

# EMASsary

An EMAS CANADA publication

November 2009



## News from...the EMAS Board

### Mark your Calendars for the "Take My Healing to the Nations" Conference.

One of the exciting ventures that we are working on at EMAS CANADA is an interdisciplinary healthcare conference in Toronto, **October 28 & 29, 2011**.

Under the theme *Take My Healing to the Nations*, healthcare workers and students, from medicine, dentistry, nursing and the allied disciplines, will be challenged to advance biblical Christ-centred healthcare in Canada and abroad.

Plenary and workshop speakers will promote a Christian holistic approach to healthcare that addresses emotional, social and spiritual needs, as well as the physical. We will examine all the known

determinants of health and challenge health practitioners to *integrate their Christian faith into their practices, and to think globally*. Church leaders will be encouraged to think outside the box for ways the local church can be more effective as a healing community. We are planning inspiring worship and stories for the opening and closing rallies.

We have allowed two years to plan this conference well, and to get the absolute best speakers in the field of missions, international health, and biblical healthcare. We are also ensuring that the conference venue has adequate space for exhibitors.

We will keep you updated as planning progresses, through EMASsary and our website. If you, your ministry, or professional association would like to be placed on our mailing list, or would like space as an exhibitor, please call or e-mail the EMAS CANADA office.

### Disaster Relief

EMAS is now preparing to respond to medical disasters and displaced people emergencies. We have partnered with *Medical Teams International* ([www.medicalteams.org](http://www.medicalteams.org)). They are headquartered in Portland, Oregon and are experienced in relief work. If you are a doctor or a nurse with international experience, and are available on short notice for a volunteer term, please contact our office, if you have not already done so. *We will also be accepting donations for relief work.*

### Thanks for your Support.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I want to thank all of our faithful supporters for your gifts and prayers. As you continue to sow into this ministry, our ability to serve the poor and suffering will increase. Our "Gifts of Hope" campaign this Christmas is one of the ways you can make a difference.

Hendrik Visser, M.D.  
Board Chair

## Give a Truly Meaningful Gift! Give a "Gift of Hope."

The Christmas season is a time of giving and sharing. Please remember the less fortunate at this time of year. Give a gift that will truly make a difference in someone's life. Give **a gift of healing, a gift of life's most basic necessities**. A "Gift of Hope" can change a life and last a lifetime. See the gift-giving opportunities in this issue of EMASsary. Please prayerfully consider making a significant difference in someone's life.

### Give on Someone's Behalf.

Honour someone dear to you with a meaningful gift. If you would like to give a gift on behalf of someone else this Christmas, please request a **Gift Card** when ordering your gift.

*May God bless you richly for your generosity.*

*These gifts are tax-deductible donations, and can also be purchased on-line at:*  
[www.emascanada.org/giftsofhope.htm](http://www.emascanada.org/giftsofhope.htm)



# EMAS

## Providing Real Solutions in...

### Vietnam

The Vietnam team serves in several provinces, treating thousands of patients, setting up medical clinics, performing eye surgeries, dental care, dispensing medications, eye glasses, food and clothes.

The team has sponsored more than 500 heart surgeries for children and there is still a long waiting list. They support a doctor at a charity clinic. They also gave grants to four people to undergo chiropractic training and funded their chiropractic clinic in Battambang, Cambodia.



Treating patients in Vietnam

*Thanks to all team members and benefactors who make these trips successful.*

Dr. David Neima, [dneima@hotmail.com](mailto:dneima@hotmail.com)

In Canada—Fr. Tien Tran, [frtran@hotmail.com](mailto:frtran@hotmail.com)

In US—PaulDinh Nguyen, [pauldinh@ymail.com](mailto:pauldinh@ymail.com)

### Russia

EMAS assists a Christian medical missions organization called Agape as they go to “the ends of the earth” to share God’s love.




Handing villager health kit and eyeglasses, in Siberia.

They provide primary medical and dental care to the needy in very remote areas of Russia. Medical professionals are needed on these mission teams.

Dr. Bill Etkorn

[billetzkorn@rogers.com](mailto:billetzkorn@rogers.com)



**A gift of \$25 buys a Health Kit** containing often needed medications for a family in a remote region.  
**A gift of \$250 buys 10 Health Kits.** (Each Health Kit also contains a copy of the New Testament.)

### Kenya

EMAS is working to improve the quality of care and delivery systems in Kenya, in collaboration with Canadian Baptist Ministries.



Dr. Paul Zeni in Kenya

The EMAS team will be teaching community health to pastors in partnership with local health professionals. Pastors are known and respected by their congregation and can provide community health education and early diagnosis of certain health issues, during visits.

We also assist dispensaries, located in a very poor,



**A gift of \$200 funds a 3-day residential course** in community health for **one pastor**.  
**A gift of \$600 covers course fees for 3 pastors.**

drought-stricken area, run by two large independent church organizations.

Dr. Paul & Debbie Zeni  
[paulzeni@sympatico.ca](mailto:paulzeni@sympatico.ca)

### Congo

There are opportunities for short-term teaching trips. Professors and doctors are asking for our help to graduate competent doctors. The project also promotes student sponsorship and is involved in raising funds to support the UCKIN Christian medical school faculty.

Murray Nickel  
[murray\\_nickel@yahoo.ca](mailto:murray_nickel@yahoo.ca)

# Malawi

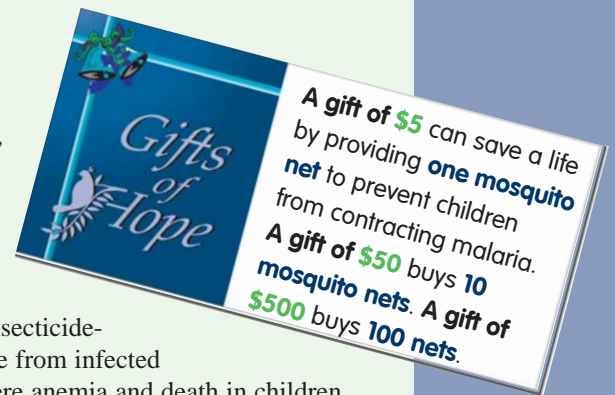


Handing out mosquito nets.

## Lifeline Malawi Project

In collaboration with Lifeline Malawi, the EMAS team provides hands-on medical care in village clinics, assists with training of local medical personnel, and provides spiritual support. Malaria is rampant in this region and the team also distributes insecticide-treated mosquito nets to protect people from infected mosquitoes. Malaria often causes severe anemia and death in children.

Dr. Hendrik Visser  
[havisser@wholenessfc.com](mailto:havisser@wholenessfc.com)



Dr. Bob Henderson  
Outreach clinic, Malawi

## Bangula Project

In Malawi, nearly 1 million children are orphaned or homeless. The EMAS team monitors the health of the children at the Bangula mission site of Iris Ministries, home to 54 otherwise homeless children. They assist at local clinics and have left much appreciated supplies and equipment. At the mission's Bible School, they also teach village pastors disease prevention so that this information will be disseminated in the villages. Funding is needed for equipment and training in local clinics and in hospitals in the Bangula health district. In 2010, EMAS hopes to work alongside doctors from Malawi CMDF in Bangula.

Dr. Bob Henderson  
[drbob@nonieandpapa.ca](mailto:drbob@nonieandpapa.ca)

# Indonesia

There are under-served areas in Indonesia where the absence of roads denies people access to even the most basic services such as health clinics and education beyond elementary school. EMAS teams are working to develop a relationship with the medical and dental faculties at the University of Jakarta to bring assistance.

Dr. Tim Tam  
[motaitam@hotmail.com](mailto:motaitam@hotmail.com)

# Student Electives



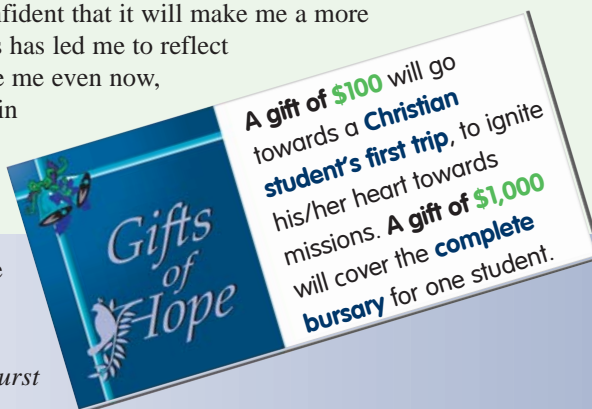
Street doctors in Guangdong

EMAS sponsors mission trips for Christian medical and dental students, to help them find their calling. You can contribute by donating to the **Student Mission Fund**. Imagine the number of lives that could be touched for God through a young missionary.

## Note from a Student

“My four weeks in Kenya were challenging and enlightening. I've gained knowledge that I would not have learned here. I am confident that it will make me a more *complete* physician. All this has led me to reflect upon how God wants to use me even now, during my time of training in Canada. I am assured that wherever God has placed me, whether in Kenya or in Canada, there are many people around me with a huge void in their lives that only He can fill.”

Matthew Billingham



## Reaping God's Blessings!

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

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

For your convenience, we have enclosed a response card, which you can fill out and mail to our office, or donate on-line at:

[www.emascanada.org/donations.htm](http://www.emascanada.org/donations.htm)

**We thank you in advance  
for your faithfulness.**

# EMAS Impacting Lives in...

## China East



*Sharing medical knowledge in Dalian*

In rural areas along the east coast and the north-east region, the China East Team visits hospitals, clinics and old-age homes. They conduct free clinics for the villagers and donate medicines. Much help is needed with hospital facilities, equipment and skills upgrading. The team shares medical and dental knowledge and provides funding to improve the quality of care.

The team also does skills upgrading in psychiatry and pediatrics, in urban centres, namely specialty and sub-specialty teaching directed to all medical personnel—doctors, nurses and social workers. Funding is needed to cover costs related to facilities, and student travel and accommodations.

Justina Chan

[ernestjustina@yahoo.com](mailto:ernestjustina@yahoo.com)

## On-line Newsletter

### EMASsary...is available

delivered to your e-mail in-box. To be added to our e-mail mailing list, please sign up at:

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

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

**Thank you** for helping **EMAS CANADA save on costs.**



## China South

### Yunnan Project

We have a number of teams in this region, including surgery, dental, medical, psychiatry and ophthalmology teams. We conduct clinics in remote villages and at the local hospital. We treat patients and teach medical students.

The dental team visits elementary schools, treating children and teaching them oral hygiene, as most people never see a dentist, in this region. Dental problems are widespread.

Funds are still needed for the medical and community psychiatric care teams and also for cataract surgeries.

*Caring for needy people changes our lives, as well as theirs.*



*Treating children.*

Walter Woo

[wscw77@yahoo.ca](mailto:wscw77@yahoo.ca)

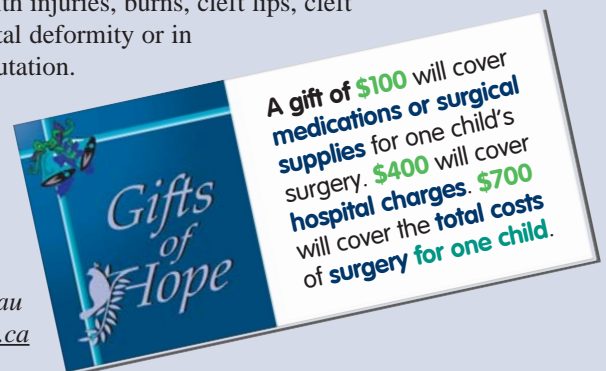
### Kunming Project

Corrective surgery can change someone's life. The team operates on many children with injuries, burns, cleft lips, cleft palate, a congenital deformity or in need of a traumatic amputation.

Funds are needed for hospital charges, equipment, medication, hospital food, the rehab program and the local prosthesis factory.

Dr. Lawrence Lau

[drlawrencelau@yahoo.ca](mailto:drlawrencelau@yahoo.ca)



*Before surgeries*



*After surgeries*



# EMAS Celebrating 20 years in Ningxia

The year 2010 marks the 20th anniversary of the first EMAS China West medical mission to Ningxia, which started with three team members. Today the teams consist of close to 50 members.

The Ningxia officials have acknowledged that it is because of the love of God and the kindness of Christians, that all this medical aid to Ningxia has been possible.

We have indeed "...declared His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all people." (Ps. 96:3)

## China West



China West medical/dental team

### Ningxia, Shaanxi, Gansu and Qinghai Projects

These are the poorest provinces in Western China. Most people in the mountainous regions live in extreme poverty and are in desperate need of medical aid. Since 1991, Dr. Ian Ma has been leading medical teams in this remote region, providing medications, medical and dental supplies, teaching and training local healthcare workers, treating patients and improving the overall health of these people. Over the past 19 plus years, they have also established nine "Living (drinking) Water" projects and 14 EMAS hospitals in this region. At the moment, there are two more EMAS hospitals under construction, one in Gansu and another in Ningxia. There are close to 400 team members who have participated in these EMAS China West Missions.

*We have seen many lives changed, not only among the Chinese people, but also among our team members.*

### Living Water Project

This area has a critical water shortage. It is like "The third world of the third world." EMAS has been helping bring water to this region. We've helped reduce water-born infections by providing new reservoirs, cisterns and water pipes (nine water projects in total), bringing spring water to village households. Monuments have been publicly displayed, proclaiming "Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst" and "God loves everyone."

Dr. Ian Ma  
[themas@telus.net](mailto:themas@telus.net)

A small team of 10–12 medical/dental professionals serves factory workers and villagers in the southern part of the province. Healthcare benefits are not available to factory workers and villagers. We try to meet their needs, both physically and spiritually. The team also participates in the Family Practice Residents' Training Program at our Christian partner clinic.

*Training Physicians of Faith is essential for generations to come.*

Dr. Winston Chow  
[wschow@hotmail.com](mailto:wschow@hotmail.com)

Dr. Claypole Li  
[mshcli@hotmail.com](mailto:mshcli@hotmail.com)



## Guangdong



Visiting poor area in Guangdong.

# EMAS Providing Real Solutions in...

## Ecuador



Dr. Tom Greidanus with patient, following hip replacement surgery.

**W**e perform numerous orthopaedic surgeries in Ecuador and also do follow-ups with patients we operated on the previous year. It's gratifying to see how their lives are completely changed with the increased mobility. The most common surgeries are hip and knee replacements and club feet, often on children.

Our dentists and their assistants provide care to poor children in rural schools while we teach at the local medical school. We also donated equipment, so the dentists can assist the poor in Cuenca.

Dr. Tom Greidanus  
[tjgreidanus@shaw.ca](mailto:tjgreidanus@shaw.ca)

### Praying for a miracle

*"For many years I have seen you (the Medical Team) do miracles here, and I have been praying for a miracle for my brother."* These words were spoken to me last February by a local nurse that I became friends with since volunteering with the Medical/Dental Team in Ecuador.

Mercedes was witness to life-changing hip and knee replacement surgeries at Mount Sinai Hospital in Cuenca. She saw how our team enabled people to have surgery and return to productive lives. She prayed that we had something to offer to her brother who had suffered a spinal cord injury. With the help of our physiotherapist, her brother was given leg braces, exercises and medications. They were very grateful and, like all of the patients over the years, they felt their prayers had been answered. The average cost of a hip or knee prosthesis is \$2,000. The average salary is less than \$200 a month. The generosity of EMAS supporters enables this project to continue.

Catherine Turn, R.N., Operation Esperanza

## Philippines

### Project Mabuhay

**O**n our last trip, the majority of the work was in Ilo Ilo, at the Western Visayan hospital, where we treated patients, did surgeries, teaching, and donated drugs, supplies and equipment. Part of the team travelled to Caticlan and Batangas. Areas treated included audiology, ocular, ENT, head and neck. This mission was an ambitious undertaking and was successful in caring for over 1,700 patients. Our thanks go to Dr. Fermin and his hospital team for their support.

Dr. Hugh Parsons  
[hughp@direct.ca](mailto:hughp@direct.ca)

## Cuba



Medical Mission to Cuba.

**W**e speak at conferences, such as the Cuban Christian Healthcare Conference, sharing psychiatric and palliative care developments. We also serve in a number of communities.

Dr. Marcelo Garcia  
[garciapowell@shaw.ca](mailto:garciapowell@shaw.ca)

## Haiti

**I**n 2005, the El-Shaddai Primary School was established and now functions parallel to the feeding centre. As of September 2009, enrollment is approx. 130 students, all cramped into a church basement and the adjacent house being rented. Nine teachers and three assistants are now managing the school. They are entirely funded by donor support, seeing as these poor families do not have funds to pay for school fees, books, uniforms, etc. There is no water at the school and an old pit latrine is being used. The El-Shaddai church community is currently drilling a borehole and constructing the infrastructure to provide safe drinking water for the school at a cost of \$15,000. Donor support is needed to fund this project.



El-Shaddai primary school and feeding centre.

*Gifts of Hope*

A gift of \$20 or more will support the water project. A gift of \$100 will buy school supplies for one month. A gift of \$400 will maintain a classroom of 20 for one month (including salaries).

Dr. Pierre J. Plourde  
[pplourde@wrha.mb.ca](mailto:pplourde@wrha.mb.ca)

# Step by step...

## a Project's Journey



Maternity ward under construction,  
at the Rambia Health Centre, near Fort Portal.

### Our Ugandan journey continues...

In our May issue of *EMASsary*, I talked about an invitation we had received from a small NGO called Rambia, located near Fort Portal in western Uganda. I promised to keep you informed and let you know if we were going to be able to support them.

At that time, all we had was an invitation from Rambia to send a team to their Health Centre. We had no project, no medical team and no funds. Since then, wonderful things have happened! First, the EMAS Board approved the project and we drafted an agreement with Rambia, to comply with the Canada Revenue Agency's requirements for remitting receipted donations abroad. Then a team volunteered including physicians, a public health nurse, a water and sanitation engineer, and (conflict of interest alert) my wife!



Ugandan children

At the last minute **EMAS CANADA** received a bequest which provided sufficient funds for me to go, before the team, to ensure that accommodation, local travel and all necessary arrangements were in place to support the team; and Health Partners International agreed to provide medications to supplement what we could buy locally.

Working with the Rambia staff, the EMAS team saw over 500 patients in two busy weeks. We visited a local school and gave vitamins and deworming pills to several hundred students. We taught community health workers, and looked into ways of supplying water, electricity and improved sanitation to the Health Centre and neighbouring community. We are also investigating the possibility of manufacturing anti-malaria bed nets locally, in a joint-venture with Rotary. Our full report of the mission, including plans for working with Rambia on improving the health of the local community and information on the funds required, will be posted on our website shortly.

Since our return, we have been blessed with several donations which we remitted immediately to Rambia. The money is to be used to install urgently needed windows for a partially completed maternity ward at the Health Centre. The ward is already in use, but it is the rainy season and the wind is blowing rain onto the

patients. Having seen the need—particularly the high incidence of disease and the lack of good facilities—we are even more committed to working with Rambia and its community on a range of health-related issues. I'm overwhelmed by how our Lord has inspired people to respond and has



enabled us to have come this far in a short time. We are seeking donors and additional team members and, with Rambia, we have big plans for 2010.

**I'll keep you posted...**

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



Dr. Paul Zeni treating baby.

**Your donations** make these projects possible, **Providing Real Solutions** for those who are suffering in our world. To donate, please send a cheque to the **EMAS CANADA** office, or donate on-line at:  
[www.emascanada.org/donations.htm](http://www.emascanada.org/donations.htm)  
**May God bless you richly for your faithfulness!**

# 2009-2010 EMAS Missions Teams



EMAS Teams work together.

EMAS sponsors medical 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 raise funds equal to the expenses incurred on their behalf. For more information, visit our website at: [www.emascanada.org/missiontrips.htm](http://www.emascanada.org/missiontrips.htm)

## 2009

**Nov. 4-15: China Guangdong**  
Southern region. Medical, surgical and dental team.  
Contact: Dr. Winston Chow  
[wswchow@hotmail.com](mailto:wswchow@hotmail.com)

**Nov. 8-19: China South**  
Surgical team mission trip.  
Contact: Dr. Lawrence Lau  
[drlawrencelau@yahoo.ca](mailto:drlawrencelau@yahoo.ca)

**Nov. 15-28: China South**  
Post-op team mission trip.  
Contact: Dr. Lawrence Lau  
[drlawrencelau@yahoo.ca](mailto:drlawrencelau@yahoo.ca)

## 2010

**Jan. 14-30: Ecuador**  
Cuenca, orthopaedic surgery.  
Contact: Dr. Tom Greidanus  
[tjgreidanus@shaw.ca](mailto:tjgreidanus@shaw.ca)

**Feb. 6-14: Haiti**  
Medical/dental team.  
Contact: Dr. Pierre Plourde  
[pplourde@wrha.mb.ca](mailto:pplourde@wrha.mb.ca)

**Mar. 27-Apr. 11: Russia**  
Medical Expedition.

Contact: Dr. Bill Etkorn  
[billetzkorn@rogers.com](mailto:billetzkorn@rogers.com)

**May 20-Jun. 2: China West**  
Ningxia medical mission trip.  
Contact: Dr. Ian Ma  
[themas@telus.net](mailto:themas@telus.net)

**May 30-Jun. 10: China South**  
Surgical team mission trip.  
Contact: Dr. Lawrence Lau  
[drlawrencelau@yahoo.ca](mailto:drlawrencelau@yahoo.ca)

**Jun. 2-9: China West**  
Qinghai medical mission trip.  
Contact: Dr. Ian Ma  
[themas@telus.net](mailto:themas@telus.net)

**Jun. 6-19: China South**  
Post-op team mission trip.  
Contact: Dr. Lawrence Lau  
[drlawrencelau@yahoo.ca](mailto:drlawrencelau@yahoo.ca)

**Jul. 4-24: Vietnam**  
(Dates tentative.)  
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:  
PaulDinh Nguyen  
[pauldinh@gmail.com](mailto:pauldinh@gmail.com)

**Aug. 29-Sep. 12: Malawi**  
Team to Lifeline Malawi  
Contact: Hendrik Visser  
[havisser@wholenessfc.com](mailto:havisser@wholenessfc.com)

**Sep. 4-19: Russia**  
Medical Expedition.  
Contact: Dr. Bill Etkorn  
[billetzkorn@rogers.com](mailto:billetzkorn@rogers.com)

**Nov. 3-13: China Guangdong**  
Southern region. Medical, surgical and dental team.  
Contact: Dr. Winston Chow  
[wswchow@hotmail.com](mailto:wswchow@hotmail.com)

*Many thanks to all the team members and donors who make these trips possible.*

### Costa Rica—Team Leader Needed

We are in need of someone to lead the **EMAS Team** in **Costa Rica**, conducting clinics, giving out medications, bringing assistance, and training national colleagues. For more information, visit [www.emascanada.org/costaricareport.htm](http://www.emascanada.org/costaricareport.htm) or contact the **EMAS CANADA** National Office at [info@emascanada.org](mailto:info@emascanada.org).

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