



The EMU Newsletter

PROCLAIMING THE TRIUMPHS OF THE GOSPEL

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Ken & Joan Jensen
Director

ALONG THE WAY . . .

May could best be described as the month of "Ouch!" among our missionary families; though, thankfully, not all of our families suffered incidences that would be categorized as such. However, enough were afflicted to make the general designation credible. I will endeavor to break up the contiguous litany of maladies so that this column does not become a "downer." However, I do want to apprise you of these medical maladies since the "sufferers" are still recuperating. I will begin chronologically, but probably get off track before the end of this article.

Just before dusk on Wednesday, May 4, my father (**George Jensen**) left his house alone for a walk, something he should not do by himself due to some physical and mental deterioration. (If you know my dad, when he determines to do something, the only deterrent would be heavy rope and fancy knots!) No one observed all that took place, but through some forensics and interviews on my part, a relatively coherent history developed. As he began walking up the road, he only made it about ten feet past his property line before he tripped. The left side of his body landed on the rough curb, causing bloody abrasions on his face and left hand. The long-sleeve shirt protected his arm from cuts, but not from extensive bruising. Dad evidently lost consciousness as he was in that position until a driver-by saw him lying in the road with his head on the curb. Strangely, when
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MINISTRY AND MAINTENANCE

by Pedro Donze, office administrator & director of Camp Emmanuel, Uruguay

After the completion of the summer camps in Uruguay, I met with the representatives of EMU churches here to evaluate the results of the camps. Among the questions I asked them was this, "Were the camps a



good tool during the summer to evangelize and edify?" All the pastors said that our goals had been fulfilled. They related how the camps had influenced the lives of the campers, and that many of them still have the enthusiasm and encouragement from their time at camp. It was a great summer.

At the end of March and the beginning of April, we hosted two groups from other churches at Camp Emmanuel. One of them has come for several years now. The other group was an interdenominational organization of Christian doctors. They came to see our camp and services. After a couple of days, they chose our camp for their first congress for evangelical doctors in Uruguay. The organization's purpose is to challenge medical staff to deal with the souls around them. They also provided medical personnel with tools to evangelize their patients, being aware of the great opportunity they have. For us it will be a great challenge to host this congress. We have much to plan and organize.

In the next few weeks we'll begin planning for the winter retreats. The planning stage will demand a lot of time. The tremendous storms we had in April damaged several things, especially

the electrical systems. Another major problem has been years in the making: wood bores have caused so much damage to things made of pine at the camp that these things need to be replaced: 60 bunkbeds, all the

tables in the dining room, and the office desks and bookshelf. We are trusting God to guide us in how to pay for these repairs and replacements.

(KJ - the following are some of the costs related to water damage, lightning damage, and wood bore damage.)

- Dining room water damage - \$813
- Chapel sound system fried by lightning - \$600
- Electrical systems fried by lightning - \$840
- Office desk replacement - \$590
- Dining room table replacements - \$1,600
(I'm not sure how many this represents)
- Bunkbed replacements (60 needed) - \$168 per unit
- Water heaters for cabins (4 needed) - \$525 per unit ☩



Pedro showing me the bore holes. They look like shot-gun pellet holes (rt).

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the driver stopped, a young teenage girl was standing next to him asking if he was okay. We never discovered who this was. The man who stopped happened to be one of our church's missionaries who was on furlough with his family, **Tony Cornelius**. Tony was able to get Dad to his feet and help him slowly walk to my folks' house.

Much more took place in the minutes that followed, but the upshot is that an ambulance took Dad to an emergency room, where he was X-rayed and treated for cuts and abrasions. It was discovered that Dad had a broken left rib, a broken finger on the right hand, and broken bones in his left cheek. There was little the hospital could do about any of these breaks, and no stitches were required, so they sent Dad home that night under the care of **Mom** and my sister **Cindy**. Because of his advancing Alzheimer's, Dad could not remember why his rib hurt so much - the pain was severe enough that he did not know that his finger and cheek were also broken. For the next week one of our kids or Rick's wife Kathy were there 24-hours a day to help Mom with Dad. He was in a lot of pain from his broken rib for many days, but when he was just sitting he felt okay. When he would try to get up from the recliner, he would be in horrible pain again. (While I was caring for him, I learned that he had not been told how badly his face was injured. So, when everyone else was gone, I took a picture of his face and showed it to him. It made a profound impression on him, and it allowed me to remind him over the next couple of days that he had taken a nasty fall. I wanted to use the photo in this newsletter, but Joan overruled!)

It has been three weeks since his run-in with the curb and road. His face is almost completely healed. His rib does not seem to hurt as much as it did, and he is getting used to having his broken finger wrapped. However, his bones will take a long time to heal. Pray that he will completely heal and not reinjure himself.

The second "Ouch" came close on the heels of the first, but was far from being an accident: the removal of my cancerous prostate. Just before going to Uruguay in February, I was diagnosed with cancer of the prostate, with the strong recommendation that I have the organ removed. And very early on May 10, that is what took place. For your comfort and sensitivity, I won't go into the details of what I learned and experienced. However, to any man that has had a prostatectomy, you have a sympathetic ear in Ken Jensen! By God's grace, Joan and I chose for me to have the *da Vinci* robotic procedure. (There are several absolutely fascinating YouTube videos of this operation - on other people,

of course.) I can honestly say that every aspect of this surgery, including pre-op, the operation, hospital stay, and home recovery have been far more of a blessing than I could have ever imagined. We met many Christians in the Greenville Hospital System that we never knew before, and everyone was kind and helpful every step of the way. A special thanks goes to our dear friend of 39 years, **Ray Shaffer**. He retired from nursing at GHS last year, but he does fill-in at the hospital whenever he wants. He actually got on the schedule to work on the day and night of my surgery, and was my nurse for many hours! He made sure I was well educated about post-op information before I left the hospital. Every place I mentioned Ray's name at GHS (when he wasn't around), everyone overflowed with praise of his character and expertise. I could not have been blessed with the care of a greater nurse! (Maybe prettier, but not better!)

For posterity's sake, I had Joan take a photo of my abdomen. And it is my decision to not include it in this newsletter. Suffice it to say that I look like a Beluga whale that was harpooned in the tummy six times, and then the sailors decided to glue - yes, glue - the wounds back together and let me go. Amazingly, I was back in the office doing some work the day I left the hospital two days later. So, am I all healed? No. For several more weeks I am not to lift anything over ten pounds (except myself), I have some soreness at the incisions that will last a while longer, and there are some repercussions from losing the prostate and a sphincter muscle. Thanks for your prayers.

The May EMU Newsletter announced that May 1 was the inaugural service for **Grace Baptist Church of Lima**. This church is a continuation of the ministry of **Tim and Cheryl Chapman** in the Peruvian capital. Over the years Tim has experienced abdominal pain that he assumed - rightly - was related to indigestion. He would lie down for a while until the pain subsided. On Friday, May 13th, we received a call from Tim. He was at a clinic not far from his house on the outskirts of northeastern Lima. He had been having a prolonged bout of the abdominal pain to the point that he and Cheryl decided he needed medical help. At the clinic, the doctors did what they could to relieve his suffering, but nothing really helped, and the doctors suggested that he needed to be transferred to one of the major hospitals in downtown Lima. (Tim called the mission office to ask what his medical plan would pay for, and Joan assured him that he was covered.)

At the hospital Tim received an MRI, and it was discovered that he had a



Tim & Cheryl Chapman (left) with the church plant team. Ruben is in the center with a dark blue shirt.

major problem with a section of his intestines. The diagnosis was that there was a blockage. After attempts to clear the blockage naturally, late in the evening of May 14, Tim underwent emergency surgery. The doctors found that a two-foot length of intestine had basically died and was no longer allowing food to pass through. The damaged section was removed. The prognosis is that Tim will recover slowly, and I can only imagine the pain he continues to have from such a surgery. He was back home by May 23.

Several things have resulted from Tim's illness. Of course, he has not been able to preach at Grace Baptist Church. But a young man named **Ruben**, one of the group that helped start the church, has been preaching. We do not have an update on the church at this time, but please pray for this young congregation as they attempt to reach this part of downtown Lima for Christ. Another change is that Cheryl is now driving in Lima. I remember when Joan and I visited the Chapmans last September that Cheryl had no desire to drive in that chaotic city of 10 million people, and I fully understood why! But with Tim out of the driver's seat, she has had to learn. Pray that the Lord will give her patience and fearlessness as she plies the pavement of Lima. (Truly, if you are timid on the road, you will basically not move. All drivers are aggressive!)

The third change is that **Tom and Connie Chapman** are currently in Lima to help Tim's family for three weeks, from May 19 to June 9. Between the time of Tim's hospitalization and the arrival of Tom and Connie, the friend who helps Cheryl with cooking and some cleaning stayed with the three children. Please pray for Tim's rapid recovery, and that he will not further delay his healing by overdoing it physically when he has a good day! (Been there, done that.)

Meanwhile, **David and Kristin Chapman** are at Tom and Connie's house in Antofagasta, Chile, where they will remain for the next seven months to help his parents begin a new church in the rapidly growing northern part of the city.

We do not yet have a report on **JD Crowley's**
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trip to Burma at the beginning of May, but he and his son, **Nate**, made it safely back to Siem Reap, Cambodia, where **Ethan and Emily Crowley** live, and then on to Ban Lung, Cambodia. **Kim Crowley**, who was in Greer, SC, for a few weeks for the birth of her eldest daughter's 3rd child, returned to Cambodia on May 21.

I neglected to mention an event that took place at **Hampton Park Baptist Church** (my home church) on Sunday evening, April 10, which involved our ministries in Cambodia. **Frontline Missions** produces excellent videos about Christianity around the world in a series called *Dispatches From the Front*. Episode 9 features national churches in Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia. The Frontline film crew spent part of August 2015 filming in northern Cambodia with JD as a guide. This episode premiered at Hampton Park and was well received. If you would like to own this 70-minute documentary, contact Frontline Missions International.

On May 12, **Jeremy Farmer** drove from his home in Stung Treng to Ban Lung to teach at the **Foundations Bible School**, along with **Brian Kane** and **Josh Jensen**. This was Jeremy's first time teaching in Khmer since his family returned to Cambodia after their furlough, and it was Joshua's first time teaching at the school. Foundations is the advanced Bible school requested by the Khmer church leaders a few years ago. The lessons were a continuation of teaching on the Gospel of Matthew from the last gathering of the school.

In the Kanes' prayer letter, **Brian** announced that the Gospel of Matthew in the Krung language is now in its final stage of review before final approval. Brian and **Nigh** are getting the books of Luke, Titus, Philemon, and James ready for review by language consultants. Another blessing is that there are three Krung men in the church, where Brian helps, who are being trained by Nigh and Brian to be deacons in the church.

Brian and Lydia had arranged to make the two-day drive to Chiang Mai, Thailand, to have baby #7. They had hoped to leave earlier in the 3rd week of May; however, several of their children began to get sick, with Lydia finally succumbing to the illness on May 16. A test revealed that the family had gotten *giardia*, an intestinal parasite that is quite unpleasant. The medication to kill the parasites was effective, and Lydia was able to spend Wednesday doing final packing. To help Lydia, Brian took the kids over to the Crowleys' house to play. Unfortunately, the Kanes' oldest daughter, **Mia**, fell on a jagged stone and gashed her knee, requiring three stitches. (I have a picture of this, too, but it is gruesome!)

The Kanes left Ban Lung on Thursday the 19th. By the time they were in Thailand, Lydia began having sporadic, strong

contractions. They were able to find a hospital in a city they were close to and had Lydia examined. They advised Lydia that she could probably make it the 3-hour drive to Bangkok, but not to Chiang Mai. From the Bangkok hospital, Brian sent us a text message saying that the baby would be born in a few hours. However, after a day at the hospital, Lydia's contractions slowed and her condition improved enough that the Kanes were able to continue their drive to Chiang Mai, where they are currently awaiting the arrival of their newest daughter. After the baby is born, Brian will start the process of getting the baby's legal documents so she can return to Cambodia with the family. Brian and Lydia have also decided to make their Chiang Mai stay a vacation, as they stay at the missionary retreat Juniper Tree on the coast. Brian's parents, **Rich and Sheryl**, left Greenville, SC, on May 25 for Chiang Mai to help with the children and spend this vacation time with their son's family. Rich and Sheryl return to the States on June 12.

The Joshua Jensens made progress in May towards finding a Jarai village to move to. (The missionaries, in whose house they are currently living, return to Ban Lung in July.) Josh put forth two important prayer requests in a mid-May update. The first was for May 18 when Josh was to meet with the village leader and the sub-district head for the village of **Saom Kaning** in order to get permission to live in this village. The meeting took place, but the Jensens need to meet with some other government officials to receive their approval to live in Saom Kaning. (The government is much stricter about expats living in tribal villages than they are about foreigners living in Khmer cities.) The second date was May 20, when Josh, along with JD and some other linguists, were to meet with the church leaders from several Jarai villages to discuss whether or not they believed it was important to have a Jarai Bible in the Cambodia/Jarai dialect and with the Khmer script. This meeting also took place, but a follow-up gathering is required for further discussion and a final decision. If the church leaders decide that the Bible in their dialect and alphabet are needed, Josh, with another missionary couple, will be working on this massive project. On a Sunday before his May 20 meeting with the church leaders, Josh's family was invited to a Sunday service (Mother's Day) at the church in Saom Kaning where Josh preached in Khmer. During the



Josh Jensen preaching at Jarai church in Saom Kaning

second half of June, Amy's parents and sister will be visiting the Jensens in Ban Lung, and possibly helping them move, if Josh and Amy find a suitable house in or close to a Jarai village.

Ted Allston was in India with missionary **Billy Judson** during the second half of May. Besides visiting and speaking at some of the Good News Bible Colleges and Seminaries (GNBCS) that Billy and his father have established, Ted was the main speaker at a one-day conference for local alumni of GNBCS. Billy reports that the May 21 conference was a real blessing for the attendees. This conference also served as a platform to announce the **Good News 360 National Leaders Conference** to be held November 2-4 at the Ashirwad Global Learning Centre, in Jodimetla, Hyderabad, India. This conference is for the alumni of any of the GNBCS schools in nine states around India. They are planning for about 400 attendees at this beautiful Christian conference center. The total cost per attendee is \$108, including food, lodging, study materials, and the conference hall. The attendees will be paying a portion of this expense, but Billy is endeavoring to raise funds to take care of most of the cost. If you would like to sponsor any of these GNBCS alumni, please send your donation to the EMU office, and we will see that Rev. Judson receives your support. Two of the speakers at the 360 Conference will be **Ted Allston** and **Jeff Davis**.



Ted w/ translator teaching in India

Ten days after Ted returns home from India, he and Marla will be flying to **Kenya** where both **Ted and Marla** will be teaching church leaders and their wives.

Moving ahead to June "movings," on June 1, **Pastor Hector Gomez** of Rivera, Uruguay, was in Montevideo for an operation on his right eye. When Jeff Davis and I



Graciela & Hector

were with Hector and **Graciela** at their home in February 2016, we learned that Hector's ongoing eye problem had become much worse, and that often he is unable to see with that eye. He was finally able to get a proper diagnosis at a larger hospital in the capital. Pray that this operation will be successful, and that Hector's diabetes will not cause a problem with his recovery. His second son, **Nicolas**, and his wife, **Valeria**,

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Return Service Requested

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have been helping with the ministry at Calvary Temple of Rivera for a couple of years, and Nico will be able to fill-in for his dad during his time of recovery.

On June 2, **Marco and Gwendolyn Nuñez** will arrive here from Cancún, Mexico, to begin two months of visiting supporting churches and individuals. For the first two weeks, they will be staying at the Hampton Park Baptist Church mission house next to the church. (It's a beautiful place!) **Pastor Tomas Noh** from the church in Playa del Carmen and **Toño Alvarado**, Marco's assistant pastor, will be filling in for Marco at the Cancún church.

On June 4, **Pastor Jose Kowalczuk** of Calvary Temple in Durazno, Uruguay, will be flying to Barcelona, Spain, with his brother to visit family. Several of our pastors in Uruguay will be subbing for Jose during his absence. It has been a difficult year for the church in Durazno because of physical ailments. There are those battling cancer, and others have developed chronic illnesses. It seems that almost everyone who was actively serving in the church became physically afflicted over the past one to two years. One milestone that I did not expect to live long enough to see in Durazno is that Jose sold his 54-year old truck. This vehicle has ferried thousands of children and adults to Sunday school and church, and has been a refuge from the storms for



Jose & his truck of 54 years

more thousands when it rained during neighborhood children's classes. Jose, and, when she was still alive, his wife **Maria del Carmen** utilized this truck for the Lord's work in every way possible.

Also on June 4, **John Mark Steel** will be coming to Greenville, SC, for a week to take a class towards his doctorate that is only offered at this time. He returns to Uruguay on June 12.

Then on June 22 Joan and I will welcome the **Gabriel Gomez family** to our house. Years ago Gabriel came to the States to visit The Wilds Camp, along with two of his coworkers from Uruguay, in order to learn more about the camping ministry. The experience made such an impact that Gaby brought his wife Rosanna here in 2013 to visit The Wilds, some supporting churches, and a surprise trip to a church in Sonora, CA, that took on their support. Since 2013, Gaby and Rosanna have been saving almost every extra peso to come to the States with their two teenage boys, **Marcos and Lucas**. They did not tell the boys about this until a few months ago. I really love this family, and it will be a privilege to have all of them at our house for their 3-week visit. They (we) will be presenting their ministry in at least two of the churches that support them. **Grace Baptist Church of Sonora** is just a little too far away for this trip. I have not filled out their schedule yet, but they will be at **Open Door Baptist Church of Bamburg, SC**, on June 26, and at **West Milford Baptist Church** in W. Milford, WV, on July 10. Marcos and Lucas will be attending the July 4 week of camp at The Wilds. That should be interesting as neither speaks English. Rosanna is the English speaker in the family and does a great job of translating.

The congregation at the church in Koprivnica, Croatia, has made a down payment on a piece of property. This is the

church that **Kornel and Tanja Crnkovic** minister in. The building they are currently renting for services has become too small. There is a building on this new property, but the members are trying to decide if it would be better to just tear the old structure down and start from scratch or to attempt renovation. Pray that the church will be able to secure a loan for the property. This is the best prospect they have found in several years of looking.

On Saturday morning, June 25, we will be holding the **annual EMU International board meeting**, followed by a luncheon with the members' spouses. I miss not having **Steve Erkens** here to do all the program setup and PowerPoint presentation. We plan for him to join us via Skype from Beijing, China. Besides the mission business, we will have the Nuñezes and Gómezes at the meeting and luncheon. I personally request your prayers for me as I get ready for this meeting. I feel very behind in everything I ought to be doing. And pray that the Lord will give those of us on the Board of Directors wisdom as we make decisions for EMU International.

Thank you for your prayers for the needs of EMU and our missionaries. Much of this newsletter has been taken up with physical needs and travels. But the greatest need for prayer is for the souls of those who our missionaries work with on a daily basis. Some are in need of discipleship, and others are in need of salvation. Pray for fruit that will last for eternity. And thanks to those of you who are able to support various aspects of EMU with your finances. Our Father owns "the cattle on a thousand hills," but He most often sustains His ministers through the generosity of His Church. ✝

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