



The EMU Newsletter

PROCLAIMING THE TRIUMPHS OF THE GOSPEL

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*Ken & Joan Jensen
Director*

ALONG THE WAY . . .

Thanksgiving and Armageddon are not often mentioned together, but both have been on my mind lately. My current bedtime reading has been in a book entitled *Armageddon* – that will sure help you sleep soundly! The 584-page tome by Max Hastings is not a theology book but rather delves into World War II, with a special emphasis on 1944-1945, and further focusing on the conflict between Germany and the USSR. A recent chapter I read was dedicated to the incursion of the Communist Red Army into German-held East Prussia and Danzig (now Gdansk), on the Baltic Sea. The Red Army's pent-up hatred for Germany's ravaging of western USSR exploded onto the German populous as the communist troops routed the Nazi forces, overrunning cities and villages not yet completely abandoned by German families. The devastation was beyond what Western Europeans and Americans could imagine. The men of all ages were slaughtered. Women from "7 to 70" were raped and mutilated before being murdered. My interest in this recountal goes back 41 years ago when I first met missionaries **Ursula Thiessen** and **Marianne Rauter** in Uruguay, but not until now have I had a heightened understanding of God's grace in their early lives.

Ursula and Marianne were born in Danzig and East Prussia (respectively) in
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NOT AN AVERAGE SPRING

by Gabriel Gomez, pastor of Gethsemani Church in Montevideo, Uruguay

In my country we have a saying, "nothing is what it seems." I used to think of spring as the season of rebirth, budding flowers, singing birds, and sunny days. That was far from reality this spring. We had a terrible September, full of rain, strong winds, and hail. And we chose a September day to celebrate our church's 40th anniversary! But in spite of the forecast for a strong storm that day, we only had some rain at the end of the fellowship service. A few days later we had a torrential 20-minute rain that was mixed with hail. Our family was at church when the rain started, and we took some pictures during the storm since we had never seen anything like it. The hail broke most of the roofing sheets that cover one of the large rooms in the back. The kitchen also flooded, and we spent 3 hours cleaning up all the water. My oldest son, Marcos, and I had to climb to the main concrete roof to clear the ice and the debris that fell from the trees. We were able to socialize with many of our neighbors in that unusual situation.



The hailstorm outside Gethsemani Church

We thank God that we were able to accomplish all of the repairs and painting at the church before the anniversary event. What I value most of all was having so many people involved in some way. Some made curtains, others made brochures, or painted, or cooked, or made decorations. Rosanna spent three evenings painting letters on the outside of the church. She couldn't paint in the afternoons because it was always raining when she needed to do it, so she



Some of the EMU pastors & missionaries, as well as a few folks who have had a part in Gethsemani's establishment & growth in the past.

Painted in the evenings. It looks pretty, and some people even offered her a job! When the church works together, it is a real joy. The most amazing part was watching the teenagers. Rosanna gave them the responsibility of replenishing the food and drinks during the fellowship and taking care of the bathrooms. They did a great job. One of our men made a video of the church's history. Oh, the memories! Our church is small (45 adult members now, and we have never had more than 65). Many of us grew up together, and we have shared many of the most important parts of our lives. So to see all that God had done for us through the years was very encouraging. And even though many people are not with us any more, we know that the Word of God will not return unto Him void. That's our prayer and hope.

Also, some new people attended the anniversary meeting: the man that bought the church's van; a next door neighbor, who has lived there for 50 years and has never come before; church members' families; and a young lady (my age, more or less) and her daughter. She was very happy to be at church, but then she didn't return to church any more after that. Rosanna found out a week ago that she moved to another town and is attending an EMU

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the years between WW I and WW II. At the close of 1944, as the Red Army swept westward over the Vistula River and into East Prussia, the Thiessen family, minus the father and one brother, and the Rauter family, minus the father, fled toward the Baltic Sea part of Danzig, the only escape corridor for Germans. Several times, both families were surrounded by the Russians, but God provided a temporary opening through which to drive their horse-drawn wagons piled with hay for the horses, and blankets, clothing, and food for the family. (All of this would soon be lost to the enemy.) Ursula's family was finally able to depart Danzig by ship in early February, while Marianne's family did not get out until March 15. Ursula turned 17-years-old that February, and Marianne had her 11th birthday 12 days before leaving her homeland. The later departure resulted in the Rauters being disembarked in Denmark, where they remained in a refugee camp until immigrating to Uruguay three years later. Ursula, with her sisters and mother, first went to western Germany and endured more bombings and battles before being overrun by Allied troops. Providentially, both girls ended up on the same ship full of German immigrants that disembarked at the harbor in Montevideo, Uruguay, on October 27, 1948 - 66 years ago.

Both young ladies were in the first class that graduated from the Bible Institute in Montevideo, which was started by Fred and Siva Dabold, the founders of EMU. Upon graduating they became missionaries serving under the Dabolds. Ursula's tenure has remained unbroken since 1953. Marianne, who worked as a school teacher for several years after being with EMU for a time, returned to full-time employment with EMU as a translator and continues in that position, as well as serving in the hospital and nursing home ministries. Having known these marvelous ladies for over forty years, I can honestly say that they are two of the godliest women I have ever



Ursula (lt) & Marianne (rt) with other students of the 1st class of the Bible Institute

known, and there are few who can match their consistent fervor to serve the Lord and others.

At this Thanksgiving season, there are innumerable things for which I am grateful: from my parents to my grandkids; from my extended family to my friends around the world; from my job to my church; from my wife's near perfect health to my not-so-perfect health; from my comfortable office to my free country; for food, shelter, clothing, safety, conveniences, and the list is truly endless. Though I have always been thankful for my co-workers, too, I praise God for caring for and directing in the lives of fellow-servants like Ursula and Marianne, who were spared a most ignominious, terrifying, and hideous death, and were set aside to become faithful fishers-of-men for the Kingdom of God. Oh, what a Savior!

Another of our missionary families in Uruguay recently saw God's protective hand in a dramatic way. **Pastor Gustavo and Alejandra Oliveira** of Montevideo have a 10-year-old son named **Elias**. Elias and three of his friends from church were being driven to a birthday party by one of the other kid's parents. I do not know the details of how the accident developed except that the car was hit by an armored bank truck. One of the boys was thrown from the car, but only suffered minor injuries. Elias and the other passengers were shaken up but okay. We all rejoice in their deliverance.

The October 26 **presidential election in Uruguay** was inconclusive. The Broad Front garnered 49% of the vote - not a clear majority. Known in Uruguay by its acronym F.A., this party encompasses the communists, socialists, and other left-wing sub-groups. The runoff election will be on November 30 between the Broad Front and National Party candidates. Our prayer is that religious liberty will continue in Uruguay, as it has under the current president who is F.A.

On November 10, **Dr. Gary Reimers**, the pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church of Greenville and a professor in the seminary at BJU, will be in Uruguay for a week-long course on "Expository Preaching." The seminar is sponsored by **FEBU**, the new Bible college in Uruguay. This will be the 2nd such block course held this year. The classes will be held at EMU's Camp Emmanuel. Pray that many will take advantage of these classes, not only the students at FEBU but also many who are already pastors and in other missionary work.

For those of you who would like to help **FEBU** with their expenses, an account has been set up with the missionary organization Gospel Missions to South America. Donations should be sent to 1401 SW 21 Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312; phone number 954-587-2975.

(This is one of the many missionary organizations in Uruguay that are sponsoring FEBU.) The funds will be made available to the Board of Directors of FEBU.

My brother **Rick** arrived safely in Uruguay on October 26 with the three men who are helping him with projects at **Camp Emmanuel** for ten days. The only glitch in travel was when **Britt Hopper's** flight out of Dallas, TX, was delayed by several hours, and he barely made his connecting flight for the Miami/Uruguay leg of the journey. His checked luggage didn't make it on the plane with him, but it arrived in Uruguay the next day (Monday). By the next newsletter I will know all about the work done at camp. It is odd not to be there this year, but our kaleidoscope of fall colors here in Upstate South Carolina helps alleviate any disappointment of missing out on working with Rick and his crew.

Steve Erkens' first-person introduction to Uruguay was October 2013 when he accompanied me to Camp Emmanuel to work with Rick and two other men (one was Britt). I decided months ago not to go down this October, but at the last minute - in terms of international trips - Steve found that he could get a flight out of Greenville to Uruguay and back for almost half the regular "flight miles" required to fly free. After talking it over with his wife, Charity, and our people in Uruguay, he decided to go down for 2 weeks beginning October 29. He will be at Camp Emmanuel until Rick and his crew leave and then move into Montevideo to meet with our national missionaries in that region and visit some churches. I would probably have gone with him using my own flight points, but for the first time in 39 years I did not have a valid passport. (It arrived in our office the day Steve left!) Pray that this will be a very productive trip for Steve as he connects with our missionaries and learns more about the ministries in Uruguay.

Bethel Church in Pando, Uruguay, pastored by **Carlos Olivera**, received a long-time-coming blessing recently. The church is finally incorporated. This process is mind-bogglingly complicated and frustrating. What should only take about a month, usually takes well over a year, and often many years. This "*personaria juridica*" will allow the church to own property and to be the employer of their pastor.

There have been many other blessings in our churches in Uruguay that are too numerous to mention. However, let me give you some stats from our church in **Treinta y Tres**. At the winter youth camp at **Camp Bethel**, three people made professions of faith in Christ. They are attending church regularly in either Treinta y Tres or La Charqueada. The church began the 2nd semester of their video Bible Institute with seven students, and

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the pastor is preparing eight candidates for baptism when it warms up enough and the river isn't flooding. Continue to pray for our churches and varied ministries in Uruguay.

At the beginning of October, **JD Crowley** returned to Cambodia, completing his 2½ week trip to South and North Carolina. In NC he spoke at the FX Conference at The Wilds Camp sponsored by Frontline Missions. JD also visited his parents in Kernersville, NC. Three of the Crowley children and two grandchildren live in Greenville, so he got some face-time with them, as well as preaching three times at his sending church Hampton Park Baptist Church. They were good, thought provoking messages.

In the capital of Cambodia, the **Hancocks** and **Jensens** continue to study the Khmer language. Both families seem to have adjusted well to their new homes.

In October **Jeremy Farmer** took a 3 day trip to Stung Treng Province with another missionary who ministers to some Laotian churches in that province. The Farmers, who have not yet learned the Laotian language, are continuing to scope-out where they might move for their future ministry to the Laotian people. At about the same time, **Brian Kane** drove down to Phnom Penh from Ban Lung – on the same day that JD took the reverse route. Brian attended a 2 week linguistics conference held by SIL. As you recall, Brian has accepted the challenge of helping to continue the translation of the Bible into the Krung tribal language.

Matt and Jonathan Hancock hitched a ride with Brian when he returned home to Ban Lung on October 18. **Becky**, who is due to deliver their 3rd child in December, opted to stay home. Matt's intention was to get to know the EMU veteran missionaries in Ban Lung better and to see a part of Cambodia he had not visited before.

Bonnie Ruth Farmer has November 26 (or hopefully a little sooner) highlighted on her calendar as the day for the arrival their 7th child. So far, Bonnie Ruth is planning to give birth at a hospital in Phnom Penh. The Farmers are so grateful to have Brooke Illsley from Heritage Bible Church of Greer with them to help with the children.

Ted Allston was supposed to leave on November 9 for 2 weeks to teach Christian leaders in a Southeast Asian country. However, changes in that country's visa regulations led to Ted's canceling the trip. Though disappointed, Ted hopes to get caught up on some of his stateside work.

Tim and Cheryl Chapman will finally have their family in the Greenville, SC, area November 7-10. Tim will be presenting their Peru ministry at Heritage Bible Church and Calvary Baptist Church of Simpsonville. Though Tim was at our house a few weeks ago, this will be the first time we have seen the whole family.

The Bixbys and Coles have been organizing an extensive outreach to the people of Val de France, north of Paris. Members from the church they are currently attending in Saint Denis have volunteered their time for literature distribution and visitation. On October 23, Steve Erkens, Joan, and I had the opportunity to get to know **Krista Colas**, a young lady with Open Door Missions who is serving in France as a missionary. She spent her first two terms in a church northeast of Paris, but she will be relocating when she returns to France in January 2015. After meeting with the Coles and Bixbys earlier this year, Krista decided to move to their area and help with the church plant in Val de France. After meeting with her, it was evident to us that Krista will be a tremendous help to the EMU team. (Krista will remain with Open Door, which has given her permission to work with our team.)

The ministry of **Marco and Gwendolyn Nuñez** in Cancún, Mexico, has seen some wonderful blessings in the past month.

Several people have put their faith in Jesus Christ and are attending the church regularly. Some of these folks have been prayed for for many years. Another answer to prayer has been the return of the **Flores family**. You may remember that Raul Flores used to be the youth pastor at the First Fundamental Baptist Church of Cancún. But a severe family problem forced Marco to discontinue Raul's employment. This was crushing news to all of us who have known Raul and his family for almost 15 years. He was Marco's right-hand-man in every aspect of the ministry. A few months after Raul was let go, he stopped attending the church altogether, in spite of much counseling from Marco and other national pastors. In October, Raul and Erika repented of their sins and have returned to the fellowship of the church. Pray that they will remain faithful. They are a precious family.

My parents are well and sticking close to home, i.e. no out-of-state travel at this time. They continue to minister to others through visiting the "elderly" in retirement and nursing homes.

Although it is in November that we especially focus on thankfulness to God and others, those of us who serve together in EMU International are reminded every month of those who stand with us by supporting us with your prayers and gifts, and of God's continual supply of our needs. Thank you so much for your part in this ministry! ✚



Check our new website at
www.emuinternational.org



A Pyramid in Proverbs Fourth Edition

Marilyn Jensen is happy to announce the fourth printing of her book, *A Pyramid in Proverbs*. Although this new edition has all of the same chapter content, including thought-provoking questions at the end of each chapter, this new issue is different than previous copies. Besides being spiral bound, at the back of the book is now a section for use in Bible study groups which corresponds to each of the 23 chapters on characteristics of the Virtuous Woman of Proverbs 31. This section was originally written by Debbie Herbster when she used *A Pyramid in Proverbs* for a ladies' Bible study at Tri-City Baptist Church in Kansas City years ago. As in the past, the profits from the sale of this book will

be donated to the ministries of EMU International. However, since EMU is not the official seller of the book, purchases will not be receipted by EMU, but rather by Marilyn Jensen. Inquiries concerning the individual and bulk rate costs of the book should be directed to Marilyn Jensen at gmjen50@gmail.com or by USPO mail to 10 Boysenberry Drive, Taylors, SC 29687. Daughter-in-law, Kathy Jensen, will also be helping with orders through r.a.jensen@juno.com or c/o The Wilds, 1000 Wilds Ridge Road, Brevard, NC 28712. If you contact the EMU office, we will forward the request for you. *The Pyramid in Proverbs* would make an excellent, inexpensive Christmas gift! ✚

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The Languages of Christmas

by Ken Jensen



Christmas is a word known around the world, even by many who do not speak English. Christmas is the combination of two words – Christ + Mass – each with a different language background. “Christ” comes from the Greek word “Christos” meaning “anointed.” Its Old Testament Hebrew counterpart is “Messiah.” “Mass” has a less familiar origin. We think of “Mass” as strictly a Roman Catholic word referring to the liturgy encompassing the taking of what we Protestants call “The Lord’s Supper.” This taking of the Body and Blood of Christ has been practiced since Jesus instituted the ritual the night before His crucifixion. The word “Mass” comes from the Latin meaning “to send away.” This is the same Latin word from which we get the term “mission” and “missionary” (one sent out). The reason for calling The Lord’s Supper “Mass” was that at the end of the service the pastor or priest would close by instructing the congregants, “Now go out into your public lives and live Christ.” (I’m not actually quoting a source there, but giving the gist of the statement.)

This article of necessity needs to be kept short, so I will make only one application – maybe. The **Christmas Fund Offering**, at its core, combines two language groups: English and Spanish. Each year we ask the readers of the EMU Newsletter (obviously English readers) to contribute to a special offering for our Uruguayan missionaries (all Spanish speakers). This special yearly gift has been an abundant blessing to our nationals who minister in Uruguay. These are missionaries with the unusual situation of not having the opportunity to travel around the USA to raise support for their living or ministry expenses. All donations that are given to the Christmas Fund, not undesignated to an individual, will be divided among EMU’s Uruguayan nationals.

However, there are many non-Uruguayan missionaries with EMU who have raised their support in the traditional fashion. At this time of year it is also very encouraging to them to receive special Christmas gifts. Any Christmas offering designated to an individual family will go exclusively to that family.

We have two groups of EMU Newsletter recipients: those who receive a paper copy, and those who download the PDF newsletter. The paper form has an accompanying special red-ink-lettered envelope – an excellent and convenient reminder to send a gift. It is a little difficult to attach the Christmas envelope to the PDF in a usable fashion. However, the EMU website at www.emuinternational.org has a tab to “Donate.” There you will find options for traditional USPO and electronic contributions. You can designate your PayPal gift by clicking on “have a message. . .”

Another name for The Lord’s Supper is the Eucharist, which is Greek for “giving thanks.” (More about that in the December Newsletter!) In this month of Thanksgiving, we trust part of your thanksgiving to God will include a special financial gift to one of His Kingdom works around the world. ☩



There is still time to give to the Camp Sponsorship Fund.

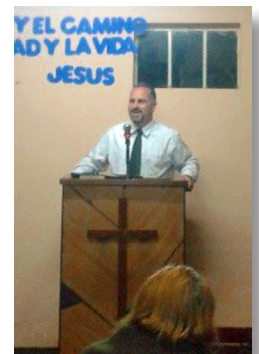
Camps begin at Camp Emmanuel in January 2025.

Not An Average Spring

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church there. Pray for her, that she will understand the Gospel and truly believe it.

Many other things happened in September. The week after Gethsemani’s anniversary, I went to Rivera for the anniversary of the church in “Rivera Chico,” where my brother is the pastor. Spring holidays from school started that weekend,



Gabriel in Rivera Chico

so I was able to take my two sons. We had a good time in spite of Rosanna not being able to go with us. She is very busy this time of year at the office where she works. In addition, she was invited to share the Word of God in the evenings at a ladies’ retreat at Camp Emmanuel. María Teresa Rodríguez was the speaker in the mornings.

I am flying to Perú next Friday - October 24. I will be speaking at the Bible College in Trujillo, Perú, about serving the Lord in these post-modern times. Marcos and Rosanna helped me with what they could so I would have more time to study. They also improved (remade) our Uruguayan PowerPoint presentation. And Lucas, still too young to help productively, was going around trying to find some way to help me and doing exactly the opposite. I will be returning home on November 4. ☩

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