



# The EMU Newsletter

PROCLAIMING THE TRIUMPHS OF THE GOSPEL

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Ken & Joan Jensen  
Director

## ALONG THE WAY . . .

In Greek mythology, Daedalus, the master craftsman and creator of the Labyrinth, warns his son Icarus not to fly too close to the sun as they escape the Island of Crete, using wings devised by Daedalus made of feathers and wax. Soaring too close to the sun would melt the wax, and the feathers would fall away, leading to disaster, which is what ends up happening to Icarus. Of course, we know now that the atmosphere becomes colder at higher altitudes due to the lower air pressure, which causes the rising warm air to expand and thus cool. However, it would seem that the further the sun is from earth, the cooler the earth would become. If you know what Perihelion and Aphelion are - before reading further - I acquiesce to your erudite knowledge! Though I have been aware of these two phenomena for many years, I can never remember their names, dates, and numbers. The earth travels in an ellipse around the sun, so there is a point at which the earth is closest to the sun (Perihelion), and a point when it is furthest from the sun (Aphelion). The difference between these two points is 3,000,000 miles - quite a hiking distance! Strangely, to me at least, the Aphelion for 2016 is the 4th of July, a date that is equated with unbearable heat here in the southeast. The Perihelion was on January 2 - our mid-winter, but sweltering summer in Uruguay. However, even with the 3-million-mile difference, the temperature in Uruguay on Perihelion and the temperature in Greenville, SC, on the Aphelion, are the same - and both locations are about the same

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## THE ROAD TO SHANGHAI

by Susan Watkins, nursing teacher in Shanghai, China

On May 27, 1980, in Greenville, Tennessee, after Wednesday evening church, riding in the front seat of a car in my grandmother's lap, I asked her, "How do you get saved?" My grandfather, Otis Holmes, had just preached a salvation message. It was the first time I remember understanding the difference between heaven and hell. My grandmother, Beth Holmes, said, "Why, do you want to be saved?" I replied, "No, I just need to know so I can tell my friends." She explained to me that I must pray to God and ask for forgiveness of my sins and ask Him to live in my heart always. In the front seat of the car, at the age of 5, I prayed that prayer, but I did not understand the true meaning.

My dad, Jim Watkins, was a pastor. He served in churches across the southeast. Growing up I heard the Gospel many times, and I would ask God to forgive me of my sins. At age 8, I was baptized. My parents sacrificed so my sister and I could attend Christian schools for 13 years. On October 9, 1992, in my senior year of high school, we were having a revival during chapel. My Bible teacher was preaching, and I prayed, "God, I am tired of going back and forth wondering if I'm saved or not. Right here and now I ask you to forgive me of my sins and cleanse my heart. I want to be yours, forever. Live and reign in my heart as my Lord and Savior." From that moment on, I have known that the Holy Spirit took up residence in my heart and cleansed me from sin. The next month, I was baptized again at our church.

I attended Bob Jones University for 5 years, graduating in May 1998 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. I have worked in various areas of the hospital - Med/Surg, Telemetry, ICU, ER, Urgent Care, and currently in a Pediatrician's office. For several years I was a travel nurse - a thirteen-week contract with a hospital that needs staffing help. I feel that working in WA, away from all family, was the way the Lord prepared me for this new opportunity I now have for serving Him in China.

One evening in mid-February of this year, my next door neighbor/friend told me about the opening for a nursing teacher at Shanghai

University for Medicine and Health Sciences (SUMHS) in Shanghai, China. She told me that a representative would be at BJU the next afternoon, and I should go speak to her. At the same time, the Administrator/Pastor for the American teachers in Shanghai at SUMHS was on campus. The three of us talked for almost an hour. That evening, I received an email stating they would like to extend an invitation to me to come to Shanghai and teach.



Nurse Susan Watkins

The University provides 2 round trip plane tickets per year, housing, Visas, and medical insurance. The American teachers live together on the same floor in one of the university dorms. It is dormitory style living, but we each have our own room and bathroom with A/C! The American teachers have their own church services. Our Gospel opportunities will be on an individual basis with the students as we shop with them, meet at local restaurants, have lunch with them during the week, go sightseeing, and meet with them for English/Chinese culture opportunities. There is a local orphanage that will also offer us opportunities to serve.

My main concern about going to China was leaving my mother behind. My dad passed away about six and a half years ago, and my mom and I live together. However, the Lord has given my mother and me complete peace in the matter of my going to teach in China.

On June 25, the EMU Board of Directors accepted me as their newest missionary. My sending church is Hampton Park Baptist Church, pastored by my uncle, Drew Conley. My flight leaves on Monday, August 29th. The Lord has opened every door during these past months leading me to full assurance that I am to go to Shanghai with all my needs provided and lots of prayers supporting me! ✝

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distance from the Equator.

Each year on the 4th of July, we celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence, though it took several years of armed struggle against the British to finally win actual independence. As we contemplate the birth of our nation (assuming you are a USA citizen - this newsletter goes to several other countries), and at the same time consider the state of our nation's political corruption, our society's continuing moral plummet, our educational institutions' propagation of Progressivism, our courts' unconstitutional rulings, and our populous willing to seemingly accept all of this, it seems that the USA is at an Aphelion from the Constitution and still moving at the speed of light away from our founding rule of law and principles. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> President put the matter quite succinctly:

**John Adams:** *Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.*

There is a tsunami of sentiment among Christians in the USA that there is no real possibility of recovering even a modicum of the virtue and morality that once permeated our society of centuries past. Truthfully, I am most often among those of this mindset. However, when I consider the power of our Creator God, how He has arranged the Universe with such seeming impossibilities, it becomes foolish to say, "There is no hope for our country." We can and should pray for the Lord's restorative power to change our society and governmental officials - elected and appointed. The plod of history toward self-annihilation is not inevitable, as is evident from societies that God has shown His grace towards in the past, to turn them - at least in large measure - to Himself. Let us work, pray, and hope as though there is still a Perihelion for our nation.

As I give updates from some of our EMU mission fields, I want to, also, point out some historical shifts that seemed impossible at one time.

In 1975 the Kingdom of Cambodia went from being governed by Buddhists to being ruled by militant atheists. In that year the Khmer Rouge began a reign of terror and social upheaval that systematically murdered Christians, Buddhist monks, policemen, soldiers of the previous regime, as well as intellectuals, doctors, and lawyers. All cities were emptied of their populations and sent to clear and farm the jungles, build dams and canals, and be daily indoctrinated with the most base of Marxist doctrine. In 1979 the Vietnamese military invaded Cambodia to put an end to the retched Khmer Rouge rule. The Vietnamese then gave the United Nations the responsibility for rebuilding Cambodia, which had lost over 2,000,000 of its citizens to barbarism.

JD and Kim Crowley took their young family

to Cambodia in 1994 with the goal of taking an unwritten tribal language and eventually realizing God's Word translated into that tongue, and seeing the members of the tribe reading and writing their own language. This is being accomplished for the **Tampuan tribes**. When the Crowleys first moved to the **Province of Ratanakiri**, there was one church in the province. Today, Ratanakiri has one of the highest ratios of churches per population in Cambodia. Dozens upon dozens of churches have been established in multiple language groups. There are Bible schools for at least four different tribal dialects, as well as a school for higher Biblical learning in the Khmer national language. Where once Animism and Buddhism had no rivals, and where Marxism once reigned, the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been preached to thousands. There were many languages which did not have a word of the Bible translated for their people, which now either have full or partial Bibles. Work continues on the **Tampuan Bible**, the **Brao Bible**, and the **Krung Bible**. **Brian Kane**, along with Krung church leader **Nigh**, are heading up the translation of this Bible. And **Josh Jensen** is another step closer to beginning to work on establishing an alphabet, then primers and a dictionary, for the Cambodian **Jarai** who have no Bible. **Jeremy and Bonnie Ruth Farmer** have moved to Stung Treng to help the Cambodian **Laotian** people establish Laotian churches in the Province of Stung Treng. The Farmers are working to learn the Laotian language.

In addition to the scriptures being translated, JD has written two **commentaries** in the Khmer language: Matthew and Romans. He also translated the fabulous "**Creation to Christ**" series from New Tribes Missions into Khmer. These books and lessons are being used throughout Cambodia to bring people to Christ and ground them in sound doctrine.

**Josh and Amy Jensen** have finally received permission from the provincial government, police, and village heads to move into a Khmer town about five minutes from two Jarai villages. At the end of June, Josh and Amy signed a contract on a rental house. They are waiting until the owner adds a bathroom and kitchen in the upstairs living level. The Jensens hope to move to the Khmer town of **Oyadao** on August 1.

The **Kane family** is still in Chiang Mai, Thailand, following the birth of **Natalia Elyse** (#7), born on June 2, weighing in at 8 lbs. 7 oz. Brian's parents were there for a couple of weeks in June to help and visit the Kanes. Brian and Lydia were to begin driving their family back to Ban Lung, Cambodia, on June 27; however, Lydia noticed a lump on Natalia's neck. After an exam that same day, the doctor said it looked like a lymphangioma, a treatable cyst, but the doctor wanted a CT scan performed. The process of getting the scan and then meeting with the EENT doctor again resulted in the re-hospitalization of Natalia, so the Kanes are

still in Chiang Mai as of mid-July. Pray for wisdom concerning Natalia's condition and treatment, and pray that the Kanes will have a safe journey home to Ban Lung soon.

**Matt and Becky Hancock** were blessed to find a house to rent in the city of **Kampong Cham**, two hours northeast of Phnom Penh on the Mekong River. They will be moving from Phnom Penh to Kampong Cham in mid-August and will be working to plant a Khmer church, along with two missionary families from other mission boards. From August 29 to September 15 the Hancocks will be in the States for the wedding of Becky's brother. They hope to visit some supporting churches during that time, too.

**Cambodia**, in my lifetime, looked to be headed toward extinction, but it is now a country with a substantial part of the Kingdom of Christ.

When the Dabolds moved to **Uruguay** in 1946, communism and National Socialism was on the march throughout South America. **Fred and Seva Dabold** were among the first evangelical Christians to become missionaries to this Catholic/atheist country. There were few churches, no Christian camps, and no schools for the teaching of God's Word. (This statement is in accordance with my understanding of the history of Uruguay.) In 1973 Uruguay came within 24-hours of a violent communist takeover of the government. Instead a military *coup de ta* crushed the Tupamaro revolution.

Since 1946 the Gospel has been preached in churches established around Uruguay. **The Dabold Bible Institute** has been teaching men and women Bible doctrines and practical Christian service for almost 70 years. And there is now a Bible college (**FEBU**) under the sponsorship of at least 7 Bible-believing ministries in Uruguay for the purpose of providing a higher level of biblical instruction - another 1st in Uruguay. **John Mark Steel**, who is a professor at the college, was in Greenville, SC, in June for a week of classes to further his progress towards a doctorate in theology. The **Steels** and the **Espinels** are the only families currently in Uruguay with the full-time purpose of serving at the college, though other missionaries and pastors teach and serve at the school. During the winter semester break in July, GFA mission director **Dr. Mark Batory** will be teaching on missions at a FEBU conference at a camp in Paysandú in western Uruguay. We appreciate his willingness to make this long trip with his wife to minister to the FEBU students and others who wish to attend.

During the semester break, two EMU camps held their winter camps - one at **Bethel Camp** in Treinta y Tres and the other at **Camp Emmanuel** at Guazuvirá in the south of the country. Pastor **Ovidio Acevedo** and **John Mark** were the teachers at the latter camp, where they taught about 50 attendees

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about “A Complete Life” and “Being & Making Disciples.” Pastor **Carlos Olivera** of Pando preached at the Bethel Camp to over 60 campers.

The office administrator, **Pedro Donz **, wrote to tell us that **The Plan** was officially started on July 1 in 4 of our churches in Uruguay. Those churches are now incorporated, and each church is now the employer of their pastor. Three more churches are in the process of gaining that recognition. EMU will continue to help with the pastors’ salaries, but on a 6-month decreasing basis until the churches are fully self-supporting.

It was a joy to have **Gabriel, Rosanna, Marcos, and Lucas Gomez** with us for 3 weeks beginning June 22. There were several reasons for their visit, but just a few are that they wanted their 2 sons to see the States before the boys get too involved with schooling and jobs – Marcos is 19 and Lucas is 15. One special destination was The Wilds Camp. The boys, who speak only Spanish, actually attended the July 4 week of camp! The Wilds office put them into a cabin with a counselor who speaks Spanish. Evidently, the boys had a wonderful time, and their counselor did a great job of translating for them. Another reason for the G mezes’ trip was to revisit several of the churches that either support them or other of our Uruguayan missionaries. We had the joy of finally seeing Linda Howard in southern Georgia again. She has supported one of our missionary ladies in Uruguay for almost 35 years. Linda helped us some with the newsletter when she lived in Greenville and attended BJU. We had not seen her since she graduated. An added blessing was meeting her dear parents, who hosted us for a delicious country lunch. It was an exhausting 3 weeks, which included other responsibilities, including this newsletter which should have been finished before June ended!

Another of our responsibilities was to plan and execute the **annual board meeting** of EMU on June 25. The Saturday morning meeting was again held at Hampton Park Baptist Church. We were thankful that **Pastor David Yearick** was able to attend. He developed some additional physical concerns a few weeks ago and is currently receiving treatment. At 90 years old, he is the most senior member that EMU has ever had on the board, or probably ever will. But he is not just an “icon.” Pastor Yearick was an engaged participant of the meeting. Also, **Steve Erkens** joined us via FaceTime from Beijing. One of the subjects on our docket was to vote to receive **Susan Watkins** as a missionary with EMU. Her testimony is presented in a separate article. After the meeting, there was a luncheon which included the wives of the board members and all of our EMU missionaries who were in town. **Gabriel and Rosanna Gomez, Marco and Gwendolyn Nu ez, and Susan Watkins** gave short testimonies of what the Lord was/is doing in

their lives. I love and appreciate each of our board members and their families.

Who would ever have thought that **Red China** would be as open to the Gospel as it currently is? During the Cultural Revolution from 1966-1976, when hundreds of thousands, upwards to 3 million, citizens were killed, it seemed that the Church in China was destroyed. But not so. Besides the proliferation of nationally started house-churches, expats are still welcomed into China as teachers, and they have been able to help establish thousands of Christians in biblical doctrine and practice. Having returned to Beijing in January, 2016, the **Erkens** are teaching at the church they attended before returning to the States 3 years ago. In mid-July they are helping with an “English camp” sponsored by their church. This is basically a VBS in English, but with translators. A church in South Carolina, which has participated in these camps in past years, sent a team of young people and adults to teach at the camp.

Currently, **Steve and Charity Erkens** are having difficulty getting their **visas** to remain in China. Some laws changed during the past year, so the school where Steve is to be teaching English in the fall session, has run into some problems with their visa approvals. Pray that the Erkens will not have to leave China and then reapply for their visas.

**France** has had a checkered past when it comes to Christianity. During and shortly after the time of **John Calvin**, who was teaching Frenchmen in Switzerland Bible doctrines and encouraging the men to return to France to establish churches, around 10% of the French population were attending Protestant churches. The **Saint Bartholomew’s Day Massacre** of August 24, 1572, began a period of severe persecution of the **Huguenot Protestants**, lasting into the 1700’s. Estimates of upwards of 3,000,000 Huguenots were murdered or died in battle, with many more fleeing to free countries, including the American colonies. Even in the period of “religious freedom” during Napoleon’s reign, Protestants suffered, even though Napoleon did not like the Pope. France seemed dead to the Gospel.

Although laws for entering France as a Protestant missionary are still restrictive, the country does permit evangelism and establishing non-Catholic churches. The church in **Sarcelles** in northern Paris received a boost in July with the ministry team visit from **Cleveland Park Bible Church** of Spartanburg, SC. The **Coles** and **Bixbys** have the team involved in a number of outreach programs. We look forward to a report about the outcome of the team’s work.

One of the most difficult places to plant a Protestant church is in **Croatia**. The Roman Catholic Church is deeply ensconced in this society. The **Crnkovic** family, along with a small group of professing Baptists, have found the going very rough over the years. Though **Kornel** and **Tanja** closed their work in Split and are now in Koprivnica, in the

north, working in an established church, the going is still tough. However, in recent years a number of young people – teens through 20s – have trusted Christ as their Lord and Savior and have been baptized and are now attending the church. (There are 7 candidates for baptism who were going to be baptized in the local river in the spring, but abundant rain that caused high waters and cold water temperatures put a hold on that blessed sacrament.) The family **summer camp** took place July 8-16 along the Adriatic coast. Every year’s camp is a little different, but this year there is a bigger difference: **Kami Brenneman**, the CFO for EMU, is helping at the camp. The **Crnkovics** also want to show her part of their country. We certainly look forward to her return.

On February 13 at the **Baptist Church of Koprivnica**, **Luka** and **Petra** were married. Luka had been diagnosed with advanced cancer, so they moved up their wedding date by a few months. Sadly, Luka passed away in the arms of his loving wife on May 28. Both Luka and Petra are from Catholic families who wanted nothing to do with the Baptist Church. At the funeral, both families heard a clear presentation of the Gospel and saw the Christians rejoicing that they would see Luka someday. They saw Hope. Since then Petra’s mother and sister have been attending the church. Pray that other family members will soon come to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. And pray for Petra who is now a young widow.

The congregation at the **Baptist Church of Koprivnica** has asked for prayer about purchasing their own land and building a church. The rented church building has been too small for a long time. The congregation has put a down payment on some property, but much more is needed just for the land – about \$44,000 USD more. They are praying for donations, but also looking into getting a loan. The problem is that they will need another loan to build the new church. They are excited, but understandably cautious.

Another dark country has been **India**. Currently expat missionaries are not permitted to enter India. There are some ways around this law, but it is difficult and risky. However, national Indians are able to do almost anything they would like in the areas of evangelism, church planting, and Bible training. Hinduism and Islam are the dominant religions in India, with the former being much stronger. In many places in India, Christians are under great persecution from Hindus. Most people do not realize that under British rule, Christian missionary work was greatly discouraged. **The East India Company** believed that a non-literate, non-Christian citizenry was far easier to exploit, so they blocked missionary work whenever possible. There has been an article about the ministry of **Billy Judson** in almost every EMU newsletter lately, mainly because Billy has a lot going on. Billy’s father, **Dr. Jaya Sekhar**, began a ministry some years ago called **Good News Bible Colleges and Seminaries**. Billy

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*Return Service Requested*

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came to the States and earned a M.A. from Shepherds Theological Seminary in Cary, NC, with the plan of returning to India to help his father.

The colleges and seminaries are under the auspices of GNBCS, which supplies the materials, testing, and oversight. Local church leaders do the teaching in their individual locations. Over the years, Jaya and Billy have established 40 Bible Institutes in 9 of the 29 states in India. There have been over 11,000 graduates of these schools. And 60% of the graduates have their own ministries of a house church, regular church, and/or evangelistic outreach. As Billy says, "This is a good start, but there are 1.3 billion people in my country who need the Gospel." **Ted Allston** has taught at several of these Bible schools in recent years. He spoke at a conference in May with Christian leaders in the Hyderabad region of India to announce the 360 Conference on November 9-11, to be held at a Christian conference center in Hyderabad. The goal of this conference is two-fold: first, to present top-notch Bible teaching from several pastors and seminary professors from the USA; secondly, and probably even more importantly, Billy is striving to make this conference a gathering of the graduates from the GNBCSs around India. He would like to see this as the beginning of a more "formal" fellowship among the graduates for encouragement and greater outreach. This 1<sup>st</sup> conference can only accommodate 400 attendees, but it is designed to grow over the years. The attendees will be paying a small portion of their expenses, but because most of these pastors and Christian leaders are very poor, Billy is endeavoring to raise \$25,000 from sponsors. Last month, Billy established a 360 Conference Board of Directors with 11 Christian leaders from Hyderabad and sister-city Secunderabad. If you would like to help financially in this major undertaking, it

would be a great blessing.

**Ted and Marla Allston** were in Kenya *together* (!) to teach at a Bible conference hosted by a church in Greenville, SC. They were in Kenya for 2 weeks beginning on June 16. Ted and Marla have some difficult decisions to make concerning Ted's travels for the remainder of the year. Pray for wisdom.

**Marco and Gwendolyn Nuñez** were on a 2-month furlough from June 2 to July 18. Their final service in the States was on July 17 at Hampton Park Baptist Church, their sending church. They flew back to Cancún, Mexico, on the following day. Tomas and Toño did a good job of keeping the ministry in Cancún going forward during the Nuñezes' absence.

**Tim Chapman** has been recovering well since his intestinal operation. And the church plant continues to progress in downtown Lima, Perú. **Tom and Connie Chapman** are back in Antofagasta, Chile, after helping Tim and Cheryl's family during Tim's early recovery. We are looking forward to hearing more about Tom and Connie's plans of starting a new work in northern Antofagasta.

**Jeff and Joanna Davis** are in the throes of trying to sell their house in Anderson, SC, before they can seriously begin looking for one in the Greenville area. Jeff and I have not met very often over the past month due to our Uruguay visitors and other responsibilities that required our individual attention. It would be nice to get on at least a partial routine with our meetings. Jeff has been contacting pastors and friends to enlist partners in his and Joanna's new ministry with EMU.

With **Kami** out of the office for two-and-a-half-weeks, and three weeks of company, **Joan's** work has more than doubled. If the issue was just the regular office work, things would not be quite so hectic. However, a number of need-to-do-now situations have

developed with several of our missionaries which have taken huge chunks of Joan's time, placing her further behind on the work she had been planning to do. As for me, the date for this newsletter sort of tells the story - July-August Newsletter. My Erkens grandsons gave me a t-shirt that has printed across the front, "I'm so far behind, I thought I was in first place." My problem has not so much been extra work, as with Joan, but extra tiredness that goes with extra travels and office visitors. Lamentably, when I get behind it usually puts more pressure and work on Joan. If you can only pray for one of us, pray for her!

Hopefully this newsletter will be finished before the GOP Convention, or DNC, begins, so I won't need to add any more millions of miles from the Constitution. But we can be relatively sure of certain things: the two conventions will take place; candidates for the GOP and the DNC will be selected; there will be more controversy than can possibly be sorted out; and we will elect one of these two candidates for president in November. But there is another certainty that is not relative: God is in control of everything. This can be a little like riding a rollercoaster - the twists and turns and sudden drops can take your breath away and get the adrenalin pumping, but you also know the cars will only go where the designers of the track designated, and you are going to end up safely at the unloading platform at the end of the ride. Certainty about our God helps us have certainty about this ride-of-life we are on. I trust that each of us will be a shining example of trust in our Heavenly Father on the road of seeming uncertainty. Thank you for your prayers and support of the missionaries of EMU International. ✝

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