

The EMU Newsletter

PROCLAIMING THE TRIUMPHS OF THE GOSPEL

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Ken & Joan Jensen
Director

ALONG THE WAY . . .

What makes you happy? I recently saw a documentary on PBS entitled "Happy." The producers of the program went around the world asking that question to people of various cultures, economic strata, skin color, and even physiological conditions. The program opened with a rickshaw-puller in eastern India. He lives outside a massive city in a shanty village constructed of hammered tin, plastic, discarded wood, and cardboard. The 30-ish, slightly built, poorly clothed man works all day in the city pulling his rickshaw in the tropical sun and monsoons to make a few rupees per day. Was he happy? Actually he was as happy as most Americans! And what made him so? A job to supply food and basic needs of his family, a caring wife, children who love him, helpful neighbors, and a roof over his head - plastic though it may be. Next, a young 20-something, in a 3-piece suit, perfectly groomed, business man in big-city USA. What would make him happy? More money and work promotions. How much money? A lot more. This young man was chasing happiness but did not yet have it - and never will on the path he was pursuing.

The documentary had virtually nothing to do with Christianity, yet many of the conclusions about what makes us happy are biblical: the importance of family, productive work, helpful neighbors

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119 YEARS

by Ken Jensen

The EMU International annual Board meeting was held on the last Saturday of August, and though not a "turning point" for the mission, it certainly saw a change in leadership. Our beliefs and practices remain the same, but the make-up of the board changed more at that meeting than in any meeting in the mission's history.

After the 2013 Board meeting, my father talked to me about his desire to resign from the board due to his age - 86 at that time. I asked him to stay on until we gathered again for the 2014 business meeting. He agreed to do so. Many months ago I relayed in this publication the news of Pastor Ray Hansel's stroke and Mr. Jack Buttram's declining physical state. My fear was that Dad's resignation would cause a domino effect resulting in more resignations due to age and/or health problems.

During the past year Steve Erkens and I, with Joan, discussed the need for adding new board members at the 2014 gathering. We crafted the qualifications and then a list of prospective members. We then vetted the list through the existing board members - pre-approval, you might say. The men on the

list were then contacted and offered a place on the board. Three were immediate "yes's" and two are pending.

As is our tradition, a luncheon was provided for the members, prospects, and their spouses. This always results in good fellowship and food in a comfortable environment - the Blue Room at Hampton Park Baptist Church. This year none of our missionaries were here in town to attend. All of the diners have known each other for many years, so introductions were not necessary. I appreciate those who helped with buying the food, setting up and cleaning up, and other needed preparations for the luncheon.

During the board meeting that followed we voted to accept four new board members and to retire three of our members - two by request and one because of physical incapacities. The total years these three served on the board came to 119 years. Dr. George Jensen had served the longest having joined the board in 1967 - the year before he became a missionary with Evangelical Mission to Uruguay under Dr. Fred Dabold's directorship. In the 1970s Dad became the

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Sitting (l-r): George & Marilyn Jensen and Bobbie & David Yearick
Standing (l-r): Dick & Holly Stratton, Drew & Mary Ellen Conley, Kathy & Ken Martin, Kami Brenneman, Brad & Peg Lapiska, Steve & Karen Ridge, Nelson & Debi Neal, Steve & Charity Erkens, Dan & Dawn Sallé, Rick Miller, Joan & Ken Jensen

ALONG THE WAY...

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(community), faith (trust in a transcendent “god”), and serving others. Selfish living (what can others do for me) was seen as the death of happiness.

In Matthew 5, Jesus presented a message which became known as the Beatitudes – the Blessed’s. I have heard or read expositions of this passage over the years which suggested that “happy” could be substituted for “blessed.” Sadly I never pursued a serious study of the Greek word “makarios” until after viewing the “Happy” documentary. In the KJV, makarios appears 50 times and is translated “blessed” 44 times, “happy” 5 times, and “happier” once. Of the 20 NT versions I scanned, all translated Matthew 5 with “blessed” and one with “happy.” But does happy equal blessed? No. Without going into etymological roots, “happy” is a temporary emotion based upon chance or fortune; “blessed” is an objective state, long-enduring, and based upon God’s grace and our choices. We are blessed for obedience to God’s Word, for loving and serving others, for suffering for doing right, for enduring persecution, etc. Happiness may or may not be the state of our emotions during times of blessing.

The world can seek happiness in myriad ways and even attain it at times. But no one can be truly blessed apart from God. And God has promised to bless His children, both on earth and in eternity. Happiness or blessedness? Though I do enjoy the temporary emotion as often as it shows up, I prefer the latter knowing it is from the hands of our loving Lord and meant for our eternal good.

Overt blessings continue to flow into the lives of the **Hancocks** and younger Jensens in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. A recent Skype with **Josh Jensen** revealed a rather healthy, refreshed looking young man. He reported that, though hot, the temperatures in the capital have not been as oppressive as expected, and only the “Palmetto bugs” are a problem, especially when it rains. The children are thriving in their new environment. Josh and Amy, and Matt and Becky, have personal language tutors until the end of September when Matt and Josh plan to attend a new Western-style language school opening then. The wives will continue with their in-home tutors. Though I haven’t spoken to the Hancocks, it seems that they are being as blessed as the Jensens. Continue to pray for their studies and for Becky who is anticipating their third child in a few months.

I do want to announce a new book you are sure to want to purchase! **Dr. Joshua Jensen’s dissertation** has been published in a series called Pacific Linguistics. The 235 page volume, entitled Jarai Clauses

and Noun Phrases: Syntactic Structures in an Austronesian Language, is a real bargain at only \$210 – hardback, no less! If you understand this line from the book – “aspirated unvoiced plosive . . . with no aspirated laminal affricate” – you should have no trouble understanding the tome.

A composition by **JD Crowley**, also in Cambodia, would be of more spiritual value. His **commentary on Romans** has been published in both Khmer and English. The English version is available in Kindle form on Amazon for \$4.99. (I have an unedited hardcopy of the book, and from the parts I have read, it is a beneficial resource.) JD will be in the Greenville, SC, area for about two weeks beginning September 16. Frontline Missions is flying JD here to speak at their FX conference at The Wilds Camp from the 19th-21st. He will also be the guest speaker at Hampton Park Baptist Church of Greenville for three services on Sunday the 28th. Kim and Nathaniel will not be traveling with JD on this visit.

From August 21 to September 11 the **Kanes** are in the Philippines for a family vacation, which developed because of the wedding of Lydia’s youngest sister. Lydia, who grew up in the Philippines where her missionary parents served, had not been back to the islands since the birth of Hugh almost 7-years ago.

Brian Kane sent out a special prayer letter to his personal supporters concerning a new need his ministry is taking on. We have announced before that Brian will be helping to work on the OT translation of the Bible into the Krung language. To properly do this he will be hiring a Krung man by the name of **Bun** to help with the translation. This young man has worked on Bible translation with another organization in the past. The cost for Bun’s salary will be \$275 per month, plus Brian will be paying other nationals \$150 per month for text proofing. If you would like to help with this project, please let us know. But at least pray that this need will be met. At the end of August the Krung villages had their first-ever Krung Bible school.

The **Farmers** had a visit in Cambodia by one of Jeremy’s former students and his wife. They are seeking God’s will for their future ministry. Though I’ve not



Tim & Amy Michalek, Amy & Josh Jensen w/son, Jeremy & Bonnie Ruth Farmer w/ daughter, Matt & Becky Hancock

yet met this couple, they got to know our Cambodia team. Pray that they will have wisdom. Also continue to pray for Bonnie Ruth Farmer who is infanticipating around Thanksgiving.

Ted Allston and fellow traveler **Jon Peery** returned home safely to Greenville, SC, after their 10-day visit to the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh in August. Jon was the original contact with an Indian pastor he has known for several years, and Jon invited Ted, who was the Bible teacher as they visited a number of churches. Ted’s experience in India was a little better than Jon’s. A medication that Ted always takes when he travels to keep from having stomach problems had the opposite effect on Jon, but the connection between the pills and Jon’s condition was not realized until misery had ensued. Ted has been invited back to teach a group of Indian church leaders early next year.



Ted (center) & Jon with some young cricket players

Ted is also headed to Haiti from September 13-27 to speak at a conference of Haitian church leaders. He is going to the same area where the painful mosquito-borne Chikungunya virus has been a problem. Ted has not taught in Haiti before and will be teaching in French, which, he has been assured, the Haitians will understand. Pray for Ted’s good communication and good health.

The **Espinels** are back in Uruguay after an almost 6-month furlough. We were able to see them again when they dropped the mission’s mini-van off at our office. Matias has taken up his responsibilities as the director of FEBU (the Bible college) and begun teaching. I do not have the 2nd semester schedule for John Mark and Deborah **Steel**, but I believe they are both teaching in the Bible Institute and FEBU.

The **Coles** and the **Bixbys** have had many visitors over this past summer. Michael Cole started French language classes again, and their two oldest children are back in public school, while Liz has her hands full managing the household, including their baby. Ruth is homeschooling Micaiah this semester. Tim and Michael are in the front

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January Summer Camps

by Ken Jensen

The title sounds like an oxymoron unless your daylight hours are currently lengthening. The summer camping season has ended in the northern latitudes, but in countries like Uruguay, with a view of the Southern Cross, summer camps commence in January. For almost as long as EMU has been in Uruguay – over 65 years – summer camps have been a traditional outreach to the youth of Uruguay. To both saved and unsaved. Though the focus of the camps has been to strengthen and instruct Christian young people through sound Bible teaching, counseling, personal devotionals, and even activity times, we don't lose sight of evangelism of the lost campers. Many, if not most, of our Uruguayan missionaries sealed their call to enter full-time ministry while at camp, and some even found their future spouses there.

In January, after our churches in Uruguay have caught their breath from Christmas

programs, dinners, family gatherings, and New Year's services, camps for children, adolescents, and Jovenes (16 years old and up) will commence. Before that time, camp director Pedro Donzé will be selecting op-staff and counselors, and then, with the help of the Camp Emmanuel Junta (board), he will bring these folks together for several days of intensive training before the first full week of camp begins.

The Camp Sponsorship Fund, that we announce each year at this time, has two aims. One is to help campers attend Camp Emmanuel who would not otherwise be

able to because of the cost – about \$95 for the week. The second objective is to cover the expenses for the counselors and op staff to work at the camp. The camper fees do not cover the costs of food and utilities for the staff. The op staff and counselors do not receive any pay for their time and work at these camps. It is strictly volunteer work. But we also do not charge them for expenses! The Camp Sponsorship Fund likewise does not help keep Camp Emmanuel operating for the rest of the year – only for January.

If you have a burden for the ministry at Camp Emmanuel and are able to give towards the needs incurred, it will be a tremendous blessing to those who attend the camps – workers and campers. And FYI, several of the churches in Uruguay give offerings to allow campers to attend, but their giving does not come close to covering the expenses of all those who benefit from the Camp Sponsorship Fund. Thank you! ✚



The staff & children sponsored through last year's Camp Sponsorship Fund. Several adolescents & Jovenes also attended camp through this program.

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end of implementing another outreach into Sarcelles, where they hope to start a church. Both men continue to preach and teach at the Saint Denis church, too.

Mel and Jan **Wingrove** are still on their trip across the USA (east to west and back again) presenting the work of EMU and visiting friends of the mission.

The **Erkens** family will be heading to California City, CA, for a service at a supporting church in that town on the last Sunday of September. They will also be visiting friends of EMU along the way. Since Charity homeschools the three boys, they shouldn't miss too much schooling. (When I was younger and traveled around America with my parents visiting churches, I learned more about our country – especially geography – than in school.) Steve continues to progress in his knowledge and understanding of the workings of EMU. He was elected onto the Board of Directors at the meeting on August 30. You can read more about that monumental meeting in an accompanying article. Steve also added a few more credits toward his master's degree at BJU this summer.

In the home office, **Kami Brenneman** started her senior year in accounting at BJU. She covered for Joan very nicely this summer during the times she was out of the office – such as for our family vacation at the end of August. **Joan and Steve** continue to make changes in office procedures in an effort to become more efficient. They are currently working toward combining the database with the accounting program. (I'm not skeptical about their abilities, but I am skeptical about the flexibility of the program to handle this major change.)

You may have noticed that the date for this newsletter is September-October. I will not go into the reasons for that, except to say that it is my fault. Because this letter is encompassing two months, some October events should be mentioned.

From October 15-18 there will be a women's retreat at Camp Emmanuel. Pray for mild, dry days for these days, and that the lessons will be spiritually beneficial.

On the 25th, my brother Rick will be leading a team of three other men to Uruguay to work at Camp Emmanuel. This is the first time Rick has gone to Uruguay

without me accompanying him as his "intermediary translator," e.g. the one who makes sure that the Uruguayans and Rick actually understand each other correctly! **Britt Hopper**, who was on the work team last year, and his son **Titus**, a 9-monther at The Wilds Camp, along with **Pat DalPorto** make up this year's team. They will be gone for about a week and a half.

Rick has suffered from back pain for a couple of years now but gets cortisone shots when the pain gets really bad. Pray that he will stay healthy during this trip.

Also, this year has been difficult financially for Camp Emmanuel. A few thousand dollars have been given for the team projects in October, but more is needed. Rick and camp director **Pedro Donze** are deciding which projects to focus on from the very long list of projects that need to be done.

Though the Lord is the ultimate source from whom all blessings flow, your friendship towards, prayers for, and financial support of EMU is a blessing to us – and it makes us happy, too. I know that your being a blessing to others will redound to blessings on you. ✚

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director of the mission until I was elected the director twenty-six years ago. From personal observation I can say that my father lived and breathed EMU for all of those years. The mission has been far more than an occupation to him and my mother.

Pastor Ray Hansel joined the Board forty years ago (1974). I have known Mr. Hansel since I was an elementary kid living on back-campus at BJU. I knew him more as a coach who taught at the university, rather than a pastor, but his pastoring of a church in Antreville, SC, continued long after his coaching years ended. Though in his 80s now, I still think of him as the agile man able to demolish me in racquetball!

Jack Buttram is another man I have known since I was a child. He came onto the Board in 1982 (32 years ago). I will always remember him as Stonewall Jackson, a part he played in the BJU film "Red Runs the River," though he also acted in several other BJU feature movies. Children will remember him as Ollie Octopus in the Patch the Pirate audio series!

The wives of both of these men, Gerry Hansel and Barbara Buttram, have been like second moms to me. I could scribe pages describing what the Hansels and Buttrams have meant to our family and EMU. And if I get started on what my father has meant to EMU it would sound like a eulogy, and I don't want that since he is still going strong. Not as strong as in the past, but still going at 87 years of age!

The new members of the Board begin with Steve Erkens, whom we are hoping will be the next director of EMU. I thought it might be prudent to have him on the Board! He contributed greatly to the meeting by presenting some new ideas concerning greater board interaction with our missionaries.

The other three men who joined the Board are Dr. Drew Conley, the preaching pastor at Hampton Park Baptist Church; Dan Sallé, a retired real estate agent (though everyone knows he's not really retired!); and Rick Miller, a shop foreman at a tool and die company. All of these men have a sincere interest in EMU, and they are all local. I met Drew when he came to candidate at HPBC to replace Pastor Yearick. Our home church (HPBC) is the heaviest supporter of EMU missionaries, as well as being the sending church for nine of our families. Dan and I were in college together for a few years, and we played soccer against each other a few times. His father-in-law was my Bible teacher at BJ Academy. Dan and his wife Dawn have been members of HPBC for longer than I can remember. Rick and Kris Miller have also been members at HPBC for decades. Kris's mom and my father grew up in the Muskegon, MI, area and attended BJU around the same time. I've gotten to know Rick over the last several years, though I've known Kris's family for ages. The bottom line is that Steve, Joan, and I are well acquainted with these folks as are the rest of the Board. In the photo of the Board are also Dick and Holly Stratton. Dr. Dick is one of the pastors at Heritage Bible Church of Greer, SC, and was attending as a representative of the church, which is the second highest supporting church of EMU missionaries.

I'll not subject you to the other proceedings of the meeting, except to say that it was a blessing for me to be able to review the many blessings God has showered on EMU over the past year - most of which have been mentioned in these EMU Newsletters. One of the surprising bits of news was how many of our missionary families have had children in the last year and how many will have newborns in the coming six months. It is my hope that at least some of these little

ones are budding EMU missionaries.

Pray for the EMU Board. Many of the decisions we make are actually rather routine. But when it comes to accepting new missionaries into EMU or dealing with sticky problems more wisdom is needed. Pray to that end - prudence in all things. ✚

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