

EMAS SARY

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MAY 2026

ENGAGEMENT OF LOCALS

Deep, respectful and ongoing relationships with local communities, leaders, healthcare professionals, and churches are important to us.

Engagement of Locals is a priority for EMAS Canada. Our goal is to walk alongside our local partners in ways that honor their leadership and support their initiatives for ownership and long-term sustainability.

The Apostle Paul and his team walked alongside the Colossian believers, respecting existing leadership and responding to an urgent need, while giving the local leadership the leeway to apply the message about Jesus in their own context.

A delegation had traveled from far to seek advice and assistance from Paul's team now living in Rome. The issue was weighty; the uniqueness of Jesus Christ was under threat in a church with no Bibles, and whose members had not met Jesus' inner circle of leaders.

After days of deliberations, it was

decided to respond by a letter to be hand-delivered by a team tactfully picked to include one member of the receiving community from the diaspora.

The letter not only contains some of the best information for the study of the nature, person, and work of Jesus Christ, it also gives practical guidance on domestic and workplace relationships. While being respectful towards and affirming local leadership, the advice was both personal and ex-cathedra.

An associated, but more personal letter to the same community, illustrates how strong relationships with local leaders are critical to demonstrating the gospel. By including Onesimus in the team to Colossae and Philemon, Paul challenged the prevailing worldview on slavery, but left the details to Philemon and the local believers.

When our partners in China wanted to start an apprenticeship program,

they reached out to us with an idea. Our China East team listened carefully, prayed as a team and agreed to honor their leadership giving them a free hand to manage resources trusting their knowledge of the local context. The success story is shared in this newsletter. By investing in the marginalized, our partners in China are inviting their neighbours to scrutinize the gospel. Join us by supporting our two Haiti programs that are under local leadership providing essential support where most needed.

Dr. Peter Agwa
Executive Director.



BEAUTIFUL THINGS
By Joseph Tham

We suspect the reader already is aware that the COVID pandemic and political changes have had significant impact on opportunities to access certain areas in the world for short-term missions work. Nonetheless, God does not rest and where possible, with the resources and talents He has bestowed upon China East, we have explored ways to continue the work of mental health education with partner hospitals over the last few years. This has included the use of virtual conferences and rounds in 2020, 2022, and 2024.

Another way has been to promote the work of God's people in China by providing "stimulus" grant funding to empower local leaders, volunteers, and organizations within their communities to build capacity and opportunities in effective ways for those that could benefit. While funds are modest, we pray that in a time of uncertainty

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SUPPORTING LOCALS IN MYANMAR

By James and Linda Ling

“Please, can you bring your medical missions team and participate in our Christmas outreach program on December 16 and 17?” entreated Pastor Aung. He’d been faithfully trying for two to three years to introduce his church to his village but lacked the opportunity and resources to do so. That changed when we brought our medical missions team to serve alongside him in 2024.

This year’s outreach was further strengthened when Pastor Myat and his evangelistic team arrived on the same day. The church building overflowed with villagers, and a significant breakthrough occurred in fellowship and relationship-building with the surrounding community.

During our planning stage, we asked Pastor Aung if he might help us locate a doctor trained in traditional medicine. Through this request, we were introduced to Dr. S and Pastor Shane from the Baptist Convention.

Through our connection with the Typhoon Yagi Relief Team in 2024, we were introduced to Pastor Kyi and his ministry partners. We visited their temporary residence where our clinics were conducted. Pastor Kyi expressed a strong desire to begin the outreach with a worship service before the clinic started. He also invited children from a local orphanage to participate in the program. This worship gathering became a meaningful highlight of the outreach,

bearing witness to the surrounding community about the importance of worshiping the one true God. It created a powerful atmosphere of unity, hope, and spiritual encouragement before physical care was provided through the clinics.

Many patients who attended our clinics through churches that hosted our December mission are now ordering traditional medicines from Dr. S. We thank God that local communities now have access to affordable treatments that align with their cultural practices. We are currently encouraging one church pastor to establish a permanent outlet for dispensing traditional medicine. We are grateful for the opportunity to engage with many new churches during this mission. Only God can orchestrate such connections and perfect timing.

It has been five years of unimaginable suffering for the people of Myanmar; years marked by hopelessness, pain, fear, loss of loved ones, lawlessness, and injustice. Yet witnessing the perseverance of our brothers and sisters in Christ is both heartbreaking and deeply humbling. It is truly the power of God that sustains them in every season. As Philippians 4:13 reminds us, “I can do all things through Him who gives me strength.”

While we may not know what the future holds for Myanmar, we remain confident that God is sovereign over all things and

faithfully works for the good of those who know and love Him. Join us for the **WALK/RIDE for MYANMAR** on Saturday, October 17th, 2026 at 10 am. Keep an eye on the website for when registration opens. www.emascanada.org

RIDE FOR GUTU 5th ANNIVERSARY

The Ride for Gutu Mission Hospital on September 12, 2026 celebrates our 5th anniversary.

Joined by the Zimbabwe National Cycling team this year, the Zimbabwe Gutu team uses cycling as the main fundraiser for programs.

You can support the team by sponsoring a cyclist, joining the ride, or volunteering on the support crew. For more information contact:

chi@emascanada.org

The 2025 annual report and video can be found on the website.

Learn more about Zimbabwe Gutu team’s 5-year plan to reduce preventable maternal and infant deaths by contacting:

peter@emascanada.org

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 new projects.

*Donate today online:
www.emascanada.org*



Photo above: Ride for Gutu Mission Hospital 2025
Photos left: Myanmar team ministry Dec 2025.
Photo page 3: David and his wife and 4 children

NO ONE IS DISQUALIFIED FROM GOD'S MERCY

By Vincent Wang

Prisoners are usually out of sight from the community, but they don't have to be out of reach of God's love and care. "Though the Lord is high, He regards the lowly" Psalm 138:6.

Jesus came to set captives free, meaning even behind bars, every individual is considered worthy, loved and capable of transformation.

In Mongolia, we have witnessed God's compassion for those in jail. The prisoners in Chinggis Khan city never

have any opportunities to seek medical and dental care. They would have to suffer tremendous pain before being sent to the hospital.

The Lord sent His servants of the Mongolia mission team to the local jail for both spiritual and health caring despite physical confinement. Pastor Harding Ng preached gospel and proclaimed His love, the medical and dental teams served both the prisoners and the prison guards.

We are invited this year to serve in the high security jail for the prisoners sentenced for life behind bars.

God's love for prisoners is a core message of hope, redemption and unconditional grace. No person is beyond the reach of divine love, regardless of their past actions.

We pray that God's redeeming love will bring hope, purpose and spiritual freedom to the inmates in Mongolia.

GAMBADE CLINIC CELEBRATES 3rd ANNIVERSARY

By Wesley Romulus

March 2026 marks the 3rd Anniversary of the Gambade Medical Clinic offering primary Health Care to the community of Gambade in Haiti.

We have chosen to celebrate under the theme of Appreciation. It's fitting to appreciate the faithfulness of the Lord for our past achievements.

We also deem it necessary to appreciate the roster of patients that have trusted us with their health care issues. We would not have surpassed the cap of 10,000 registered patients without their trust in the quality of service we provide.

Appreciation goes to the faithful Clinic Staff who commit to a high standard of

care for each and every patient.

Celebrate with the community and the Staff with a Special **3rd Anniversary Appreciation Donation** To the Haiti Gambade fund. Thank you!

FROM VILLAGE TO PhD

Translated and summarized by Nancy Wood

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen." Jeremiah 29:11-12

David grew up in the village of Marabo, population 20,000 with his brothers and sisters. His mother died in 2002 and his father in 2012. After studying at the ISTM Nyankunde and working there he was offered the chance to study for his Masters in Belgium and then after more teaching and research he was sent to the Catholic University of Central Africa in Yaounde, Cameroon for his PhD. His research focused on the topic: "The Burden of Adult Diabetes Mellitus in the City of Bunia, Democratic Republic of Congo: Epidemiological, Economic, and

Psychosocial Aspects," He completed this program in November 2025. Following his academic studies, he undertook a 3-month clinical internship at the Endocrinology and Obesity Center of the Yaoundé Central Hospital in Cameroon. He was supported by his wife and their 4 children.

David expressed his profound gratitude to all the individuals and institutions who contributed, directly or indirectly, to his attainment of the doctorate, despite the challenges. First and foremost, he glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ, who has sustained him from birth to the present day. He also expresses his gratitude to Doctors Nancy and Philip Wood, who were not only his teachers at ISTM Nyankunde, but who also provided

him with financial, moral, and spiritual support throughout his academic journey. Without their support, it would have been impossible for him to reach his current level, given the challenges he faced. David thanks EMAS Canada, which contributed regularly to this project from its inception to its completion.



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around logistical challenges, EMAS members can still show our love for those we are moved to affect, and pray that He might magnify the resources to touch the lives of those in need.

“On behalf of all the families and volunteers of Joy+Love (Xi-Ai-Jia), I would like to thank EMAS for your support from across the ocean! The valuable donation from EMAS Canada not only helped Joy+Love’s Restaurant Startup Project proceed towards self-sustenance, but also helped Joy+Love make good and far-reaching choices through the difficult decision-making stage of starting up. Thank you again!” - Founder of Joy+Love Care Center for the Mentally Disabled.

The focus is on improving the social integration and employment opportunities available to families of those with mental health challenges. It holds more than 500 charity events each year, with proceeds benefiting more than 10,000 individuals with disabilities, and inspires more than 10,000 volunteers to participate. Since their children have difficulty integrating into society, parents are often also out of touch with society. First, volunteers are trained, and they train parents. Then parents train more parents, who in turn train their children. This iterative training model is inexpensive and efficacious. 6 parents can independently manage the storefront.

More than 20 individuals with mental health challenges received training, and 3 children with intellectual challenges can now make products independently. With joy and humility EMAS China East has been able to assist in the development of projects like these.

We pray that God will bless partner organizations and leaders like Ms. Xu Xu with guidance to continue to grow Joy+Love to indeed form Beautiful Things that are the image-bearers of the Creator God in this world. (Photo page 1: Autistic child making coffee)

Following the **Strategic Planning Summit** in May 2025, and our leadership retreat in April 2026, EMAS is beginning implementation of our three-year Strategic Plan.

More information to follow.

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

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

PLEASE NOTE:

For all things donation, receipting and finance related, Sandy Rumford, our bookkeeper, can be reached at:

sandy@emascanada.org

For everything else contact Chi at: office@emascanada.org or call (905)630-4650.

JOIN OUR PRAYER TEAM

To receive our monthly prayer checklist and join those who pray for EMAS Canada, please contact:

office@emascanada.org

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