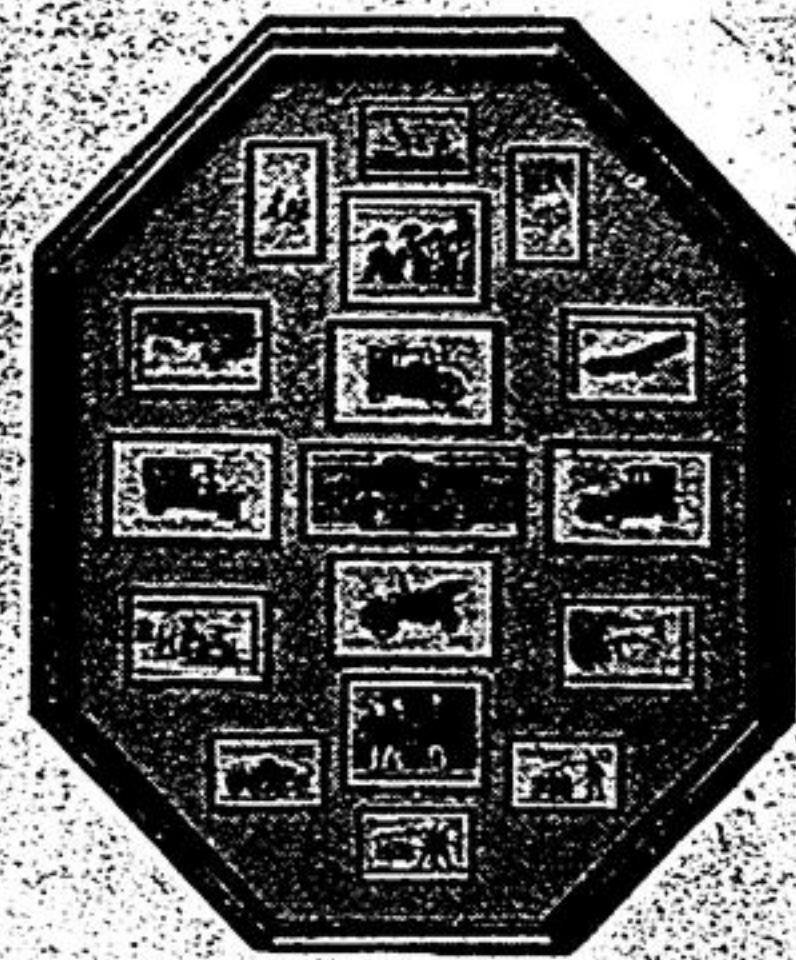


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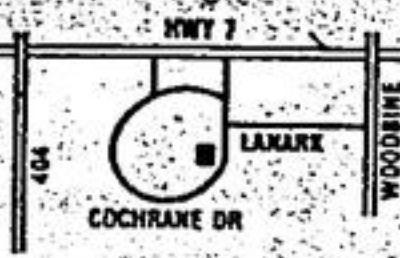


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## Relief journey aids 4 nations

By KATE GILDERDALE  
Wes Higman, overseas program co-ordinator for Christian relief organization Emmanuel International, is on the first leg of a five-week trip that will see him visit Uganda, Malawi, Tanzania and possibly Sudan if he can obtain a visa.

Mr. Higman and two of his colleagues left Toronto last Thursday evening for Gulu, a town in northern Uganda.

"There are presently about 150,000 displaced people there who have nothing," he explained in a recent interview. "For the past two-and-a-half years, the whole north has been devastated by civil war."

As a result of guerilla attacks, people fled their farms and homes, most of which were destroyed, losing their cattle and everything they owned in the process.

Mr. Higman and his colleagues hope to arrange for 2,000 tonnes of food supplies, which will feed 20,000 people for six months, as well as providing cooking utensils and blankets.

"When the security situation is made better and they can return home, we'll supply them with seeds so they can replant, as well as providing axes, hoes and other

agricultural tools," stated Mr. Higman. "We'll sit down with the church there and hammer out details to get all arrangements in place."

Mr. Higman claims applications to the Canadian government for funding have received "a good response, but we've got nothing hard and fast yet."

Emmanuel International has also approached the Canadian Food Grains Bank, an association of churches to which farmers contribute wheat and grains.

From Uganda, Mr. Higman will go to Malawi, where a program has been introduced to help Mozambique refugees who have settled there.

Initiatives include establishing health committees and teaching people better health practices. Wells are also being dug in the area and grain mills are being set up to mill wheat.

"I'll be visiting our personnel who work with the evangelical Baptist Church of Malawi," observed Mr. Higman. "That program is very encouraging. It's really touching to see how people have reached out and given, despite their poverty, to help other people who have nothing."

His journey then takes him to Tanzania, where one program is starting and another is finishing. The new work includes well digging and the introduction of oxen farming, as well as setting up an irrigated market garden system and teaching good health practices.

He'll visit another area near Mount Kilimanjaro, where he has worked on a previous visit.

During that visit, he helped to drill through 200 feet of solid lava.

"The people didn't think there was a chance of getting water, but we did. It was fantastic."

They managed to drill three separate wells; now they plan to connect them to the existing water distribution system.

His last planned stop is Sudan, but with the threat of an army coup, he may not be able to enter the country.

"If I do get in I'll be meeting with our international personnel. They've just completed a relief program after the flooding which he wants to check up on."

"There's a program in the desert where we've rehabilitated some wells and started a tree plantation on about 80 acres, which shields the town from the sands," explained Mr. Higman. "The trees are growing well and the people are really excited about it themselves."

If this program continues to do well, he said, they hope to try and expand it. "It's really exciting to see trees growing out in the middle of the desert."

"Our primary focus is trying to equip the people who live in these areas to do the work themselves," he concludes. "We try to develop self-sufficiency."

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### ADVERTISING CORRECTION

Eaton's Spring Showcase #1 Insert appearing in the Markham Economist/Stouffville Tribune Wednesday, March 1, 1989.  
Due to supplier delivery problems, the following item will not be available:  
Page A40-Item "F"  
Sharp IO7000 Electronic organizer. (Will not be available).  
Inadvertently, the error listed above appeared in our advertising. We sincerely regret any inconvenience or confusion to our customers.

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