

DOWN to EARTH

Emmanuel International UK News
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El Canada Gala 2024



Gala Evening Highlights: A Heartfelt Evening of Hope, Resilience, and Empowerment

On October 26, 2024, Emmanuel International Canada hosted a memorable Gala Fundraiser, bringing together 180 passionate supporters, volunteers, and advocates for a cause greater than themselves. Notably, 35% of the attendees were first-time participants of our annual Gala with some new to the EI family all together. The evening was held in a warm and inviting atmosphere, inspiring stories, and the incredible contributions of those working tirelessly to make a difference in the lives of the people of Malawi.

A Night of Celebration and Impact

The evening opened with a lively silent and live auction, where attendees had the opportunity to bid on unique items and experiences. From coveted Toronto Maple Leafs Hockey tickets to household





items and decorations, the auction garnered a sense of excitement and friendly competition, with all proceeds directed towards Emmanuel International Canada's *Titukule Azimai* (Empower Women) project in Malawi. We have raised approximately \$60,000 net for the project. This generosity has made a huge impact already.

The night would not be the same without the exquisite meal prepared by Award winning Chef Donald Williams. Many commented on the great meal especially the Pumpkin Salad!

A Journey to Uganda and Malawi

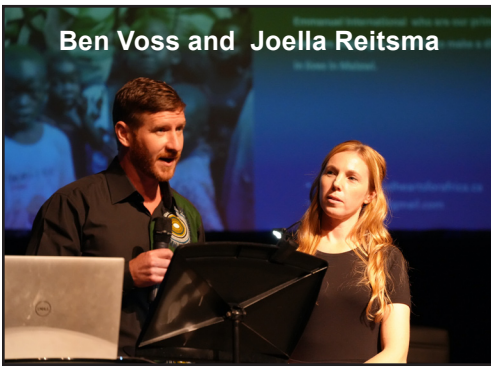
To open the evening prior to our Guest speakers, Bobby Wong shared his reflections of his recent trip to Uganda. Greeting the Audience with

an enthusiastic "Apoyo!" a warm welcome in the native Acholi tongue. Bobby recounted his team's journey to support local pastors with a four-day pastor's conference. In addition, Steven Gray recounted his impactful journey experience to Malawi with Hands and Heart for Africa (HAHFA).

A Shared Mission: *Titukule Azimai* (Empower Women)

Ben Voss, Programs Manager for Emmanuel International Malawi, and Joella Reitsma, Grants Manager, took us on a journey of understanding the challenges and opportunities in Malawi through the new "*Titukule Azimai*" project, which means "Empower Women" in Chichewa, funded through Global Affairs Canada and Emmanuel International Canada.

Ben and Joella detailed the project's origins, development, and objectives in a presentation that highlighted the innovative approaches taken to tackle gender-based violence (GBV) and economic vulnerability in Malawi. They explained how community-led solutions are driving real change, from establishing Village Savings and Loans groups (VSLs) for economic security to creating safe spaces for women to voice



Ben Voss and Joella Reitsma

their challenges and make meaningful changes within their communities.

With vivid stories and photos, Joella shared her reflections on visiting Malawi for the first time and seeing the stark differences in daily life between Malawi and Canada. Yet, despite these differences, what stood out was the unwavering spirit and warmth of the Malawian people. She recounted meeting incredible women whose lives were transformed through new skills, economic independence, and community support provided by VSL groups.

Tackling Root Causes and Building Solutions

Ben and Joella also emphasized the importance of addressing the root causes of gender-based violence. They introduced the STAR approach (Situation, Task, Action, Result), a methodology empowering women and community members to identify and solve challenges collectively. The project's initiatives focus not only on economic empowerment but also on transforming perceptions and improving services for survivors of GBV, ensuring lasting change and systemic support.

The presentations served as a powerful reminder of the importance of grassroots

collaboration and the impact of understanding the needs of a community from their perspective. The gala attendees were invited to visualize life in Malawi through stories of resilience, a glimpse into daily life, and the vibrant culture of the "Warm Heart of Africa."

A Message of Hope and Gratitude

The evening concluded with a closing video introducing the dedicated team members in Malawi, including the Country Director, Charles, who recently accepted an award on behalf of Emmanuel International Malawi at the President of Malawi's Gala Dinner. Joella and Ben expressed their gratitude to all in attendance for their unwavering support, emphasizing how every bit of contribution and encouragement helps change lives.

Ben concluded with a heartfelt message: "We want to again thank you all for taking the time to be here tonight and show your support for not just these projects, but the many missionaries and various initiatives around the world. Every bit of support is helping change lives for now and eternity."

*Article by Kirsty Nowell,
EIC Public
Engagement Director*



We placed an overview of the *Titukule Azimai* project in our July 2024 issue of *Down to Earth*. You can read it on our website on <https://www.eiuk.org.uk/jul24-d2e/> or scan the QR code.



Vincent Gidudu's fundraiser

Vincent joined the EI Uganda team in Gulu as a Missions Mobilizer this year. He is raising his own support - for himself, his wife Sylvia



and son Makarios. He launched **Pedals for the Nations**, a fundraising campaign where he is pedalling from Gulu to Kampala - 607 km! - with stopovers in major cities where he hopes to have some missions awareness engagements. His objective is to raise all the funds he needs for 2025, approx £3,250 (15.5 million UG shillings). This will enable him to continue engaging with churches and believers to take up their unique Great Commission roles. Get involved: Pray, Donate, Share updates on social media (#PedalsFortheNations).

Give directly to EIUK's bank: CAF Bank Ltd Sort code: 40-52-40 Account no: 00033722 Earmark your gift "Vincent"

EIUK Annual Membership 2024-2025

Please become a member of Emmanuel International UK, or renew your membership. Please download a form from our website on www.eiuk.org.uk or contact us for a printed copy.

Dates for your diary

EIUK Conference and AGM:

Saturday 1 March 2025 at St John's Church Southbourne



2024 Christmas Catalogue

Would you consider giving an alternative gift for family or friends this Christmas?

Make a donation to one of the great causes in our Christmas catalogue, in their name.

This Christmas, let us give with faith **together!**

Our 2024 Christmas catalogue is now available! Have a look at how your Christmas gift could become a changed life!

You can mail in your order, email us (and we'll talk you through payment options) or you can order online on our website www.eiuk.org.uk/christmas-2024 or scan the QR code on your smartphone.



Enthuse is our secure payment platform but they charge a fee for this service. If we receive the funds directly into our bank account, we receive the full amount.

If you don't have access to the internet but would like to give a gift, we would be more than happy to talk to you about it.