

# EMAS SARY

A PUBLICATION OF EMAS CANADA

## TRANSITION

DECEMBER 2016

Ambivalence and fear are inevitable in times of change. EMAS Canada is in transition.

The office in Ontario recently moved from Stouffville to Burlington. By January 2017 there will be a new Board Chair, Dr. Visser will step down and Dr. Woo will take his place. The Treasurer, Christine Lancing has retired; Sally Patrick has taken over. Chan Du is a new board member, and Dr. Siu has retired from the board. Team leadership is changing as new leaders carry more responsibility. We have taken on a new project in Gambade, Haiti. Ellen Watson is retiring after over 30 years running the office, someone new will take her role.

These changes are good, and essential for our growth; they are tactical, based on our Strategic Plan. Major simultaneous changes can cause uncertainty. Is God's work safe? Do we have the right people and resources in place for survival? Are

our contingency plans adequate?

Since April, the Board, staff, and team leaders have worked on these transitions with careful research, much prayer, dialogue, and consultation. We stepped out in faith, believing that God would back us up, because the heart of our Vision is the Gospel which is the one thing God will always back up. This Gospel was confirmed by angels and the miraculous circumstances surrounding the birth of John the Baptist. The Gospel is rooted in promises God made long ago. Promises that reveal the mightiness of God. Joseph's civil duty, attending the census ordered by Caesar Augustus, led to the fulfillment of one of those promises.

(Micah 5:2-3 and Luke 2:1-7)

EMAS Canada is **Christ-centred healthcare teams proclaiming God's love to all the world through healing and teaching** and I am convinced that we are here, "to give his people

the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God..." (Luke 1:77-78)

We face our transitions confident that the Gospel is insured by God, that EMAS Canada is a place where His mightiness has been, and will continue to be revealed. Our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God is our Prince of Peace.

Thank you for your financial and prayer support.

Dr. Peter Agwa  
Executive Director

All scripture references from the NIV Bible (2011)



For more information see our website  
[www.emascanada.org](http://www.emascanada.org)



# PRAISE AND PROGRESS

By Ellen Watson

## 31 YEARS OF BLESSINGS

I started with EMAS in July 1985 training under Marion Wright, Dr. Bob Stephens' sister-in-law, who had run the first EMAS office. In September of that year we moved to new location and a year later CMDS Canada moved in to share the office; making my position at EMAS full time. CMDS brought with them a computer, unbelievably the first EMAS ever had.

From 1985 to 1993 the main office work was administration of Medical Group Missions(MGM). This allowed me to travel on missions to Dominican Republic, Belize, Mexico, Ecuador and Honduras where I worked in the pharmacy, helped the dentists or did visual acuity tests.

Living in Warkworth (160 km East of Toronto) and having a job that challenged me intellectually; allowed me to help the kingdom of God expand, and gave me the opportunity for international travel through EMAS, and national travel through CMDS which was a blessing to me.

In 1993 MGM became an independent Canadian Charity (MMI). This started a new period of change in the office, Dr. Bob Henderson became a 'staff member' for a period (working 4



hours a week) and helped with the development of the Christian Medical Institute which taught hospital administration in Africa. This program also eventually became independent of EMAS.

In 1986 EMAS was invited to China. This has become the largest part of EMAS' work with many teams going to different areas, doing different medically related jobs always bearing witness to our Christian faith with courage.

Most recently I traveled with EMAS teams to Vietnam and China, being privileged to participate with two different China teams. The people who serve with EMAS are

wonderful Christians. The EMAS Family continues to grow as new team members are welcomed on our teams. Serving these people in an administrative capacity for 31 years has been a great joy and privilege. I wish every volunteer, board member and staff every blessing going forward.

I am thankful for the memories.



As of December 2016, Ellen Watson retires from over 30 years of service with EMAS CANADA and we wish her a wonderful retirement with her husband and family.

## PLEASE GIVE

Giving to the  
Overseas Ministry Support Fund enables  
EMAS to continue serving

Donor card enclosed  
or donate Online:

<http://www.emascanada.org/donate/>



# OPERATION ESPERANZA 2017

By Janet Greidanus

This morning in church, we sang the hymn, 'Speak, O Lord'. \* Some words in the first verse jumped out at me and I considered what a fine prayer they would be for those of us on the Ecuador Medical-Dental Mission team. It has always been our hope and prayer that patients, their families, and local health care practitioners, will see and experience through us the love and care and compassion of Jesus.

"Take your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in your likeness - that the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith."

This is a big year for Operation Esperanza, as the team is called. When we leave Canada on January 25, 2017, it will be the 20th consecutive year that Dr. Thomas Greidanus, an Edmonton Orthopedic Surgeon has led a team to Cuenca, Ecuador. The team provides free hip and knee replacement surgery for disadvantaged adults, pediatric orthopedic surgery for children with club feet and dislocated hips, as well as pre-operative dental care and dental care for hundreds of children in rural schools.

Twenty years ago, Dr. Tom, as they call him in Cuenca, went with just four nurses to do what he could to alleviate

the suffering of poor patients who needed a hip or knee replacement. As the years went by and more needs became apparent, a pediatric team and then a dental team were added. The dental team work is two-fold: They see pre-operative patients because if the patient has an infected tooth, the infection can then travel to infect the hip or knee after surgery. Once the surgery week starts, the dental team then travels daily to rural schools high up in the Andes to see children, many of whom have never seen a dentist before.

The team grew. Never could he have imagined that years later, the team would consist of approximately 60 health professionals and helpers! Each hip and knee prosthesis, which we transport with us to Ecuador, costs around \$2000. It is hoped that 40 replacements surgeries can be done. That alone amounts to \$80,000. All of us on the team are aware that we are dependent on the generosity of many private donors and foundations to raise the necessary funds. At a recent fundraising dinner with a live and silent auction, approximately 200 people spent a considerable amount of money for this good cause.

**We consider our donors to be a part of our team.**



The late Roman Catholic priest and author, Henri Nouwen, wrote a great book called *The Spirituality of Fundraising* (2010). Fundraising is a form of ministry, says Nouwen, in which we announce our vision and invite other people into our mission, to participate in it with the resources God has given them. Regarding 2 Corinthians 9:10-15, Nouwen writes: "God's Kingdom is a place of abundance where every generous act overflows its original bounds and becomes part of the unbounded grace of God at work in the world."

We appreciate continued prayerful and financial support as we prepare to embark on another Ecuador mission in the new year.

**We thank God for His faithfulness over 20 years.**

\*Words and Music: Keith Getty, Stuart Townsend, 2006.

**TO DONATE ONLINE GO TO  
[www.emascanada.org/donate](http://www.emascanada.org/donate)**



Photo Left : EMAS TEAM - ECUADOR 2016

For more information see our website  
[www.emascanada.org](http://www.emascanada.org)



# TRANSITION IN CHINA

By Ellen Watson

EMAS has been sending medical teams to China for 29 years. The growth and development of China during this time has been remarkable. EMAS Canada has responded by tailoring our teams to needs presented to us by our hosts, joining new hosts in new work and staying nimble in response to needs.

**The China East team**, which is the oldest, still serves where EMAS was first invited: Suzhou, Ningbo, and Shanghai. It started by providing funding and training for equipment (MRI, X-ray machines and an auto-analyzer for lab). Along with the machines we sent technicians to help with installation and do maintenance training. We also sent specialists to teach the use of the equipment and train nationals in the reading of results. There is no longer a need for this type of help. We helped with funding oncology medications for a major pediatric hospital in Suzhou thereby assisting families who could not afford them. This need too is now being met by the government.

Today our focus is on pediatric and psychiatric training. Our teams receive more requests than they can respond to for the seminars that include social workers, psychiatric nurses, psychologists and psychiatrists. Currently the major seminars are held in Xiamen and Kunming (outside of the geographical area, but no better name



has been found for the team).

**The China West team** which celebrated 25 years of service in 2015 is the next oldest team. Over this time the team has transitioned from helping with water projects and government clinic buildings in Ningxia, and training village health workers to working with Xeling churches. Quinhai has a rich Christian heritage due to the geographic isolation which provided some protection during the Cultural Revolution. By assisting the church in this region through medical outreach we have helped advance their local witness for Christ.

**China South** has become the umbrella under which most new outreach falls. It has a strong partnership with **Bless China International** and assists them by funding prosthetics, rehab and a medical clinic and by providing surgery for marginalized people. Working in Kunming, but drawing patients from the mountains that surround the city, two surgical teams operate in three hospitals and are followed by a post-op team to help with the rehabilitation of the surgical patients.

Some of the other work that has grown out of this includes a dental team which visits various regions where local partners have been found, and a need is confirmed. A physiotherapy team is evaluating the needs at a private orphanage to assess the feasibility of helping train the staff in use of equipment already on site. There are medical teams that travel into the more remote areas to bring medical outreach to underserved populations.

**The Guangdong team** started by working with Hope Ministries out of Macau. **Hope Ministries** provides residency training to medical graduates from Hong Kong and Macau.



EMAS Canada was able to assist with lectures as well as to travel into China with this group and assist with medical outreach. More recently one team going to this region works directly with local churches.

While each of the teams is independent and has their own budget, they do work together. Some participants arrange to move from one team to another if timing allows. Team leaders meet together at least twice a year to talk about challenges, changes and triumphs. Dr. Walter Woo, director of China Projects adroitly manages to keep all teams moving forward, transitioning when and where needed and sharing resources whenever possible.

China had undergone enormous cultural shifts in the 30 years of EMAS involvement. China is an enormous geographic area with tremendous cultural diversity.

[www.emascanada.org](http://www.emascanada.org)

Photo: Left - China Xuzhou Medical Dental Team, November 2016.

Photo: Below - China South, Teaching.





# SHORT-TERM MEDICAL MISSIONS WITH A LONG TERM PERSPECTIVE



## EXPLORATORY TEAMS

### South Sudan

In September 2016, six Canadians went to Kampala for a total of three weeks. Through Clinical teaching and Bible studies, the team took part in preparing South Sudanese healthcare workers to become Christ followers equipped to serve among their own people.

### Myanmar

In partnership with HIM International, EMAS is sending a team in April 2017, for two weeks to Chin State, Burma. Local church leaders, who will do most of the spiritual outreach, will also provide hospitality.

### Guatemala

In partnership with Impact Ministries, we are sending a medical team to Tactic in early May 2017. This is an opportunity to support and expand the missionary work of Canadians who planted churches in the area.

### Gambade

The Gambade team has been busy with fundraising, construction and a mission planned in November. During the November mission, meetings with local health authorities, clinical work, and learning more about the local health priorities, formed the bulk of our work.

For information about these new initiatives, contact Dr. Agwa at [peter@emascanada.org](mailto:peter@emascanada.org)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Jwaye Nwiel



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 AND UPDATES

## EMAS HAS A NEW DATABASE SYSTEM

Beginning in 2017 we will issue annual tax receipts unless otherwise requested and we will send them, wherever possible, by email. If you have questions, please email: [office@emascanada.org](mailto:office@emascanada.org)

**TO DONATE ONLINE GO TO: [www.emascanada.org/donate](http://www.emascanada.org/donate)**

## EMAS OFFICE HAS MOVED

Our head-office has moved to the Crossroads Centre in Burlington, Ontario. Direct all mail to:

EMAS CANADA

1295 North Service Rd., Burlington, ON L7R 4M2

Our New Phone Number: (905) 319 - 3415

## UPCOMING MISSION TRIPS

### ECUADOR

Jan 25 – Feb. 4, 2017

### VIETNAM

Feb. 4 – 19, 2017

### GUATEMALA

May 1 – 10, 2017

### ZIMBABWE

May 5 – 20, 2017

### CHINA SOUTH (Surgical)

May 7 – 25, 2017

### GUANGDONG

May 14 – 19, 2017

### CHINA WEST

June 29 – July 14, 2017



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 serve with our teams to heal and teach in a Christ-like manner.

To volunteer, please contact Peter Agwa: [peter@emascanada.org](mailto:peter@emascanada.org)



Find out more at [giveconfidently.ca](http://giveconfidently.ca)

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## YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

Your donations and prayers make all the difference. Many receive the healthcare they need because of you. Young and old benefit from your generous support and we want to say,

## THANK YOU!

To donate Online go to: <http://www.emascanada.org/donate/>

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EMASSARY is the official newsletter of EMAS Canada. Learn more or download previous issues at [www.emascanada.org](http://www.emascanada.org)

1295 North Service Road  
Burlington, ON L7R 4M2  
Phone: (905) 319-3415  
Toll free: 1 (866) 648-0664