

The EMU Newsletter

PROCLAIMING THE TRIUMPHS OF THE GOSPEL

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Ken & Joan Jensen with grandchildren (l-r) Luke, Carson, Jacob, Bella, & Caleb at North Myrtle Beach, SC (Becca, Isaiah, & Anna are in Cambodia)

ALONG THE WAY . . .

Although Joan and I were in Perú for only 2 weeks, arriving back home on September 10, it feels like September was the shortest month of the year. It did not help that we also took a week's vacation at North Myrtle Beach with our daughters' families the last full week of September. Swirling around us have been EMU missionaries traveling to and from their fields. (I'm pretty sure I'll miss mentioning some!)

Early in August (the 4th) the Espinels flew back to Uruguay, and Matias began teaching the day they arrived home at the Bible College (FEBU), along with John Mark Steel. A young adult retreat was planned for September 24-26 at a camp in Paysandú in northwestern Uruguay for the purpose of promoting FEBU. The guest speaker was Andrew Self, a missionary from Buenos Aires, Argentina. Pray that more young men, especially, will decide to enroll in FEBU and then go out to start churches in the many unchurched areas in Uruguay. Also, the Espinels are planning to move from the city of Colon on the outskirts of the Montevideo metro area to a house only a few blocks from the EMU mission house in Montevideo to be closer to where the FEBU classes are held at Calvary Temple of Montevideo.

Three days before our trip to Perú, we hosted a get-together at our house for some families that support the Crnkovic family

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A PERUSAL OF Perú

by Ken Jensen

When Francisco Pizarro first set out to conquer the Inca Empire in 1524, he and his followers had one goal in mind: to find El Dorado, the rumored city of gold. It was not until 1532, after much suffering and many setbacks, that he and a band of less than 200 Spanish soldiers triumphed over the Incan army of 80,000 men. Inca Atahualpak, the ruler of the Incan Empire, was taken captive and held for ransom. The price for Atahualpak's freedom was literally a room full of gold. (The room was about 22 feet long, 17 feet wide, and 8 feet high.) And twice this volume in silver was required. Instead of releasing Atahualpak, Pizarro had the Inca king put to death. Francisco gained his "El Dorado." But as gold was his god, perdition was his payment. Pizarro's life was characterized by intrigue, treachery, murder, adultery, and a substantial litany of other rebellions against God. Yet he professed to be doing God's work by "converting the heathen." His life ended at the points of assassins' swords while he was the Governor of Lima.

From their capital at Cuzco, southeast of Lima and two miles high, in a valley in the heart of the Andes Mountains, the Incas administrated the largest empire of any Native American tribe. (Inca was actually the title of the rulers of the Quechua tribe.) Besides imposing their Quechua language, society, and government structure on subordinate tribes, the Incas strongly encouraged the worship of Inti, the Sun god. And the Sappa Inca, or head honcho of the empire, was believed to be the son of the Sun, e.g. deity. Pizarro and subsequent Spaniards proved the Sappa Inca

and his minions to be greatly mistaken.

The worship of gold and the Sun continue in Perú. The emblem on the country's flag sports a cornucopia spilling out gold coins. (In the USA the cornucopia overflows with fruits and vegetables and is most often displayed for Thanksgiving - a holiday unique to America and Canada.) Interestingly, the Peruvian currency is called the Sol (the Sun). Prior to its present name, Perú's "dollar" was known as the Inti. The lust for wealth has relegated the middle and upper classes to surround their houses with high walls, often crowned with razor and/or electric wire, especially in Lima.

EMU missionaries Tim and Cheryl

Chapman moved to Lima for a very different purpose: to point Peruvians to the true Son of God and to proclaim the nature and source of true riches. Joan and I had planned to visit Perú several times since the Chapmans moved to Lima in 2006. The main reasons for our delay in traveling to Perú have been the number of folks from USA churches who



The 2 symbols of Peru: the llama & the Roman Catholic church, in the background a statue of Jesus overlooking Cuzco



(l-r) Cheryl, Lauren, Tim, Abigail, & Micah w/Joan & Ken in front of the Presidential Palace in Lima

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have gone to help the Chapmans with various ministries, and because of Tim's travels around Perú holding evangelistic campaigns, camp, and retreats - from the north of Perú to the south, from the desert coast to the Andes, and to the jungles of Perú.

Tim Chapman's ministry focus has also morphed since 2006. He began his ministry in Perú as an evangelist. During those early years he and Cheryl developed a burden for the young people and for the training of Christian young men and women. This led to a plan of purchasing land for a year-around camp and conference center. However, the price of land around Lima proved prohibitive. During this time, Tim was asked to be the interim pastor at Gethsemani Church in Lima. As the door to camp ministry closed, the door - and passion - for church planting grew.

Tim has been pastoring at Gethsemani for a few years as a new pastor has been pursued. The Chapmans have told the church that at the beginning of 2016 their family will be putting its efforts into starting a church in downtown Lima. There are a few folks from Gethsemani who have also caught the vision for a church in the center of the capital, and they will be assisting the Chapmans. Joan and I were able to get to know these "volunteers" during our time in Lima.



Above: The 1st & 3rd men from left will be helping the Chapmans with their church plant. The man on far right is candidating at Gethsemani.



Left: The couple on left will, also, be part of the team. They will be getting married within a few weeks.



Left: Joan & me on the veranda of the quaint hillside hotel we stayed in overlooking the ancient Incan capital of Cuzco. (Yes, it was a stunningly beautiful view!)



Gethsemani Baptist Church of Lima, Peru

On the two Sundays we were in Lima, Joan and I attended Gethsemani Church. The church has been around for many years, and they own the building. The 2-story structure allows some room for growth, but because the side rooms for Sunday school, children's church, and the nursery are around the sanctuary and share a common block wall, the sounds from the surrounding groups can be heard to some extent in the sanctuary. But such is life in Lima! The congregants were very friendly and helped me as I tried to communicate with them in my limited Spanish, and we met many people who had some connections to people we already knew. There are many entire families in the church, even representing three generations. Pray that these folks will have wisdom as they call another man to pastor.

The Chapmans currently live in the first floor apartment they purchased years ago when the 3-story building was being constructed in the municipality of La Molina, east southeast of downtown Lima. Although the miles between their house and Gethsemani are not numerous, the drive-time can be horrendous. Of all the

cities I have visited, including Beijing, Lima has the worst traffic and most aggressive drivers I have ever witnessed. It seems like all 9.7 million people in Lima are driving at the same time. And often the highways resemble long parking lots. During one foray into Lima, we were in stop-and-creep traffic. We finally made it to the cause of the problem which was 5 lanes of traffic "merging" to 1 lane, with no preliminary causation signs. It can take the Chapmans 45 minutes or longer to get to church now, and the time will be lengthened when they start the inner-city church plant. So, Tim and Cheryl will be looking for a place to live in their "target" area.

Joan and I stayed at the Chapmans' house in La Molina while we were in Lima. It was so good to get to know their 3 children better: **Lauren** (12), **Micah** (10), and **Abigail** (8). Tim has always told us that Perú has the best food in the world, which I always doubted. However, Cheryl and a part-time helper served us up such wonderful meals that I'm having to revisit Tim's claim! I also had to revisit the claim that the Chapmans have a wonderful dog. I started our visit by tolerating Tuffy, the Shiatsu/something else mix, mini-dog. By the time we left Perú, I was ready to stow Tuffy in my carry-on. The canine was

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Tim & Cheryl outside Gethsemani Baptist

Tim translated for me as I presented a PowerPoint of EMU International



Above: On the hike up the boulder mountain "close" to the Chapmans' house. The girls got to the top first - "the thrill of victory!"

Right: And I lost the sole of my hiking boot - "the agony of d'feet!"



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in Croatia. The next day the Crnkovics ended their 5-week “furlough” during which they visited supporting churches and individuals. It was a very busy time for them – and us – but we enjoyed the few times we could be together.



(l-) Tanja, Andrea, Kristina, Kornel, Nataael, & Marko Crnkovic at the airport

The day after the Crnkovics began their journey home, **Ted Allston** began a 3-week trip to South Sudan to teach two block courses in Juba, the capital. His visit was profitable, though extremely hot. The South Sudan excursion began less than a week after Ted spent a week in the wilderness of Canada teaching men (mostly Christians, but some lost) who were on a fishing trip. A couple of men at our home church organize these adventures every summer for a week of fellowship and fishing. Ted’s next trip will take him back to Egypt for a week at the beginning of November.



Ted Allston with 2 students in Juba

Continue to pray for Ted’s in-laws, **Pastor and Mrs. Yearick**. Pastor Yearick continues to recover from an operation a couple of months ago, and in August Mrs. Yearick suffered a compression fracture causing a great deal of pain. They have not been able to attend church much recently. Pray for their full recovery. (Pastor Yearick serves on the EMU Board of Directors.)

Tom and Connie Chapman have been Stateside since early September. They have been staying in Pennsylvania with their youngest daughter’s family. Karen recently had her 2nd child, so Connie has been able

to help around the house. Tom and Connie will be in the Greenville, SC, area beginning October 13. Their main purpose for coming at that time is to hear **Tim Chapman** preach at the Bob Jones University chapels during Mission Emphasis Week beginning October 20. Tim arrives in Greenville the Saturday before and returns to Perú the following Friday. Pray that Tim’s messages will be a spiritual challenge to the students and staff at BJU. And pray for **Cheryl and the kids** as Cheryl continues to homeschool them in Lima.

This month, October, the **Coles and Bixbys** are beginning to have services in their church planting target area of Sarcelles, north of Paris. There are some people from the Saint Denis church who have been and will continue to help with this church plant. They have already met many people in Sarcelles, and some have expressed an interest in this church plant. Currently Tim and Michael have not been able to find a meeting place, such as a school building, so the services will be held in a restaurant where they have already met with folks in the area. Pray that the meetings will be well attended and that a more permanent place will be found soon.

Two days before Joan and I arrived home on September 10, **the Kanés** boarded a plane in Atlanta, GA, to begin their journey back home to Ban Lung, Cambodia, thus ending their 6-month furlough. While still in Phnom Penh, Brian had a kidney stone attack. Thankfully, Brian was able to receive the needed drugs to get him through this amazingly painful “process” of passing the stone.

In August **Matt Hancock’s parents, Paul and Donna**, paid a visit to Phnom Penh, arriving in time for Jonathan’s 5th birthday. It seems that the trip was profitable and enjoyable.



Paul, Donna, Becky, & Matt Hancock with Jediah, Jonathan, & Hope wearing traditional, royal Cambodian garb

Billy Judson sent us a report along with some pictures of a group of pastors in the Bidar District in India about 100 miles from where Billy lives. These church leaders desired to begin a Good News Bible College. I hope to have these photos in the next EMU Newsletter. (I just viewed them a few minutes ago, after writing these two articles.)

On August 16 the **First Fundamental Baptist Church of Cancún** held a baptismal service at the beach. I don’t have the names or testimonies of those baptized, but it was a good group.



Marco Nuñez (center) with new believers

The Erkens also did some moving in September. They put their condominium on the market in July and the second person that saw it, bought it. This was a little faster than the Erkens had anticipated. After looking at various options, Steve and Charity decided to take Joan and me up on our offer for them to live in our upstairs. (We are very inexpensive!) Also, their promised support level reached the minimum for them to plan their return to Beijing at the beginning of 2016. But factors like getting the needed visas or available housing rentals in Beijing could trigger or delay their move to China. They have several services in October, so they will be traveling much of this month.

In Uruguay, there will be a **ladies’ retreat** October 14-17 at Camp Emmanuel. **Deborah Steel** will be the main teacher. Pray for good weather and for Deborah. In September there was also a ladies’ retreat at Camp Bethel in the Department of “33.” In spite of the rain, it was a good time of fellowship and Bible teaching for the 50+ ladies who attended. The week after the Camp Emmanuel retreat, **Chicha Rodriguez** will be coming to the Greenville area to spend some time with her sister and younger brother who live here.

Chicha is often my interpreter when I am in Uruguay, but she will not be in Uruguay when I am at Camp Emmanuel during my upcoming trip October 24 - November 4. Once again, **my big brother** Rickey (aka Rick & RJ) will be leading a team of men to Uruguay to improve Camp Emmanuel’s facilities. This year there are 8 of us going to South America together. However, this year we will only be in Uruguay for all or part of 10 days. Two of those are Sundays, so we only have 8 days to work, and there is a lot to do. A group of Uruguayans from our churches have also volunteered to help at the camp. **Rick and Pedro Donzé**, the camp director, have already put in many hours working out the details of the camp projects. Though we have several prayer requests, the chief one right now is that we will be able to get all the tools and parts we

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well named as he climbed a cerro (small mountain/very large hill) with Joan, Tim, the Chapman kids, and me. It was a much more arduous hike up the rock-pile than I anticipated, but Tuffy made it up and back without a single complaint. Actually, I was amazed that all of us made it to the top of the barren mound. It was some of the most rugged terrain I have hiked.

While in Perú, Joan and I took a 3-night 4-day excursion to Cuzco, the Sacred Valley, and Machu Picchu. This was supposed to be in celebration of our 40th wedding anniversary but was postponed last year when we had to cancel our visit to Perú. Tim made all the arrangements including plane tickets, a tour guide, a driver, hotel accommodations, train tickets, and bus tickets. Our tour guide was a Christian young lady that the Chapmans know, and the driver who took us to and



Joan in front of the Sacred Stone at Machu Picchu that is sculpted to resemble the mountain in the background.

from Cuzco and the Sacred Valley was also a Christian.

I have made the decision to attenuate the plethora of words and photos I would like to present to you, as there simply is not room. It is sufficient to say that the Machu Picchu adventure was amazing, as was our time with the Chapmans. We are so grateful for the Chapmans' ministry to Joan and me, as well as their ministry in Perú. ✚



A dream come true: Machu Picchu with my bride of 41 years. Both are breath-takingly beautiful!

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need through customs. And then pray for safety, good weather, and wisdom.

There are also some major decisions that the **Board of Directors in Uruguay and I** need to make in the next couple of months.

Though **my folks** are no longer employees of EMU, I want to let you know that they are both in good health, able to attend church services, and get around town okay.

I also want to remind you of the **Camp Emmanuel Sponsorship Fund** that I wrote about last early summer. Your early gift will help us plan how many children and young people we can help attend summer camps in January 2016.

Well, I hope you were able to feel some of the winds from the cyclones Joan and I have been through over the past couple of months. I often think about my need to continue to be the director of EMU. I do not question God at all, but it does seem strange to still be in this position. There is a reason for it. And believe me when I say that my close times with our missionaries over the summer months have been very special in a way that they might not have been otherwise. God is at work in all of our lives, and the important thing is to be faithful to what He has called each of us to do. Your interest in EMU International is a part of God's working, and we thank Him and you for your faithfulness. ✚

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