



the Emmanuel Connection

October 2024

Focus on : Jon Stillwell



I was born in Asmara the capital of present-day Eritrea when it was under the rule of Ethiopia. My parents served with the Sudan Interior Mission as it was known then and ran a clinic in northern Eritrea before moving to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia where my dad served in several positions over the next years.

I attended three different schools for missionary kids, graduating from Rift Valley Academy in Kenya in 1978. I wanted to eventually return to Africa as a mission pilot, so I went to northern Minnesota to train as an aircraft mechanic. I also graduated from Grand Rapids School of the Bible and Music in Michigan in 1983, with emphasis on missionary aviation.

In 1984 I joined an SIM medical team working in a famine relief camp in Ethiopia. My work there was basically logistics, mechanics and filling in wherever needed. This included weighing and measuring babies, distributing food in the camps, and keeping the vehicles and our staff camp maintained.

In 1985 I joined the recently formed Air Serv International as a Pilot Mechanic in Ethiopia serving mostly World Vision at first. The mission of Air Serv was to support famine relief and development projects in Africa.

In 1989 I began my airline career with present day PSA Airlines as a regional pilot serving Piedmont, USAir, and American Airlines. I reached the mandatory retirement age for airline flying in March of 2024 after 35 years with PSA. I was asked by PSA to continue as a simulator instructor here in Charlotte NC, which I am doing at the present time.

I am married to fellow SIM MK Nancy, and we have two grown boys: Michael hopes to pursue something in the field of computers and our youngest Matthew is a copilot with PSA.

George Middleton, the founder of Emmanuel International was a close friend of my parents as they served in Eritrea and Ethiopia together. As a teen I watched the formation of Emmanuel from its beginning in Asmara and its growth in the following years.

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Please keep these concerns in your daily prayers...

- 1 Haiti:** The re-opening of schools was delayed by a month. Please pray as the government, and our partner church Oeuvre Evangelique Baptiste Bethesda, weigh up the situation for the safety of the children and teachers. Pray that the study time the children have lost will not have an adverse affect on their overall education.
International: October marks the start of a new fiscal year for Emmanuel International as an organisation. Please pray as we are working on the financial reporting required in each country.
- 2 Canada:** The EIC Gala is scheduled for October 26. Pray for preparations and for God's blessing over the event. We are asking God for many interested people to come and share in this evening... and beyond.
- 3 United States of America:** Nancy and Jim Walters are on holiday in Croatia, with two other couples. Please pray for a good time of relaxation.
- 4 Uganda:** The Botting family moved to a new house, still in Gulu, at the end of September. Please pray for them as they settle in.
Tanzania: Rachel Monger will arrive in Mwanza today and spend the next two months in Africa. Part of her time here will be working with the Kome beekeeping project.
- 5 Malawi:** Today is graduation at Chisomo Theological & Vocational Training School. Pray for the students as they head home in a very difficult season for all Malawians; pray as they reintegrate into their home churches and villages after almost a year away.
Tanzania: The Masawe Entrepreneurship group are starting their loan. Pray they will be successful.
- 6 Uganda:** Schools opened for the 3rd term on September 16th, and we are now very busy in the Pads Ministry project trying to complete our trainings before the start of end of year exam preparations.
Tanzania: The Pawaga group has lost an unusual number of group members, from 42 to now 28 members. Please pray that we'll identify and address the cause.
- 7 International:** We as Emmanuel International entered the organization's 50th year of existence in September. This is our Jubilee year, a wonderful opportunity to praise and glorify God for all He has done, for all He continues to do.
United States of America: We had our annual board meeting successfully in September. Thank you for your prayers.
- 8 United Kingdom:** Linda and Eddie are arriving back in the UK today from their holiday. Today Sue is also doing a webinar about the General Data Protection Regulations that are in effect in the UK.
Haiti: The peacekeeping force in Port au Prince has gained some control in Septemer. This meant that gangs moved out of the city and into the countryside, making those areas unsafe. Please pray for God's peace over Haiti.
- 9 Brazil:** After Daniel and Mariana Poquiqui left the indigenous missionary work in Monte Alegre village, Ronaldo and Rosana Mita took over their work and continued the activities there, together with another lady. They not only bring the gospel to them but also help in all ways they can. Pray for their work, especially for wisdom, as many times they need to deal with villagers' relationship challenges.

- 10 United States of America:** Mark and Sherry Abbott (ex EIM Board Chair) have arrived in Japan and Mark started his work with Send Japan. The working day is long but they do have the opportunity to explore their surroundings.
Philippines: We have another opportunity for teachers' training for the 2nd or 3rd week of October in Marilog district! Please pray for trainees and facilitators.
- 11 Malawi:** The Choir Conference, also known as the Psalm 100 Project, is happening in Liwonde from today till the 13th. We anticipate over 100 attendees to gather to learn about worship, receive the choir devotionals, and be challenged in their own walk with Christ as leaders of worship in their congregations.
Tanzania: We'll appreciate prayer for rain and planting efforts in this month for the KWETU Hubs project and the Integrated Environmental Renewal Project.
- 12 Malawi:** Due to poor harvest this year most households don't have sufficient food. Pray for farmers in Malawi. People will be preparing their fields and trusting God for a better harvest in the year to come. 23 out of 28 districts in Malawi have been declared a state of disaster due to the effects of El Nino on the harvest this year.
Tanzania: We will have an entrepreneurship seminar in Kasalolo. Please pray for it to go smoothly.
- 13 Brazil:** The Terena Bible School is planning two internship activities this year for the indigenous students, with resources provided by EIUK. Pray for safe trips and a profitable time in the villages.
Philippines: The ERRP board members started meeting as a Discipleship Group. Please pray for our spiritual growth.
- 14 Tanzania:** We are in the process of completing Ibumu post project surveys.
Malawi: Pray for the seeds planted in the lives of the eight young men who attended the first-ever Mentoring Warriors retreat in Zomba, Malawi, led by our US visitor David Riffel. These young men have a hunger for God and are already active as young leaders in their contexts.
- 15 Haiti:** Haiti has one of the highest levels of food insecurity in the world. Hunger is tightening its grip as insecurity, violence and deepening economic troubles combine with climate-related shocks and other disasters. Please pray.
- 16 International:** The International Office is putting together their budget for this new fiscal year which will be presented at our next Board meeting. Pray for God's guidance and praise for God's abundant blessing.
- 17 Tanzania:** The Ushindi-lfunda group members are making and selling their own soaps and lotions. Pray for successful sales.
Philippines: The Philippines is often hit by typhoons and flooding. Please pray the country will be spared from these extreme weather events.
- 18 South Africa:** Rachel is traveling to Canada to spend time with her aging parents and help them with some DIY projects before winter comes. They are in their early eighties. Rachel will then, Lord willing, travel to Alberta to meet our first grandchild, due 5 November! Pray for Don and Nate who will remain behind in SA.
- 19 Tanzania:** We are planning revisions on our entrepreneurship teaching lessons.
Malawi: We look forward to hosting farmers from Canada in January 2025. Pray as we facilitate a group of 10 local farmers who will be piloting new farming techniques as well as learning more about a Christian Worldview of farming in partnership with our Canadian friends.

- 20 Tanzania:** During this month we are distributing goats and doing training in the Imarika project in Tanga.
- Philippines:** We would appreciate your prayers for God's guidance on what project proposals to submit.
- 21 Uganda:** We are running a Kairos training with 60 clergy from the Diocese of Northern Uganda (Anglican) and a few other church leaders. Please pray for the training, which is very intense, and for the participants to learn more about God's heart for the nations!
- 22 Haiti:** The Kenyan led peacekeeping force in Haiti is lacking financial backing. The UN has been asked to look at replacing this team with another. Please pray that the progress that has been made so far in establishing peace will not be lost because of financing troubles.
- 23 Malawi:** Scott MacLean continues to write a new course on reading the Psalms, for teaching in the coming 2025 school year at Chisomo.
- Tanzania:** New Imarika project activities are starting at Lugalo girls high school.
- 24 Malawi:** With presidential elections coming up next year, we pray for peace.
- 25 South Africa:** Our annual Reformation Conference at Living Hope Bible church is taking place from today till the 27th. Pray that we would have a full-house again and that God would be glorified in the proclamation of His word.
- Canada:** The EIC Gala is taking place tomorrow. Pray for the final details and all the setup of the Gala Fundraiser.
- 26 Canada:** Pray for the Gala Fundraiser: for safety on the roads as people travel to and from, and for a great evening learning about the project.
- 27 Tanzania:** We will be starting to work at Bugogwa primary school with the girls and boys in the Nguvu na Hadhi project. Please pray for Theopister, Patrick, Laura, and Ester as they teach this very important curriculum.
- 28 United Kingdom:** The EIUK is meeting on 8 November 2024, in person. Please pray for preparations for the meeting.
- 29 Philippines:** Ken Copsey is undergoing surgery today. Please pray that all goes well and he recovers well.
- Haiti:** In September, the state of emergency in Haiti was expanded to the whole of the country, which is indicative of how much unrest and conflict has spread. Please pray that this will be contained and brought under peaceful control
- 30 South Africa:** Do continue to pray for the House mothers and their difficult ministry. Pray that Kungeka will find a good fit for another child who will replace Zandile who was reunited with her father in August.
- Tanzania:** The church of the Ngudu Beekeeping group is having a lot of spiritual struggles and would appreciate your prayers. Also please pray for Nyamkolechiwa Beekeeping group to be strengthened on their soap making and honey processing.
- 31 International:** The progress on the STEP24-28 is being collected. We look forward to seeing what has been accomplished in this first year of our Strategic Plan. Praise God with us for the unity He continues to give us at EI.