

# EMAS SARY

A PUBLICATION OF EMAS CANADA

## 70 YEARS AND A WATERSHED

MAY 2018

As we look to the future, we celebrate 70 years of God's faithfulness giving us confidence in His promises.

In Dec 2016, we faced a time of transition, when from within we questioned our ability to survive multiple major leadership changes. We pegged our confidence in the fact that our gospel was insured by God's promises.

2017 began with a warning from our auditors: we were not financially viable as a mission! The Board acted to stabilize operations through a policy that would place EMAS on the path to becoming sustainable; as long as **Christ-centered healthcare teams**

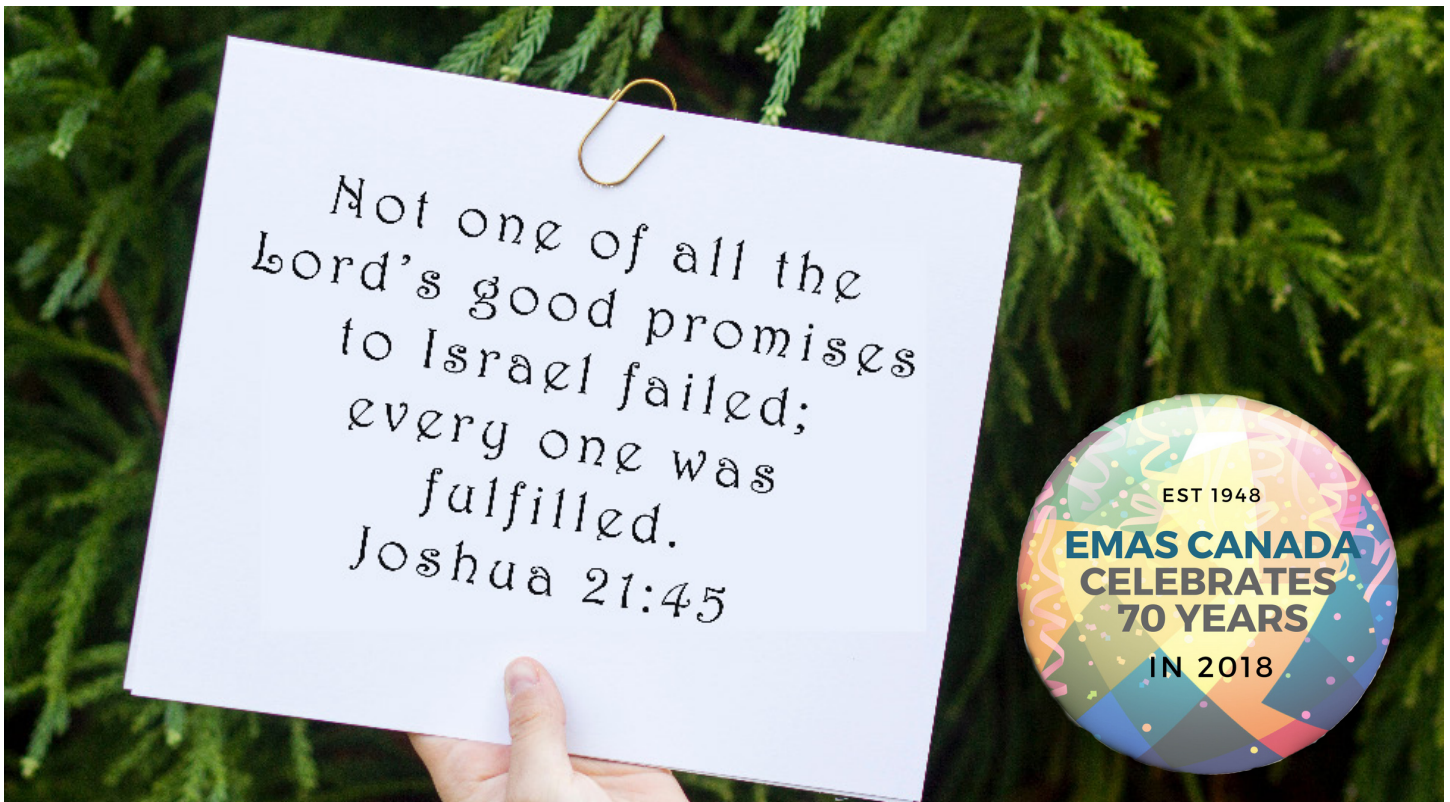
**proclaiming God's love to all the world through healing and teaching** were interested in serving from within Canada. The board and team leaders were united. They took bold steps to trust God for our future. It was a watershed, and we survived.

Forty years after liberation from slavery, the Hebrew nomads stood at a watershed, and God said, "Get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land." They became a nation settled in their own land as promised by God to their ancestor, Abraham about 400 years prior.

The confidence we had in God's promises in 2016 concerning the

gospel have been reinforced by our experience of safe transition through this past year. God hasn't changed, not since He made promises to Abraham, and certainly not since EMAS Canada was established in 1948. Going forward we face the challenge of establishing EMAS Canada as a sustainable ministry; changes may be as far-reaching as those of nomadic former slaves, turning into land owners. Time will tell; but we face them confidently, knowing that God's deep affection for us is steadfast, and His loyalty to us through the gospel is eternal.

Dr. Peter Agwa  
Executive Director



# CELEBRATING TOGETHER IN HIS NAME

By Melony Teague

There is a special kind of joy that wells up when believers gather to celebrate God's faithfulness.

In April, 2018 EMAS Canada Board, Team Leaders, friends, family and supporters gathered in Toronto to do just that.

In honouring our founders, our first beneficiaries, our past and present leadership, we were humbled because God had done something special in our midst.

God has been faithful in steering His work through EMAS Canada since 1948, but as Ellen Watson (Past Director of Administration 1986 - 2017) said in her address to those gathered, "Living in Warkworth, which is 100 miles east of Toronto, and getting a job that allowed me to travel internationally and serve God while raising a family was truly a blessing. God was faithful to me personally." Yes, God was in charge of the big picture, His work among "the least of these" but He was also working in and through each one of the EMAS Staff Leadership and Teams on a personal level.

We have heard many times how God prepared the way for teams going to heal, teach, and serve in His name. There have been many stories over the years of how just at the right time

a need was met, or a volunteer would step forward having felt prompted by God, and would be a living answer to prayer and to a specific need.

Dr. Bob Stephens, one of our first beneficiaries, past Executive Director with a long history with EMAS Canada shared that he attributes EMAS' growth to the ability to be flexible and change. What a privilege to have leadership deeply invested in seeking God's will over the years.

As we shared our stories we were reminded that God is in charge of His work, among His people, for His glory.

Dr. Roberts, also one of our first beneficiaries, encouraged all that were gathered that one day in heaven we would find many saying, "I'm here because of you."

*After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the*

*throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice:*

*"Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." (Rev. 7: 9-10)*

What a precious thought, to know that we will one day see the complete family of God gathered to celebrate His faithfulness for eternity.

There is no denying that the dynamic of each part working together, is powerful and long lasting.

As a supporter of EMAS Canada, you are an integral part of this work. Every time you pray for our teams on the field, or you give in order to help those in need receive medical care or equipment. You are part of this big picture.

Thank you!



## PLEASE GIVE

Giving to the General Fund enables EMAS CANADA to continue serving

Donor card enclosed or donate Online:

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

Top Left: China South Team with Dr. Bob Stephens. Top Right: Ellen Watson sharing a bit of EMAS history. EMAS Board Chair addressing those gathered in Toronto to celebrate.



# BRINGING HEALING TO THREE GENERATIONS?

By Lawrence Lau

What do you do when you can't see because your eyelids will not open enough for you to see clearly? You live with the day-to-day challenges of trying to care for your child who has the same condition. Life is not easy, you trip over things and cannot see your surroundings clearly. What do you do when you believe that there is no help for you? What would you do when you hear that all hope is not lost?

Three generations of this family could not open their eyes more than a slit because there is no muscle to lift up the eyelids. They had to walk with their heads tilted backwards otherwise they would bump into

furniture and other obstacles.

Not knowing that they could be helped, and that their condition was treatable with corrective surgery, they gave up hope of a normal life.

When they heard about the EMAS China South Surgical Team and that there was a way to allow them to walk normally, they were skeptical at first however, they sent the mother to have the procedure done. She was delighted with the result and brought her son to have the same corrective surgery on his little eyes, in the hopes that he too would benefit from the life changing procedure. Her child can now walk without bumping into

obstacles and putting himself in harms way.

Now there is hope that the child's grandfather might also benefit from this, but a few obstacles lie in their way. They live in a remote village. The hospital charges do not include meals. Bus tickets to town and the cost of food is a significant amount to them. Therefore, they are reluctant to bring the grandfather in for treatment.

For only \$200 a donor can pay for the bus ticket and food for the family coming for treatment and be a part of sharing God's love and bringing hope to a family in need of healing.



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



**EMAS  
CANADA**

*Above: Mother and Child unable to open their eyes  
Right: Mother and Child now able to see after surgery.*

# NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

We have the pleasure of welcoming three **New EMAS Board Members:**

**Dr. Rob Greidanus** is a rural family physician/surgeon in Peace River, Alberta. He has been involved in medical missions throughout his career working with EMAS, CMDS, and World Medical Missions over the years. Most recently he has worked with Africa Inland Mission, living in Namibia for 6 years with his family. He is a sports enthusiast and is passionate about cross cultural medicine and maternal health. He and the wife of his youth, Alisa, are blessed with seven children.

**Dr Slysz** has practiced family and hospitalist medicine for 28 years. During that time, he taught medicine undergraduates and family medicine residents as well as led medical missions to Haiti and Jamai-

ca. In 2016, he was awarded a Canada's Family Physicians of the Year, Reg L. Perkin Award. He has taken up the position of EMAS Vice Chair in April 2018 and we say thank you to our former Vice Chair, **Krista Waring** who continues to serve on the Board.

**Dr. Christopher Wang** is an internal medicine resident currently based out of Edmonton, Alberta. Previously, he completed his MD at the University of Toronto and his BHSc at McMaster University. Through serving as co-chair of both his undergraduate (CCF) and medical school (CMDS) fellowships, Chris developed a passion for mentorship, discipleship and seeing others embrace the ministry that God has called them to. He has served on the EMAS China West team for several years between 2009-2015. He has also been to

the DRC to participate in God's mission with Drs. Philip and Nancy Wood. In his spare time, you can find Chris cooking up a storm in the kitchen. A true foodie at heart, Chris believes in helping others find nourishment, both for the stomach and for the soul. He has taken on the role of EMAS Board Secretary.



*L to R:  
Tom & Janet Greidanus, Dr. Garth and Andrea Slysz,  
Rob Greidanus at the 70th Anniversary Celebration..*

## UPCOMING MISSION TRIPS

### CHINA SOUTH SURGICAL

May 6 -24, 2018

### ZIMBABWE

May 17 - 31, 2018

### GUANGDONG

May 20 – 26, 2018

### CHINA WEST Medical/Dental

June 14 -27, 2018

### GUANGDONG

Nov. 10 – 17, 2018

### CHINA SOUTH SURGICAL

Nov. 11 – 29, 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](mailto:peter@emascanada.org)

### SUBSCRIBE TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NEW BLOG

<https://www.emascanada.org/ed/>



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

### YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

Your donations and prayers make all the difference. Many receive the healthcare they need because of you.

### THANK YOU!

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