

# EMASSARY

A PUBLICATION OF EMAS CANADA

MAY 2021

## HOPE

For nearly 75 years, our teams of Canadian volunteers have traveled to meet healthcare and education needs all over the world. Thus, building trust with international partners through long-term commitment. We have forged relationships person to person over decades of predictable face-to-face meetings every year.

Lock-downs have cut us off from our partners except where teaching teams have used virtual platforms for communications, but that is a poor substitute for our hands-on and in-person modus operandi.

We have had a year of repeated lock-downs, and travel restrictions because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Now in its third wave, the virus is causing more uncertainty through emerging variants whose lethal potential and virulence are the subjects of research. Endless waiting is wearing down our patience, the uncertainty has been taxing, and the temptation to give up is real. The temporary hold on traveling missions we hoped would last one year is taking two.

Consequences of the pandemic that are reshaping our way of doing things are becoming apparent to the extent that people are asking, "What will EMAS Canada look like after the pandemic?" I do not have an answer.

Some volunteers are leaving and moving on to other areas of service. It is easy to become discouraged. Yet a strength of soul that makes for an unconquerable spirit is possible when hope is built on the infinite power of

the unerring God. An early missionary wrote towards the end of his life "I know the one in whom I have placed my confidence, and I am perfectly certain that the work He has committed to me is safe in His hands" <sup>1</sup>

EMAS Canada has gone through times of turbulence. I felt then as I do now that the good news entrusted to EMAS Canada is insured by God's promises. I speculated then that we might be on the verge of far-reaching changes but that we could "face them confidently knowing that God's deep affection for us is steadfast, and His loyalty to us through the gospel is eternal" <sup>2</sup>

We survived and grew. That was in 2018.

Now we get to repeat the experiment. Knowing this: when we hope in God, He replenishes our capacity for work and gives us strength we do not have for a future we do not know. He has promised.<sup>3</sup>

Therefore, we are developing a strategic framework for our mission during the pandemic.

1. 2 Timothy 1:12 JB Phillips

2. EMASSARY May 2018

3. Isaiah 40:29-31 NIV

Dr. Peter Agwa  
Executive Director.



**The EMAS Canada board is exploring ways to conserve our resources and to provide more support to our teams. All teams found it difficult to raise funds during the pandemic and a few closed 2020 in need of support they could not raise. We appeal to you to donate to overseas ministry support from which the board can freely fund teams that are struggling to keep their programs running.**

**Donate online:**

**[www.emascanada.org/donate](http://www.emascanada.org/donate)**



Photo by David Zawila

# DR CONGO WORK CONTINUES

By Dr. Nancy & Dr. Phillip Wood

The pandemic has not affected Africa as adversely as expected.

Your support of the scholarship recipients is sincerely appreciated. We have made it month by month so far.



Dr. Judith Likosi (above) is now in her 3rd year of 4 in Histopathology in Dakar, Senegal. Her supervising professor is very pleased with her work and asked her to present a paper at a Pathology conference in Kinshasa, Congo in April.

After significant hassles at the airport, she did not get on her flight on April 7th, but was there on April 9th. She left Dr. Sami with the children in Dakar while she travels and gets a new passport.

All the family have had their COVID-19 vaccine.

In Yaounde, Cameroon, Jeanine



continues with the second year of her Masters in Reproductive Health, while Jonathan has been analyzing the results of his water analysis in Bunia in 2020. He

arrived in Bunia March 30th, and was able to give us a thorough update on his work before we left.

He is doing another round of at least 86 samples with analysis in Butembo, 250km south where there has been considerable unrest.



Tim K (above) is dividing his time between his full-time job as Administrative Dean of the ISTM and his research into the elderly of Bunia and their needs.

Great Lakes University in Kisumu Kenya organized a month long seminar for all the doctoral candidates and so Tim is there now for a month of intensive instruction.

**By equipping and training local leaders, we aim to better the lives of the people in DR Congo by giving the healthcare students the best training and experience possible.**

As of April 1st, the college had 930 students in 16 options.

Please, join us as you are able in supporting the international travel and research work of these remarkable students in prayer and finance.

Thank you.

# HOPE IN ACTION

By Melony Teague

In April 2021, the team leaders, board members and staff enjoyed a virtual retreat and AGM. Nothing compares to the joy of meeting together, seeing the faces of those we serve with and encouraging one another, even if it is through a web-cam. The theme for the retreat was Jesus' Teaching on Stewardship, and together we want to give our gifts of service for the benefit of the Kingdom.

EMAS Canada teams have not been able to travel, but teams have been proactive in serving despite the pandemic, even if that service looked a little different.

In 2020, the EMAS Gambade Team gathered and shipped equipment and supplies in preparation for the opening of the Gambade Medical Clinic in the Fall of 2021. By God's grace the team found equipment in Canada that could not easily be found in Northern Haiti and at a price that matched their financial resources.

The Hand in Hand with Haiti team has been working to address the needs of the people who are under added strain because of the pandemic, many have no food and there are few jobs. The team has helped boost a nutrition program in Haiti to feed the people who feel like the world has forgotten them.

An EMAS CANADA team explored Cambodia for the first time in 2018 and they taught in a local university. They chose Cambodia because they wished to focus their efforts on places where the need is the greatest and where their resources could meet those needs. Malnutrition and preventable infectious diseases are still common causes of death in Cambodia. The majority of the population has difficulty assessing or affording healthcare. To address the health care issues

in Cambodia, it is advantageous to train medical students to be better doctors because they speak the language and understand their own culture.

When the pandemic stopped travel, the team moved to providing virtual lectures that were well received by the medical students in Cambodia.

The Cambodia Team shared resources and personnel with other EMAS teams, like the EMAS China South team, who were teaching nursing students online. We anticipate another session of virtual teaching in February 2022 or sooner if other teaching opportunities arise.

Until we are able to travel the Cambodia team needs physicians of all disciplines, dentists, nurses, pharmacist and other allied professionals to form a pool of lecturers to meet the need of medical/Nursing school.

The Myanmar Team continues to monitor the political situation there and hope to serve the people in Myanmar again when they are able to travel to serve the rural people and support their long-term projects with an aim to equipping the local people with sustainable resources and skills.

Partnering with EMAS Canada, the Sisters of Holy Cross plan to improve access to quality education and health with an emphasis on helping vulnerable women and children in Burkina

Faso. With a presence in the region of 40 years and in Burkina Faso since 2004, the Sisters are well placed to understand and respond to the needs of the Burkinabe.

In rural areas, access roads are impassible in the wet seasons and transport is mostly by foot, bicycle, or motorcycle taxi. Maternal mortality ratio is estimated at 320/100,000 live births, approximately 30 times worse than Canada.<sup>1</sup> According to UNICEF (2020) more than half a million children under 5 in Burkina Faso are acutely malnourished.<sup>2</sup>

The priority needs are access to health care for expectant women, young children, and education for young women who aspire to a better future. Our first project is to help provide maternal and child health services at Songdin, a village north of Ouagadougou. Land has been purchased for this purpose and is adequate for development into a rural hospital. The pressing need in 2021 is to raise funds for construction and equipping a general outpatient department with focus on catering to maternal and child health.

Because of travel restrictions, we were unable to travel to Gutu and Karanda, Zimbabwe in 2020 as planned and plans for 2021 are on hold. However, team leaders are working behind the scenes to best plan our way forward as soon as vaccines are available, and travel is restored.

# THANK YOU

FOR STANDING WITH EMAS CANADA AS WE NAVIGATE THROUGH THESE UNPRECEDENTED TIMES.

YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT MAKE THE DIFFERENCE TO THOSE WE SERVE IN TEACHING, HEALING AND SERVING, AND EQUIPPING LOCAL HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS.

OUR TEAMS HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO TRAVEL AND THEREFORE FUNDRAISING EFFORTS OF TEAM MEMBERS HAVE SUFFERED GREATLY

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

HELP US BY CONTRIBUTING TO THE **OVERSEAS MINISTRY SUPPORT FUND.**

Donate online:

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

Our Ecuador team is planning to travel in Jan 2022 to perform life-changing hip and knee surgeries and they plan to include dental services.

In all of this our hope is found in the hands of the One who holds the future.

Thank you for supporting His work. You can do this, as you are able, by giving to the **OVERSEAS MINISTRY SUPPORT FUND.**

1. UNICEF -2020

2. Burkina Faso Maternal Mortality Ratio 2000-2021 | MacroTrends

**Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.**

**Hebrews 11:1**

**SHORT-TERM MEDICAL MISSIONS  
WITH A LONG-TERM PERSPECTIVE**

# NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

## YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

Your contributions and prayers make all the difference. Many receive teaching and support they need because of you.

## THANK YOU!

To donate Online go to:

<http://www.emascanada.org/donate/>

## JOIN OUR PRAYER TEAM

If you would like to receive our monthly **prayer checklist** and join those who pray for EMAS Canada, please contact the office: [office@emascanada.org](mailto:office@emascanada.org)

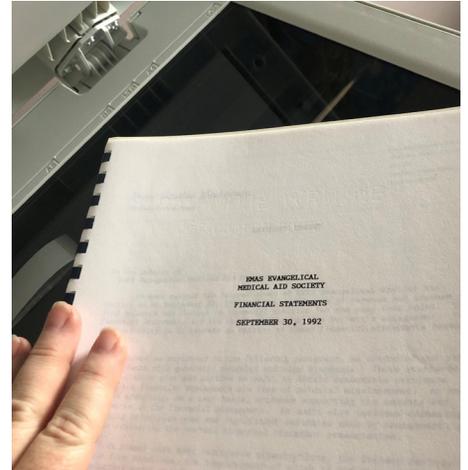


## FROM SANDY'S DESK

I continue to enjoy our virtual office space, the commute is quite manageable. I am excited for the time when teams can travel again but in the meantime, I have been able to catch up on some projects including creating digital copies of all our historical files. It is exciting to read notes from board meetings that occurred while I was still in preschool.

What a blessing to be a part of an organization with such a rich history of dedicated people who sacrificed time and resources to serve those in need in a Christ-like manner. I continue to be blessed to support the same kind of amazing people now.

If I can help you in any way please don't hesitate to contact me via email: [sandy@emascanada.org](mailto:sandy@emascanada.org).



## GIVE THE GIFT OF SERVICE

If you would like to volunteer to serve locally or abroad with EMAS Canada there are several opportunities available.

To volunteer, please connect with Peter Agwa: [peter@emascanada.org](mailto:peter@emascanada.org)

# STAY IN TOUCH



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