

The EMU Newsletter

PROCLAIMING THE TRIUMPHS OF THE GOSPEL

Volume LVII

August 2014

Number 8



Ken & Joan Jensen
Director

ALONG THE WAY . . .

The sun had not yet crowned the trees on the horizon when I planted myself in an east-facing Adirondack chair on our back deck to have my devotions and sip coffee from my preposterously large insulated mug (only half full). The ceiling fan supplied the needed breeze to tolerate the dawn's warm, muggy summer air. Though prayer is important to engage in every day of the week, my pre-breakfast Mondays are set aside to pray sans-Bible-study. On this particular Monday the overcast seemed nigh unto being fog. But before long the rays of the sun began to burn away the low clouds, and as the vapor spiraled upward, a breeze woke the kingdom of leaves. And, as often happens when I'm praying, my mind wandered to what I first thought to be an unrelated subject. I began to marvel at the power of our local star, a celestial body 93 million miles from our planet, yet with an influence over almost every aspect of activity on the globe. Photons from the sun allow photosynthesis for plants, warmth for sustaining life, and a host of other light-born features that interact with earth's bio-system. Although the sun is "out there," it's actually here, too.

By the time the sun had fully crested the verdant horizon, the warmth of the coffee within and the warmth of the sun without forced me to retire to the cooler clime indoors. Plus, the unveiled rays were blinding. Staring at the moon, stars, and

(continued on page 2)

EDIFYING AND NECESSARY

by Pedro Donzè, Office Administrator & Director of Camp Emmanuel in Uruguay

God in His grace gave me the opportunity to go to Peru. For two weeks I taught two courses at a seminary in the northern city of Trujillo for four hours each day. The first class was on "administration," and the second class covered finances. In each class I had a varied audience: pastors, church leaders, members of the churches, Seminary students, and also some professors of the seminary. It was quite an experience for me, and I could see God's hand helping me in each class. I could also see how the material I was teaching would help some of the churches represented there, as well as God's servants in the ministry. What a privilege! Seeing God's work is a privilege. Besides the seminary, I visited nine churches in Trujillo and Lima, and in some of them I preached more than once.



Pedro Donzè teaching at the Seminary in Trujillo, Peru



(l-r) Pedro & Segundo with the Seminary class in Trujillo



Pedro (front wearing tie) at the Christian-run drug & alcohol rehab center

I also had the opportunity to visit a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center run by Christians while in Peru. Sharing my testimony and the Word was a blessing. This center does not receive much financial help, but they do a great work. Let's pray that God will provide support and help so the brothers and sisters can continue with this ministry. Hearing the testimonies of people who have surrendered their lives to Christ at that center, and how their lives have changed, was marvelous.

Though I had never been to Peru before, I had heard about the ministries there when brother Segundo Rodriguez spoke at Camp Emmanuel for two weeks in February. Seeing the ministry was a help and blessing to my life. The desire of the Peruvian Christians to expand the work of God was one of the things that encouraged me most. Some of the churches shared with me their projects for outreach. Seeing how the churches are supporting their own pastors and are interested in foreign missions is a challenge to me - and should be a challenge to our churches in Uruguay. We pray that the vision of service and expansion of the believers will continue and not decrease. Peru is a country very open to the gospel, and the opportunities are abundant.

This interchange of pastors between Peru and Uruguay is very edifying and necessary. Segundo Rodriguez and Enoch Principe

(continued on page 4)

ALONG THE WAY...

(continued from page 1)

even clouds can be a pleasant pastime, but no one can behold the unscreened sun for more than a painful moment. This energizer of the earth is too powerful to look at, but we enjoy and live with it every day.

The Apostle John stated that no man has ever truly seen God except the Son, Who came from the Father. Yahweh explained to Moses that anyone who looked upon the glory of His face would die. And yet we know that God is not only omnipresent, but that He is working in all things at all times. Concerning the Son, Paul wrote the church at Colossae “For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: and he is before all things, and by him all things consist.” The world views God as “out there,” if they think of Him at all. But sadly, sometimes, we as Christians live and act as if we believe the same way, rather than living as though God is with us at every moment of every day. We tend to take the effulgence of the sun for granted until we accidentally see its direct beam. And we sometimes take for granted God’s glory until we take time to consider His effulgence in all things. And it needs to be more than a once-a-week thing while watching the sun rise on the back deck.

It is the above truth that helps me (and Joan) to answer, “It’s wonderful. We wouldn’t have it any other way.” The question which has been asked of us several times over the last couple of months is, “How do you feel about your son and his family moving to Cambodia?” We know that **Josh, Amy, Becca, Isaiah, and Anna** are in loving, mighty Hands. Two days before driving their family to Marietta, GA, where we stayed with Joan’s mom for two nights prior to their flight out of the Hartsville Airport in Atlanta, Joshua was ordained to the Gospel ministry at our home church of Hampton Park Baptist Church (HPBC). The message by the guest speaker that evening was faltering and probably more sleep-inducing than the congregation let on after the service, but the event itself was a real blessing to the Jensen families. In 1978 my father preached the message



Rev. George, Rev. Josh, & Rev. Ken Jensen

for my ordination service at HPBC, and now I have had the privilege of preaching at my son’s ordination. In preparing for my message, it occurred to me that in the history of our church this was the first time the son of a HPBC ordained minister had ever been ordained at HPBC. And the father of each had done the preaching. (I’m already making plans for Isaiah to get ordained someday at HP! And it wouldn’t be too disappointing if he was a missionary with EMU either.)

The drive to Georgia was made in two mini-vans, one full of Josh’s family and “kid things” and the other packed with 50-pound boxes and suitcases. The early morning flight from Atlanta required a rise ‘n shine at 4:15 A.M. to arrive at the airport on time. The Jensens’ check-in went smoothly in spite of the double stroller, car seats, and assorted luggage. Going through security was another thing. Without going into detail, let me give you a piece of advice: Never sew money into your garments for safe keeping. TSA doesn’t like that.

The total in-transit time for this journey was over 24 hours. But the children behaved well for most of the trip – a blessing to Josh and Amy and hundreds of fellow-travelers. The main glitch in the airports was when the airline lost the Jensens’ newly purchased double-stroller.

The Jensens were met in Phnom Penh by **Matt and Becky Hancock**. The Farmers’ van broke down earlier in the day and was in the shop, so Jeremy had to travel via tax. To ferry the Jensens and their “stuff” to the Christian and Missionary Alliance guesthouse, the Hancocks’ vehicle and two taxis were employed. During the next few days, more was accomplished than I could have imagined. Bonnie Ruth Farmer had already scouted out some apartments for rent, and Josh and Amy were able to sign a contract on an apartment near the neighborhood complex where the Farmers used to live. The house has the same layout, but it is surprisingly almost \$200 a month cheaper than the Farmers had to pay. Another missionary family was living in the house when the Jensens viewed it, but the family was in the process of moving.

In addition to the house, Josh and Amy needed a vehicle, furniture, appliances, and other household items. The Farmers, who now speak fairly good Khmer, helped secure all these things: a 1996 Toyota 4-Runner (the odometer was broken, so there is no telling how many miles are on it, but a mechanic that Jeremy knows checked it out), custom built furniture (good price and solid wood), and many



Farmer Kids’ Welcoming Brigade: (l-r) Judson, Becca Jensen, Eden, Isa, Salem, Abi w/Isaiah Jensen, and Gloria

other necessities. The Farmers drove back to Ban Lung the week after the Jensens arrived in the capital. **Brian Kane** then drove to Phnom Penh the second week to help Josh and Amy move into the three-story apartment, help Josh purchase a motorcycle (a Honda) for economical transportation, and get set up with internet. Brian was also able to get to know Matt and Jonathan Hancock better, as he stayed with them a few nights. The boxes of Josh and Amy’s personal items shipped to Cambodia in the Hancocks’ container were being stored at the Hancocks’ apartment, which is only a five-minute drive to the Jensens’ apartment, so transferring the boxes to the Jensens was not as lengthy a project as it could have been.

A new language school for expats is being started in Phnom Penh geared towards missionaries and NGO workers. On July 28 this new school began a training/evaluation “test” class to last for four weeks. The Khmer teachers have never taught with a Western-style curriculum before, so this initial “practice round” is designed to help teach the teachers. The two-hour classes meet on M-W-F each week. So far Joshua is pleased with the methods and content of the classes and is considering enrolling in the first semester of official classes beginning at the end of September. Amy will need a tutor so she can be home with the children, especially 3½ month old Anna.

One of the comforting developments Joan and I have learned is that our grandchildren – Becca and Isaiah – are excited to be in Cambodia and both



Safety-conscious Becca on her “3-wheeler” in front of Josh’s “new” Honda

(continued on page 3)

ALONG THE WAY...

(continued from page 2)

express how much they love it there. After a couple of weeks in Phnom Penh, 4½-year-old **Becca** enthusiastically stated, "Cambodia was made for me." (They are far more adaptable missionaries than I am.) The family continues to have good health, too. Pray for the Jensens as they acclimate to the Cambodian culture.

During the first week that the Jensens were in Southeast Asia, **Becky and Jedidiah Hancock** were in Pennsylvania for the wedding of one of Becky's dear friends. She and her youngest son have had a "fun" time re-acclimating to the 11-hour time change, but they are glad to be back in Cambodia. Continue to pray for Matt and Becky as they learn the Khmer language. And pray for Becky as the December birth of their third child approaches.

And speaking of future members to the EMU Cambodia team, we recently were told that **Bonnie Ruth Farmer** is expecting another little boy in November. We also learned that the Farmers have arranged for a young lady from South Carolina to go to Cambodia until May 2015 to help with the children. (The Farmers will be taking their first furlough beginning in May of next year.) This is a real answer to prayer. I hope to be able to give you more details next month, though the lady should be there early in August.

The Josh Jensens were not the only ones in need of a vehicle last month. **Kornel and Tanja Crnkovic** had been looking for a mini-van for well over a month. Their old mini-van finally gave-out on them, and the repairs would have cost more than the car was worth. Shopping for a car in Croatia seems to be very different than how we do it here or in Cambodia. Tanja searched daily on the internet for used vehicles for sale, mainly outside of Croatia - preferably Austria where the cars are maintained better. But it was a former church member from the church in Split who had moved to Austria who found the seven-year-old Ford Galaxy. The trip to purchase the van, pay the taxes, and get Croatian plates took four days.

On July 11 the Crnkovics began their participation in a youth summer camp that many Baptist churches host together each summer. We don't have any updates on the camp yet, but it seems that around 120 teens were registered a week before the camp started.

Very shortly after the **Tim Chapman** family arrived in Michigan to begin their furlough, Tim flew south to Mexico for a week of camp in the State of Vera Cruz. Tim was asked to help with this camp by the director of CampsAbroad, **Matt Collier**. Tim first flew to Monterrey, Mexico, and spent three days with his sister, Susan Bixby, and her family. From there Tim, Susan, and her husband, Matt, travelled to Vera



Youth camp in Vera Cruz, Mexico

Cruz to participate in a youth camp with around seventy young people. The camp was sponsored by Emmanuel Baptist Church of Poza Rica, Vera Cruz. From what I have seen on the web, it was a good camp. Tim returned to Midland, MI, on July 26. They hope to visit many of their supporting churches and families during this furlough.



(l-r) Matt Collier, Jairo Villegas, Tim Chapman, and Susan & Matt Bixby

Tom and Connie Chapman will be in Brazil for the first couple of weeks of August. They travel to Sao Paulo, Brazil, on July 31 for the wedding of **Daniel Salvatierra** to a young lady named **Emily**. It will truly be an international ceremony: Tom will deliver a short message in Spanish, Emily's pastor will perform the wedding in Portuguese, and there will be a contingent of Emily's relatives who speak only Japanese. From Sao Paulo the Chapmans fly to Curitiba, Brazil, to spend a week with the parents of their daughter-in-law Kristyn Alexander Chapman. They teach at a Baptist Mid-Mission Bible college in that city.

Maykol is a young man from Treinta y Tres, Uruguay, who attends our EMU church in that city. In March of this year he began attending a Bible college in Trujillo, Peru, directed by Segundo Rodriguez (the speaker at Camp Emmanuel for the family and workers' camp earlier in the year). During the July semester break he asked to stay with Tom and Connie in Antofagasta, Chile, rather than fly back to Uruguay. Though the Chapmans did not previously know Maykol, they took him in - and were greatly blessed by his stay. Not only is he a kind young man, but also a handyman, repairing a number of things at the church and the Chapmans' house. He also preached at the church twice.

Ted Allston had a successful and profitable sojourn in Morocco for ten days in July. He was able to teach several times and visit with believers in several cities. On August 11, Ted will fly to India with two men from Hampton Park Baptist Church to see the ministry of an Indian pastor who is a friend of one of these men. Pray that this travelling

Page 3
trio will be a blessing to those they meet in India.

We do not yet have reports of the July events participated in by the **Coles and Bixbys**, but their month was rather busy. The

Europe Musical Ministry Team from Bob Jones University was with them for several days early in July during which the MMT sang and testified the Gospel message in churches and other venues. Tim Bixby was the translator for messages. Then on July 19, a team of 32 teens and their sponsors arrived from a supporting church in Raleigh, NC, to minister through home Bible clubs, mass distribution, and combined teen activities. I hope to have an account of that visit soon. Also, it seems that the Protestant Temple that the Bixbys and Coles had hoped to rent in Sarcelles to begin a church in that community will not be made available to them.

On July 23 **Mel and Jan Wingrove** began their western tour, which will include services in Nebraska, Wyoming, California, and New Mexico. They will be back home at the end of September. Pray for their safety and that folks will be blessed by the presentation of the ministries of EMU.

The Espinels arrived in Greenville, SC, in mid-July for a service at Cornerstone Baptist Church on July 20. It was good to have them in our home a couple of times and some long talks about mission work. We hope to see them again in August before they return to Uruguay at the beginning of September. During July, FEBU (the Bible college) was on semester break, though there was a pastoral training seminar sponsored by the school, but held in the northwestern city of Paysandú - July 28-August 1.

John Mark Steel has continued to be the acting director of FEBU during Matias Espinel's furlough, and **Deborah** has continued to teach Spanish at the college. In addition, John Mark is also teaching at the EMU Bible Institute and pastoring his father-in-law's church in the city of Pando. (Pastor Garwood and his wife have been in the States for furlough and medical treatment.)

We in the office are thankful that our official IT guy - Joan's brother **Doug** - was able to come here from Georgia for a weekend in July to finish getting our computer system set up. Steve Erkens set up the initial two new computers, but we have been waiting for Doug to get back from a business trip to Alaska to set up our server and fine-tune the system. It is good to have this done, and we are all grateful to Doug for his many hours of work.

On August 30, we will be having our

(continued on page 4)

Page 4

Edifying and Necessary

(continued from page 1)

have both visited Uruguay, and, Lord willing, in October Pastor Gabriel Gomez will go to Peru to teach.

In June our family went through some difficult times. Because of Patty's condition, I was ready to cancel my teaching trip to Peru. Her left leg was affected by a herniated disk. After evaluating several options, the doctors decided on daily therapy in our home to facilitate the movement of her leg. The doctor hopes to avoid back surgery, if she can get control of the pain. The progress is slow, but we can see small improvements. We don't know when Patty will regain the full use of her leg. Patty cannot go up our stairs to our bedroom, so we had to move her into the room on the main floor where I had my office. We trust that in a few months, we will get back to normal life. Patty's brother Gabriel Gomez and his family moved into our house for the length of my stay in Peru.

Prior to leaving for Peru, we had the winter camp with a good group of Jovenes and adolescents. Pastor Ovidio Acevedo delivered great biblical challenges for the campers.

Keep praying for the Camp Emmanuel budget needs. We are not covering the monthly budget, and we have reduced the maintenance costs all we can. We are concerned about some areas of maintenance because when things break or are

ruined because of a lack of maintenance, they sometimes cost much more to replace later. We need to replace four gas water heaters before the summer camp in January. Thank you for praying about this.

Last month the work at the office increased a little due to the move of one of our missionaries from an interior rural area to a city in the south. In August I will go to Tacuarembó to help the church there with some things since they are without a pastor. Keep praying for a pastor for that church. Besides helping them with the services, I will work with them on the subjects of administration and finances. In late-August things should go back to normal for me. We have made some major changes to our Quick Books accounting as suggested by brother Nelson Neal, who visited Uruguay with Ken Jensen in February.

Next week (the first week in August) we will start the second semester of the Bible Institute. Sustain us in prayer that we might be able to teach our classes and that the students will be edified.

I have not been able to meet with the pastor of Gethsemani Church to plan future meetings with the young people and adolescents, but we continue to work with them, as God permits us to do. Pray for Gethsemani's anniversary campaign in September that the church may honor God in everything, and that He, in His mercy, will add new souls to His Kingdom for His glory. ✚



Camp Emmanuel's 2014 July winter retreat for young people

ALONG THE WAY...

(continued from page 3)

next EMU Board of Directors meeting. Pray that the Lord will give us wisdom to make the right choices and plans for EMU's future. Although our meetings are infrequent, the board members play a vital part in the health and oversight of the mission.

Before Copernicus and the Renaissance Era, it was generally believed in the Western World that the earth was the center of the universe - Geocentric - with everything revolving around our planet. If you have ever read about astronomical theories of those earlier times, you know that elaborate, complicated formulas had to be devised to explain the movements of the other planets, especially. Their circuitous paths around the earth did not make sense. However, with the adoption of a Heliocentric system (the sun as the center of the universe), the planetary movements became easily understood. (I realize that our star is rotating around the center of our Milky Way, but let's stick with Heliocentric for now.) All religions and philosophies seek to make sense of "what is," but they are unable to do so, having placed something other than Yahweh at the center of all things. Only when God's Word is taken as true "Truth" does the universe fit together in its entirety. The work of EMU's missionaries is to make God known that mankind, in all cultures, in all time, can properly worship the Creator of all things and redeemer of Adam's race. Thank you for your part in helping us accomplish the task the Lord has entrusted to us. ✚

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