians who are contemplating serving with EMAS to step forward by faith, as the reward and return would be beyond one's greatest expectation. May His name be glorified by our service through EMAS.

In Him,

Walter Woo.

Past Director of China Projects



UPCOMING MISSION TRIPS

GHANA

Dec. 4 – 15, 2017

HAITI -Hand in Hand

Feb. 19 – March 7, 2018

CHINA SOUTH SURGICAL

May 6 – 24, 2018

ECUADOR

Feb.3 – 16, 2018

GUATEMALA

May 1 – 10, 2018

ZIMBABWE

May 17 – 31st, 2018



Thank You for praying for these teams as they serve.
For more dates go to: <http://www.emascanada.org/join-us/upcoming/>



GIVE THE GIFT OF SERVICE

If you would like to volunteer to go on an EMAS missions trip there are several opportunities available .

To volunteer, please contact Peter Agwa: peter@emascanada.org

**EMAS CANADA
CELEBRATES
70 years of service in 2018.**



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giveconfidently.ca

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