

May 2009

# EMAS sary

An EMAS CANADA publication

## Message from... the EMAS Chair



Dr. Hendrik Visser,  
Chairman of the EMAS Board

While the **face of EMAS** is changing to widen our reach, **our mission and core values have not**. In fact, we have strengthened them to reflect the passion and vision of our founders and what we believe Christ's heart is for this ministry—*“to heal, teach, and serve those in need in a Christlike manner.”*

Making disciples is our highest priority and we do so by offering medical excellence, healing, and teaching those in greatest need around the globe.

To help us achieve our mission, I am pleased to announce the appointment of *Michael Wills* as our *Executive Director*. We have seen his giftedness and passion as *Director of Development* during this past year, and we, as a Board, are grateful that he has accepted the challenge to enlarge his role to ED. He brings with him a wealth of leadership experience and fresh ideas to help us impact our world for Christ. This position increases his time commitment to EMAS to four days per week, giving us the hands-on leadership needed to forge ahead.

It is my sincere prayer that we all, in EMAS leadership, are maturing to

Christlikeness so that we can truly lead effectively. May we, *“who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, [be] transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit” (2 Cor. 3:18)*. This verse will be our spiritual focus at our upcoming Board retreat in Prince Edward Island, in June.

Thank you for your continued prayer and financial support. The needs are great around the world and God is leading us into new areas. As we stand together as Christlike believers, we can make a difference.

Hendrik Visser, M.D.  
Chairman of the Board

## The face of EMAS is changing...



### The New Face of EMAS.

Along with our name change, the **“look” of EMAS** will also change. Watch for our new website and re-design of **EMASsary** in the coming months.

The **Board of EMAS**, previously known as **EMAS Evangelical Medical Aid Society**, has approved a name change to **EMAS CANADA**.

Much thought and prayer has gone into this decision. We feel that our new name is much simpler and more in keeping with the times; and our new tagline—**Education, Medical Aid & Service**—better reflects the **EMAS** mandate for the 21st century.

Keep an eye out for...

# Improving

## Haiti

### Carrying on... following tragedy



*Pasteur St. Hilaire & Pierre Plourde*

In our August issue, we reported on the work of Dr. Pierre Plourde with the El-Shaddai Church community in Bon Repos, a district on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince. Pierre has worked with Pasteur St. Hilaire, of the local church, since 1982 and has been inspired by his leadership and selflessness. Tragically, St. Hilaire was murdered in the course of a break-in at his house, just before Christmas. He leaves a wife, a son and a grief-stricken community.

An EMAS Team was scheduled to visit the El-Shaddai community in February and, after much prayer and consultation with our Haitian friends, every single one of the team members assured

Pierre that they were committed to the trip, regardless of security concerns. The team travelled to Bon Repos on January 31 for a week-long visit. 360 patients were seen by the Canadian doctors and our Haitian counterparts, and 40 patients by the team dentist, Dr. Ken Siemens and a Haitian dentist.

787 prescriptions were filled and the local staff was given training. Rachelle Briere, a nurse from Winnipeg, also provided training in infection control and nursing diagnosis to all four years of students at a

nursing school. The team was also able to attend the feeding program and review the progress on the construction of the El-Shaddai Community Health Centre, both supported by EMAS. The foundations of the Centre are already about 50% complete.



*Dr. Larry Reynolds at the El-Shaddai Feeding Centre  
Bon Repos, Haiti*

### ***Reaping God's Blessing!***

Here's an opportunity for you to reap of God's bountiful blessings by sowing into the Kingdom. Please prayerfully consider supporting the work of EMAS and its vision:

***Healing Today... Teaching for Tomorrow, and for Eternity.***

For your convenience, we have enclosed a response card, which you can fill and mail to our National Office. ***We thank you in advance for your faithfulness.***

*The new leadership of the Church is forging ahead with all of St. Hilaire's initiatives and trusting that we will continue to work with them.*

# community health

## Growing in the Spirit

The work of EMAS teams is always focused on serving patients and we sometimes forget the importance of spiritual growth, amongst team members and our hosts, as well as patients. Each team addresses these needs in different ways.

The China South Dental Team, under the leadership of Walter Woo, has returned from an eight-day visit to Yunan Province. Dental problems are rampant in this region and most people never see a dentist. The team visited elementary schools, providing treatment, teaching oral hygiene and handing out toothbrushes. The children don't brush their teeth and virtually all of them had cavities.

The team gathered for devotions for half an hour, each morning at 7 a.m. Sometimes the devotions were times of sharing and encouragement, sometimes short Bible lessons. One day, a team member shared her battle with illness and how her faith has helped her, knowing that her Heavenly Father will strengthen her, no matter what happens. Another member talked about how he first came to Christ on his very first EMAS trip to China. Another talked about our struggle to listen to the Holy Spirit and suppress our own sense of self.

The team also found ways to share their faith with patients. For example, they wrote on the blackboard of the treatment room in Chinese: "Love your neighbour as yourself" and conversations



*Teaching the children to brush in China South*

with patients presented opportunities for members to explain why they had come and what motivates their work.

Paul speaks in Romans 1:12 about the joy of being "mutually encouraged by each other's faith," a joy that many EMAS team members experience.



For details on these gifts, see [www.emascanada.org/giftsofhope](http://www.emascanada.org/giftsofhope).

By mail—Use the enclosed card to select your gift. Check the box to request a giftcard. Include your father's name and address and we will send the giftcard directly to him, or leave blank and we will send it to your address. Send completed card to *EMAS Canada*.

On-line—Visit our website at: [www.emascanada.org/giftsofhope](http://www.emascanada.org/giftsofhope). Click "Donate Now" and select your gift from the "Fund/Designation" drop-down menu. Continue filling out the requested information.

**On Father's Day,  
Give a Gift  
that will truly  
Make a  
Difference.**

A "Gift of Hope" will significantly impact someone's life.

A "Gift of Hope" can change a life and last a lifetime.

# Step by step... a Project's Journey

## Please join me on a Ugandan journey...

EMAS is at the very beginning of what could become a project in Uganda. I do not know if the project will be successful, or if donors will want to support it, or if we will be able to recruit doctors for it. I do not know if we will be able to help people find their way to the Lord in the process. But I will provide a brief update, on events as they happen, in each issue of EMASsary. There won't be any spin—I will share the good news along with the bad; and in the process, you will see how EMAS plans and executes projects. So here is the first episode of our *Journey in Uganda*:

In November 2008, a small NGO called RAMBIA, located in a community near Fort Portal, in the far west of Uganda, asked EMAS to send them doctors. Before inviting doctors to go to any location, EMAS assesses the needs and the situation to make sure it is secure and that a certain minimum amount of support is in place. After a four-hour bus ride from Kampala, a short taxi ride and then almost an hour on a motorbike slip-sliding up a muddy trail towards the foothills of the Rwenzori

Mountains, I met the leaders of RAMBIA. They explained that they had built a small dispensary, using money from bee-keeping, brick-making and rearing goats. They pay a pittance to a nurse and a clinical officer to run the dispensary. They manage periodically to buy some medications and treat patients. They are building a very basic maternity ward but have no funds left for completion. They have a part-time, volunteer midwife but no equipment. They have no ability to deal with difficult births. There is no electricity and no running water. The nearest hospital is over an hour away and the cost of getting there is prohibitive. In the rainy season, the trail is impassable. So not surprisingly, infant mortality is a high 15%. Life expectancy is 43 years. The proportion of households with access to safe drinking water is 7%, and less than 1% of the population has access to electricity.

I contacted a Belgian doctor that has been visiting the community annually. He spoke well of them and has found the NGO and its leaders to be honest and trustworthy. On his last visit, he

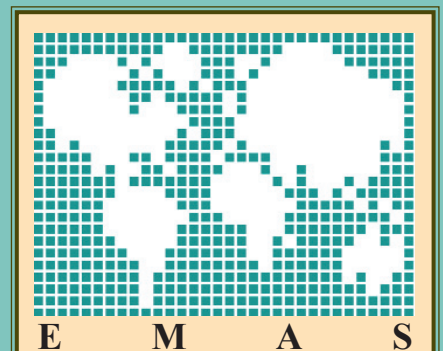
worked for 14 hours continuously, seeing over 130 patients.

My next steps are: 1- to seek our Board's approval for this as a project, 2- to find out what RAMBIA's priorities are, 3- to put in place an agreement with RAMBIA, 4- to invite doctors and others to support the clinic, 5- to pray for donors who might support the completion and equipping of the new maternity ward.

If you have contacts in the area, Ugandan experience, or would like to support or be involved in this work, please let me know.

I'll keep you posted...

*Michael Wills*  
Executive Director  
[mwills@emascanada.org](mailto:mwills@emascanada.org)



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# Improving community health



## Message from... *the Executive Director*

I was very honoured by the Board's invitation to take on the role of *EMAS' Executive Director*; but as I reflected on it, I felt rather like Mica's young Levite might have felt when he was asked by the warriors sent by the Danites: "*Who brought you here? What are you doing in this place? Why are you here?*"

Well, I know it was our Lord who brought me here, after a long and circuitous journey that started when I came to Canada in 1969. I became a chartered accountant and was invited, by a fellow-member of Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, Dr. Bob Stephens, to join him and Dr. David Neima on a trip to Nyankunde in the Democratic Republic of Congo (then Zaire). This got me started working in developing countries and launched me on another leg of my journey—that of a newly committed Christian. **So yes, I know who brought me here.**

*What am I doing in this place?* As a non-medical person, I wondered if I could make a useful contribution to an organization that is all about healing. I asked the Board if they were sure they wanted someone who wasn't a doctor in this position. They were adamant, apparently confident that my experience as a consultant in developing countries could benefit EMAS.

In preparation for my visit with the Haiti team, I read Tracy Kidder's *Mountains Beyond Mountains*—the story of Paul Farmer and his work in Haiti, Peru, Cuba and Russia. This is a

hugely inspiring book, and one story from it in particular has stayed with me. A woman had died of tuberculosis while Paul was away. On his return, his staff told him that she wouldn't have died if he had been there. It was meant as a compliment; but he felt reproached by it, because he wanted a medical system that functioned in his absence.

I hope and pray that, in my time with EMAS, I can increase our support to our faithful and hard-working Team Leaders, and invite new ones to work with us. There may be more situations, like Haiti, where we can contribute to medical and support systems that function even when we are not there. I have seen the pictures of the amazing work our China teams do—healing children with cleft palates, burns and tumours. *So yes, I know why I am here;* and as I embark on this new journey, I hope I can count on your prayers, your support and your ideas for making EMAS an ever-improving instrument of Christ the Healer, who inspires us all.

*Michael J. Wills  
Executive Director*

## On-line Newsletter

*EMASsary* is now available delivered right to your e-mail in-box. If you would like to be added to our e-mail mailing list, please sign up at:

[www.emascanada.org/emassary](http://www.emascanada.org/emassary)

or check the appropriate box on the enclosed card; print your e-mail address clearly and mail to the EMAS National Office.

Thank you for helping EMAS save on costs.

Given the location, the two above opportunities could be filled by one or two persons, with appropriate experience. If at all interested, please contact Michael Wills at [mwills@emascanada.org](mailto:mwills@emascanada.org), for additional information.

### Armenia

- A dentist is needed to provide occasional leadership to a dental clinic, in Yerevan, which treats poor people referred by local churches. Armenian language skills preferred.

## Opportunities for Missions Service

*We invite you to consider  
the following opportunities:*

### East Africa

- A doctor with African experience is needed to teach a general medical/health course, in Mombasa, Kenya, to staff of Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM) and their partners in Kenya, Angola and Rwanda—July 13-15. (CBM will reimburse expenses);
- A doctor with African experience is needed to treat patients and be part of a team to prepare an assessment of the healthcare needs of a poor rural community in Western Uganda. (See *Step by Step* article.)

# EMAS Missions Teams

## 2009—2010



*EMAS Lifeline Malawi Team*

*EMAS sponsors medical, surgical and dental missions teams, to work in specific locations overseas. New members are always welcome to join these teams. Those approved are sponsored by EMAS. They are expected to make arrangements for donations to cover the expenses incurred on their behalf. For more information, visit our website at: [www.emascanada.org/MissionTrips](http://www.emascanada.org/MissionTrips)*

### 2009

**Jun. 27–Jul. 12: Siberia**  
Humanitarian, non-medical trip.

Sign up by April 1st.  
Contact: Dr. Bill Etkorn  
[billetzkorn@rogers.com](mailto:billetzkorn@rogers.com)

**Aug. 6–17: China West**  
Ningxia medical/dental team.  
Contact: Dr. Ian Ma  
[themas@telus.net](mailto:themas@telus.net)

**Aug. 6–22: China West**  
Ningxia and Qinghai trip.  
Contact: Dr. Ian Ma  
[themas@telus.net](mailto:themas@telus.net)

**Aug. 12–22: China West**  
Ningxia and Qinghai trip.  
Contact: Dr. Ian Ma  
[themas@telus.net](mailto:themas@telus.net)

**Sep. 5–20: Russia and Siberia**  
Medical expedition  
Sign up by July 1, 2009  
Contact: Dr. Bill Etkorn  
[billetzkorn@rogers.com](mailto:billetzkorn@rogers.com)

**Oct. 15–25: China East**  
Dalian team; rural work  
in Dalijia Hospital.  
Contact: Justina Chan  
[ernestjustina@yahoo.com](mailto:ernestjustina@yahoo.com)

**Oct. 16–31: China East**  
Suzhou and Xiamen regions.  
Main teaching team needs  
paediatricians, sub-specialists

and paediatric nurses.  
Contact: Justina Chan  
[ernestjustina@yahoo.com](mailto:ernestjustina@yahoo.com)

**Oct. 24–Nov. 8: Vietnam**  
Medical/dental team.  
Contact: Dr. David Neima  
[dneima@hotmail.com](mailto:dneima@hotmail.com)  
In Canada, contact:  
Fr. Tien Tran  
[frtran@hotmail.com](mailto:frtran@hotmail.com)

In USA, contact:  
Mr. PaulDinh Nguyen  
[pauldinh@ymail.com](mailto:pauldinh@ymail.com)

**Oct. 30–Nov. 10: China Guangdong**  
Southern region (dates tentative).  
Medical, surgical and dental team.  
Contact: Dr. Winston Chow  
[wschow@hotmail.com](mailto:wschow@hotmail.com)

**Nov. 8–19: China South**  
Surgical team (dates tentative).  
Contact: Dr. Lawrence Lau  
[drlawrencelau@yahoo.ca](mailto:drlawrencelau@yahoo.ca)

**Nov. 16–27: China South**  
Post-op team (dates tentative).  
Contact: Dr. Lawrence Lau  
[drlawrencelau@yahoo.ca](mailto:drlawrencelau@yahoo.ca)

**Russia**  
(Dates pending.)  
Two-week Moscow medical program.  
Contact: Dr. Bill Etkorn  
[billetzkorn@rogers.com](mailto:billetzkorn@rogers.com)

### 2010

**Ecuador**  
(Dates pending.)  
Orthopaedic surgery.  
Contact: Dr. Tom Greidanus  
[tjgreidanus@shaw.ca](mailto:tjgreidanus@shaw.ca)

**Haiti**  
(Dates pending.)  
Medical/dental team.  
Contact: Dr. Pierre Plourde  
[pplourde@wrha.mb.ca](mailto:pplourde@wrha.mb.ca)

Your donations make it possible for us to  
"Heal, teach and serve those in need."

Please, send a cheque to the EMAS office using  
the enclosed response-card, or donate on-line at:  
[www.emascanada.org/online donations](http://www.emascanada.org/online donations).

May God bless you richly for your faithfulness!