

DOWN to EARTH

Emmanuel International UK News
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EIUK Conference and AGM 2023

We held our annual Conference and AGM on Saturday 11 March 2023 at St John's Church, Southbourne. This year all our speakers were online, but it was as good as having them with us, the internet connections were so good. For the first time (since the option for online meetings were added to the Articles of Association in a Special Resolution at the 2022 AGM) we also offered attendance via Teams! In all the conference was attended by 31 people.

2023 Down to Earth for a more in depth article about this process.



The AGM followed. Clive Tydeman, Chairman of the EIUK Board of Trustees, gave an overview of the adaptations that we are making due to the current situation of decline in donations and difficulty in attracting missionaries to go overseas to serve with EI. We are aiming to put more focus on securing funding from trusts and grants thus enabling us to continue partnering with churches to help them serve their communities.

We started with tea/coffee and greetings at 10:30am downstairs in a cosy meeting room. Sue led us in karaoke style worship, which worked remarkably well. Sue then led devotions, using the Christian basis of the Strategic Planning process that Arturo is assisting Emmanuel International as an organisation with, as it is also true for all of us as Christians (see the January

We spent some time praying for Malawi, Haiti and the Philippines before we had a truly delicious lunch of baked potato and chilli, followed by an impressive fruit pavlova.

After lunch we moved upstairs to where the screen setup was more conducive to hosting our online speakers. We are very grateful for the prayers for good internet

connectivity as all the sessions went really well, with never more than a word or two lost.



Our first speaker was Joel Newby, the EI Country Representative in Tanzania. He told us how he got involved with EI in Tanzania, a bit about his family and then an overview of the work in the 3 areas that EI is active in the country: Mwanza (where Joel and his family live), Iringa (where EI originally started) and Tanga (a relatively new area). The team have recently submitted a number of funding proposal for projects.



We watched a short video that Laura Kelly had prepared about her project in Mwanza, the girl's Nguvu na Hadhi (Strenght and Dignity) project, a girls' menstrual health project.

You can view the video on our YouTube channel on <https://youtu.be/DOj2XoyCTIY> or by scanning the QR code on your smartphone.



Laura then joined us online and shared about the project. Since the start of the project, they have distributed 2,385 dignity kits, 2,385

cloth bags, 9,540 reusable pads, 4,000 pairs of underwear, 2,385 puberty books and 2,385 bracelets!

Simon and Victoria Ewing are EIUK missionaries who are also based in Mwanza. They facilitate health and development projects. The children, Tabitha and Reuben, also joined us for a short while and told us a bit about their life in Tanzania. Simon then filled us in on the progress of the KWETU project



Mike and Marianne Botting, EI Country Representative in Uganda, joined us next. Their son also popped on screen to say hi before

going off to do his own activities. Mike and Marianne shared about the calling they have felt God put on their hearts

since the round house in Pader burnt down, about their move to Gulu and about the projects in Uganda, including the Jesus film ministry and the Mission Mobilisation project. The team in Pader is really enthused about reaching out to other tribes with the Gospel. God is really moving the hearts of people!



The last group of people to join us online were the contingent from Brazil, which included Paul and Helen Jones, International Director, who were visiting Brazil at the time (on the right in the photo above). Tarcisio and Jurema Porto (left) are leading one of the partner churches of Missão Emanuel do Brasil (EI in Brazil). Fred Silva, MEB General Secretary (middle) shared greetings and an update on the projects in Brazil, as well as their travel plans with the Jones.

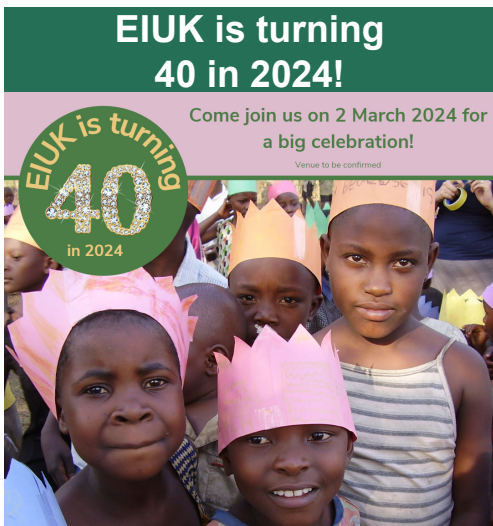
It was great to hear from the EI family overseas. We finished each online session with Q&A time and someone from the group prayed for the speaker(s). We also spent time at the end of the day praying for specific prayer requests from each of these countries. People were encouraged to take a photo of an EI staff member from the map and pray for them during the year.

We have had overwhelmingly positive feedback on the conference and so grateful for the time that we could spend together in worship and prayer!

I thought the whole day was very interesting and the lunch was truly delicious. Many thanks to all who worked to make the day a success. Many blessings.

Thank you so much for going to the trouble of providing the virtual link through Teams on Saturday. It was really good to be able to join in and catch up with latest EI developments.

I thought the time together was really good and very informative. It was really great to be there.



We do hope that you will be able to join us next year when we have a big 40th birthday to celebrate!

Please **make a note of the date** in your diary: **Saturday 2 March 2024**. The venue will be determined very shortly and details will be distributed in our publications and social media.

We are hoping that we can get together as many supporters and alumni as we can!

News from Malawi and the recent cyclone devastation

On 13 March 2023, the government of Malawi called a State of Natural Disaster after Cyclone Freddy hit the southern region of Malawi. This is the 3rd cyclone in just thirteen months to pass through Malawi.

Cyclone Freddy swept through Southern Malawi damaging hectares of crops, washing away livestock, mudslides taking with it infrastructure, roads, bridges and homes. An impact assessment has reported 18,689 households (approximately 83,000 people) have been affected, 707 people sustaining injuries and 225 deaths. Families are being accommodated in schools and local churches which causes a lot of sanitation issues - they are working on health prevention measures to combat this. EI Malawi is working in some of the areas affected. Although Cyclone Freddy has weakened and has passed through Malawi, rains still continue which is likely to cause more flooding.

Charles Mukiwa Country Director of EI Malawi says "We need to hold hands together" when referring to other NGOs, as no one can do this by themselves. We

each need to work together to support the people of Malawi.

We have had reports that our EI Malawi staff are all safe. Praise the Lord. EI Malawi has suspended all normal activities in the Zomba area, some areas are still inaccessible due to the damage. EI Malawi staff have donated personal clothing items to families who have lost everything.



Evacuation tents are being blown away by after winds of Cyclone Freddy. Families congregate in the shelter at back.

Please pray for the country and the EI Malawi team.

Rev Canon Nelson Ojok Ogom passed away

It is with great sadness that we received the news that Rev Canon Nelson Ojok Ongom died on 19 March 2023. Rev Nelson played a big part in the work of EI in Northern Uganda, starting in 1985 and continuing till 2003. Even when communications were lost due to the war, he carried on the projects till we could resume our help. He was an amazing man of God, an excellent team leader and is fondly remembered as one of the EI Patongo team.

