

The EMU Newsletter

PROCLAIMING THE TRIUMPHS OF THE GOSPEL

Volume LVIII

August-September 2015

Number 8



Ken & Joan Jensen
Director

ALONG THE WAY . . .

In July, Walter Palmer, a Minnesota dentist, became internationally known, but not for his work on teeth. Palmer is also a trophy hunter, using a bow and arrow to bring down his game. On July 1, while in Zimbabwe to “bag” a male lion, he shot Cecil the Lion, the star attraction of Hwange National Park, though the shooting allegedly took place outside the park. Subsequently, news of the killing has gone viral, and it has been almost impossible to hear a top-of-the-hour news report without the mention of outrage against Palmer and his African hunting guide. Condemnation of Palmer and his guide has been international in its scope. Accusations and counter-accusations make the story almost impossible to know the true facts. From my understanding, Palmer’s dental business has been at least temporarily shut down as a result of threats and negative publicity. (I contend that Palmer could have become a hero by stating that he learned that Cecil the Lion was named after Cecil Rhodes, the imperialist who established the country of Rhodesia - now Zimbabwe - and he became so irate over just the mention of the racist’s name, that he shot the lion to rid Zimbabwe of any vestige of honor given to Cecil Rhodes!)

Also in July, the Center for Medical Progress (CMP) released its first of four videos of Planned Parenthood (PP) selling
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GOING HOME

by Ken Jensen

While in Uruguay in February/March of 2013, I suffered my second major setback with *Trigeminal Neuralgia* in two years. Thankfully I had enough extra medications on hand to mitigate the situation, unlike the previous year’s occurrence of the rather painful condition. As was related in these EMU Newsletters since that spring of 2013, Steve and Charity Erkens brought their family back to the Greenville, SC, area to determine if Steve should become the next director of EMU International. So, for the past two years, Steve, Joan, Kami, and I have been working together to integrate Steve into the workings of the mission. The task of teaching someone else what I know about our mission fields and missionaries was a bit more involved than I had anticipated. And added to that were the office procedures dealt with by Joan and Kami. And added to that were Steve’s ideas for making the office more efficient - ideas which have taken considerable front-end work and discussion, but are being successfully implemented.

When the Erkens moved here from Beijing, China, where they had been missionaries with EMU, Steve and I had the agreement that we would give ourselves two years to decide for sure if he would become the next director of EMU. The end of that time came in June of this year. At the end of June, Steve and Charity met with Joan and me to

let us know that their hearts were still very much in China, and that Steve did not have peace about becoming the next director.

The announcement of this decision in the Newsletter was delayed until various levels of the EMU family were notified: the Board of Directors, the EMU missionaries, the Erkens’ supporters, and finally the regular donors to EMU. I did not want any of these categories to hear about the decision apart from my or Steve’s correspondence.

Joan and I are disappointed by this decision, but we have accepted it as the Erkens’ final decision on the matter. We still love and respect Steve and Charity, and it has not damaged our family relationship. (For those of you who do not know, Charity is our second daughter.) Steve has agreed to continue to work in the office while we are initiating a major change in our database/accounting procedures. Steve has been a major component of this change.

The Erkens hope to be able to return to China early in 2016. However, they will need to raise some additional support that was lost when they came Stateside. Steve has already been in contact with the public university he taught at their last year there, and they are interested in having Steve as a teacher of English again. But all these things
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Caleb, Steve, Luke, Jacob, & Charity Erkens

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aborted baby parts – organs and limbs – to what Planned Parenthood officials thought was a biotech laboratory. Although PP secured a restraining order from a liberal district judge to prevent the continued release of these videos, copies can still be seen via YouTube. I have viewed all of the currently released videos, thanks to links posted by our missionary wife, Lydia Kane. (You can also get the links to the CMP videos by Googling “The Center for Medical Progress.”) Although most, if not all, of you who are reading this column are anti-abortion, these documentaries will make the importance of outlawing abortions even stronger. They are shocking, to say the least, and confirm that abortionists know beyond a shadow-of-a-doubt that they are killing babies and selling their body parts.

Killing a lion only becomes a moral issue if it is carried out against the law. (You cannot go into a zoo or game preserve and begin shooting the animals.) But there is nothing intrinsically immoral about hunting animals. In stark contrast, it is legal in 41 States to abort a baby before the 24th week of life! And as we know, many abortionists are performing “late-term” abortions. Laws in the USA that allowed slavery because “blacks were not really fully human” once prevailed in parts of our country. How much more immoral it is to declare babies of a certain age as non-human and kill them. Considering those who are outraged by the killing of Cecil the Lion, the vast majority – though not all – are pro-abortion, and they are also outraged against the CMP videos.

Who, when, and where an animal can be killed is a political issue; killing babies, at whatever age they are, is a moral issue. After watching the documentaries, my thought was, “How can God not bring devastating judgment upon our country?” The EMU Newsletter has never been a political rag, and it rarely mentions social issues; however, I would encourage all of you to watch the CMP videos and then let your voice be heard according to your conscience before God.

I have taken more space than I intended with the above subject, so I will now make a sharp transition to EMU news, with the theme of “moving.” Many of our missionaries moved in July, or will be moving or on the move in August or September.

If you have already read the announcement about **Steve and Charity Erkens**, you know that they will be returning to Beijing, China, to minister. They have placed their townhouse up for sale and are in the process of securing the needed support to return to the land of their hearts.

Around 2,000 miles south of Beijing, Charity’s brother and his wife (**Joshua and Amy Jensen**) made a major move from Phnom Penh, Cambodia, to Ban Lung, in the northeastern Province of Ratanakiri. The Jensens had first planned to be in the capital for two years of language study, until they were asked to house-sit for a missionary couple in Ban Lung who were going on furlough. Since Josh would complete his studies at The Gateway to Khmer language school in July (it was the first year of the school’s existence), he and Amy decided they could continue their studies with tutors in Ban Lung. This will make it more convenient for them to begin looking for a more permanent residence in that city, as well as getting to know the Jaria tribal people with whom they currently plan to work in the future. Josh and Amy hired a “moving company” to load and then drive their belongings to Ban Lung. The move took place on the last Friday in July. The house is next door to the Crowleys’ house. No doubt Amy will post pictures and a report on “The Jensen Dimension” blog-site.

JD, Kim, and Nate Crowley have been doing some in-country travel in Cambodia. They drove to the capital’s airport to meet Tim Keese of Frontline Missions (FM) and Tim’s traveling companions, Pete Hansen and Brannon McAllister. They are there to film the 9th episode of *Dispatches from the Front*, which will highlight the triumphs of the Gospel in animistic cultures. (Kim returned to Ban Lung from Phnom Penh after the Crowleys got Nate’s passport renewed.) JD then took Tim and his team to Siem Reap, the site of hundreds of temple ruins, some over a thousand years old. The group then drove to Ban Lung for further filming. I am looking forward to the finished DVD. The advance of the Gospel in the Province of Ratanakiri over the past 15 years has been astounding, with animists and Buddhists accepting the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Hancocks have been close to the flurry of activity in Phnom Penh. No doubt they will miss having the Jensens living about a ten-minute drive from their house. Their language study will continue in that city for another 7 months or so. Matt’s parents, Paul and Donna, are flying to Cambodia to visit Matt, Becky, and their three children from August 13-26. (Donna worked part-time in our EMU home office several years ago.)

The Kane and Farmer families might be missing out on all the Cambodia activity, but they are staying plenty busy in the USA. **The Farmers** spent most of June and July visiting supporters and other friends in the upper mid-west. They currently have a full sized passenger van, so all nine family members traveled together.

Jeremy and Bonnie Ruth stored a few stacks of large plastic containers filled

with their meager US belongings at our house/office while they were making their June/July tour. On Wednesday, July 29, they came here to load the containers into their van and a rented, 6-foot bed, king-cab, pick-up truck for their move to Nashville. Five of the Farmers’ children will be attending the first semester at a local Christian school. (This will be a new experience for all the children.) During the couple of hours they were here that morning, the Kanes came over to say good-bye. So, for a while we had 13 children entertaining themselves at our house while the adults talked. There was not nearly the chaos one might expect. We do very much love these two families!

Jeremy will continue to visit partnering churches during the next several months.

We have been with **the Kane family** more than with the Farmers, mainly because the Kanes have been living at our church’s missionary house. The Kanes have been traveling some, also, to get reacquainted with those who partner with them. Brian, Lydia, and their six children will soon return to Cambodia, leaving Greenville, SC, on September 8.

The Steel family was in Greenville, SC, for a short time – June 16-July 23. John Mark (JM) was able to complete another summer class at Bob Jones University for his doctorate. Some changes for the requirements of this degree necessitated JM taking this class this summer. It was perfect timing since this is the month long semester break at the Bible college (FEBU) in Uruguay, where JM and Deborah teach. The Steels returned to Montevideo in time for JM to attend another FEBU conference at a camp in northwestern Uruguay. The speaker for the 5-day seminar was Pastor Daniel Skogen from the States. The 2nd semester of FEBU begins on August 6.

The Espinels have also been in the States (mainly New Jersey) during the FEBU semester break. Kristine’s parents were hoping to visit Uruguay this year, but her dad’s battle with MS rendered him unable to travel such a long way, so the Espinels took this opportunity to visit the McCunes for a few weeks. (December was the optimum month, time-wise, but plane tickets were hundreds of dollars more per ticket then.) Matias and Kristine visited several of their supporters in the New England area. The Espinels returned to Uruguay on August 5, the day before Matias began teaching at FEBU. Pray that this 2nd semester of FEBU and the EMU Bible Institute will be well attended and that the students will persevere in their academics.

Another “event” that has put an extra load on the Espinels is that they are in the process of selling and buying a house. They have found that living in Colon, a city connected to but not part of Montevideo,

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Uruguay, is too far away from Matias' main ministry. The commutes from their house in Colon to the location of the FEBU classes were becoming tiresome. After looking for and pricing houses closer to Calvary Temple of Montevideo, where FEBU meets, Matias found an affordable house about 5 blocks from the church. Buying and selling real estate in Montevideo is a time consuming and often frustrating process. The Espinels already have a buyer for their house in Colon. Pray that the Espinels will be strengthened and encouraged at this time.

The Crnkovics from Koprivnica, Croatia, had not been to the USA as a family to visit their supporters for 12 years, mainly because of the cost of travel. And they have two more children since that time. A special gift was given to EMU so the Crnkovics could come here again, which they did on July 17 to begin 5 weeks of intensive travel to meet with churches and individuals who support their ministry in northern Croatia. Thankfully, free housing was provided by the parents of a lady in our church, Hampton Park Baptist Church (HPBC). And we supplied the Crnkovics with a mini-van for their family of six. They are fairly well-booked until they return to Croatia on August 25.

The two gentlemen most instrumental in the Crnkovics joining EMU International as missionaries, and with their funding, have both suffered physical setbacks and are currently house-bound. **Carl Boone**, a member of HPBC, introduced Kornel and Tanja to Joan and me at a meeting during which we decided to pursue the prospect of the Crnkovics going back to Croatia as EMU missionaries. **Pastor Yearick**, who was the senior pastor at HPBC at the time, actually raised most of the needed financial support the Crnkovics needed for service in Croatia. He did this by asking our congregation for individual families to take on the support for one year. Many of those supporters have continued their support since 1994! Both of these men need prayers. Both Mr. Boone and Pastor Yearick have been good friends of our family and EMU, and the latter has been an EMU Board member for a few decades.

Marla Allston is the eldest daughter of Pastor and Mrs. Yearick. Though Marla is not able to travel with her husband **Ted** on many of his trips abroad, she is still a vital part of Ted's ministry. Earlier in July Ted spent several days in Zimbabwe meeting pastors and determining if they would desire his teaching services in the future. It seems that Ted will be returning to Zimbabwe in the future to hold seminars for the Christian leaders. On August 26, Ted flies to South Sudan again to continue teaching Christian leaders in that war-torn country. But before that he will be



(l-r) Kornel, Steve, John Mark, and Ted



(l-r) Caleb E., Ken, Luke E., Nathanael & Marko Crn., & Taylor Crowley

the guest speaker to a group of men on a fishing trip in the Canadian outback, i.e. they have to fly in to the cabin's location in a pontoon plane. (As a Charlestonian, I suppose Ted knows how to fish, too.)

From what you have read so far, you know that several of our missionary families were in and around Greenville, SC, in July. Joan and Charity planned and executed a picnic for the late afternoon and evening of July 21. In attendance were the Crnkovics, the Steels, the Allstons, the Erkens, the Kanes (minus Lydia and 2 of their children due to an illness), Kami Brennemen, Jenna and Taylor Crowley (MKs), and George and Marilyn Jensen. Papa John's Pizza made the supper part less hectic. We were able to secure the covered pavilion/basketball courts at Bob Jones University. Joan and I took basketballs, croquet, a badminton set, and lawn bowling, so there were plenty of activities for the kids - and adults. These are very special occasions when our missionary families are able to get to know each other better. There was so much going on that we forgot to get a picture of the whole group, but I trust the photos in this newsletter will give you an idea of the fun we had.

Still on the theme of moving or being on the move, **the Bixbys** have been looking for a house to buy in northern France that will be closer than their current rented



(l-r) Jacob E., Hugh K., Joan, Elizabeth S., Mia K., and Jackson K.

house to the municipality where they and **the Coles** hope to start a new church. Purchasing a house in and around Paris is very expensive, but the loan payments will be about what they pay in monthly rent. Right now the US dollar is at an all-time high against the Euro. Recently the Coles were able to find a good used compact car for getting around town.

The church plant in Sarcelles, France, continues moving forward. Now that the Bixby and Cole families are both in France again, there is even a stronger effort to evangelize in this city. Also, missionary Kristi Colas and members of the Baptist church in Saint Denis continue to be a godsend in this endeavor. Tim and Michael, as elders at the church in Saint Denis, are still preaching and teaching there, too.

Marco and Gwendolyn Nuñez had a very busy July. Marco made the decision to move **Toño and Karina Alvarado** back to Cancún to help with the youth group at the First Fundamental Baptist Church (FFBC), pastored by Marco. The attempted church plant in Puerto Morelos was not working out, and Marco also needed help at his church because of the large youth group. So, Toño, Karina, and their 2 children are living in Cancún again.

On July 25, the Nuñezes welcomed a group of 15 young people and their sponsors to Cancún. The 11 teens and 4 adults from **Hampton Park Baptist Church** had an active time helping in children's and teen ministries, and teaching and preaching in several of the EMU churches on the Yúcatan Peninsula. Using the FFBC's full-size van as transportation, the Nuñezes took the team to the Béal church

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HPBC team with the youth group in Cancun at the park across from the church

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pastored by **Jose Luis Uc** in the State of Campeche. The next day the group traveled to Chemax, Yucatán, for meetings at the church of **Pastor Pascual Balam** before driving to the church in Valladolid, Yucatán, pastored by **Vicente Puc**. The team traveled back to Cancún mid-week to begin ministering at FFBC through Sunday evening. Monday, August 3 was a sightseeing/recreation day as Marco and Gwendolyn took the group to Islas Mujeres, an island off the southern coast of Cancún. The following day, the HPBC crew flew back to Greenville, SC.

Tom and Connie Chapman will be in the States from September 4-October 29 to visit with family. We are also looking forward to the Chapmans being in Greenville, SC, to discuss their future plans for ministry in the years ahead now that the Salvatierra brothers are pastoring the church in Antofagasta, Chile.

At the end of August, **the Tim Chapman family** will be hosting special guests for 2 weeks. **Joan and I** will be flying to Lima, Perú, to see the younger Chapmans' ministry. Tim has our schedule filled, so it will feel like a quick trip. We look forward to being with this family for the first time in Perú. I'm sure I will have pictures of the adventure in the October newsletter – probably too many photos! Pray for our safety, health, and that we will be a blessing to the Chapmans and others we are in contact with.

Mel and Jan Wingrove spent July presenting EMU International in churches in the west and mid-west. Their last services were in Arizona before heading back to their home in North Carolina. They and their children, and probably others, are looking forward to celebrating

Mel and Jan's 50th wedding anniversary on August 8. Congrats to these two! The couple will then be traveling to Pennsylvania for services and remaining in the northeast through August. Continue to pray for their safe travels and that their ministry will be effective.

Missionary **Bill Judson** had a busy summer. Besides visiting several of the seminary/Bible colleges his father helped to start in their province and surrounding provinces, the Judsons have been settling into their new apartment. Billy gave Steve Erkens and me a Skype tour of the apartment. Billy and **Saritha** are continuing to acquire the needed furniture. One of the major projects that Billy and his father completed in July was publishing the new "Wisdom from the Heart" magazine for pastors and Christian leaders across India. Billy would like to purchase a Riso Digital Printer so he can do the printing at his office for the magazine and other publications. The printer he would like to buy costs around \$4,500. He seems to have done his homework concerning this printer. Pray that the Judsons will gain their full support soon. Billy is still planning to come back to the States to visit churches concerning his ministries.

Though we with EMU are pro-life, that is not enough; we must also be "pro-eternal-life." This newsletter has given you a lot of information about travels and needs of our missionaries. But through all of these ministries the Gospel continues to be disseminated in the areas in which our missionaries reside. Pray that hearers of the Word will be receptive hearers. Thank you for your partnership with us through your prayers and gifts. ☩

Going Home

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are just "in the works" for now, and no schedule is set in stone yet.

As for the identification of the next director of EMU, I did not have a Plan B. For now, I am working on a new Plan A. Of course the EMU Board will have to approve whomever I (read: Joan and I) choose to begin the process of training as a new candidate. Although I am anticipating that the initial "whittling down" process to just one individual will take a lengthy time, who knows what the Lord has in store for us. If any of you have suggestions concerning a person you believe would be a good fit with EMU, please let us know.

Some folks tell me that they are praying that I will be healed from the *Trigeminal Neuralgia*. I respond the same way to each of those encouragers: I believe, as the Apostle Paul did, that the Lord is not going to remove my "thorn in the flesh." Believe me, I prayed about it more than three times! And each time, the Lord, I believe, reminded me of the words of Paul where he wrote, "Your grace is sufficient for me." His grace has been sufficient, even during the painful relapses. But He has always given me strength to do what I need to do, even in the day-to-day tiredness I have from the medications. So, thank you for your prayers, but it is okay to change the prayer to "Please continue to give Ken grace to live with T.N., and cause the medications to continue to keep the pain at bay."

And pray for Steve and Charity Erkens as they make plans to return to China. ☩

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