

# The EMU Newsletter

PROCLAIMING THE TRIUMPHS OF THE GOSPEL

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Ken & Joan Jensen  
Director

## ALONG THE WAY . . .

One of the things that makes the Christmas season my favorite time of year is that it is the only holiday season when we get to see almost all of our immediate statewide family: Joan's mom and her three brothers with their spouses, children, and grandchildren; my parents and brother and sister with their spouses, children, and grandchildren; and, of course, whichever of our three children might be in the USA at the time, and especially the grandkids. This year, because of our travels to the Far East, Joan and I will miss our fabulous Sunday school Christmas party. However, Joshua and Amy with their four children will be in the States for a few weeks for the weddings of Amy's maid-of-honor and her sister. Though Joshua's family will be in York, PA, on Christmas Day, with her folks and brothers, they will be staying with us the weekdays before Christmas Eve, and I think a partial family gathering will take place then. **Josh, Amy, and kids** fly back to Cambodia on January 6. Although our many Christmas gatherings often involve a lot of travel spread over several weeks, it is a blessed time as the Martins and Jensens all get along, not only civilly, but enjoyably!

And yet there has been a "hole" in the Martin family photo since Joan's father passed away 29 years ago. He is still greatly missed by all of us who knew, loved, and appreciated him. This year is going to be especially difficult for several other families

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## "I AM YOUR SERVANT"

*by Jeff Davis, assistant to the director, EMU Home Office in Taylors, SC*

The man behind the counter at the medicine shop, which passes for a pharmacy in India, looked at me and smiled as I handed him my credit card. He excitedly exclaimed, "In our culture, you are a god."

I asked him to repeat what he said. Yes, I had heard him correctly. He had said I am a god. I looked at him and laughed under my breath, "No, I am not a god."

He said, "Yes."

I replied, "I am no god!"

In India, the major religion is Hinduism. Nearly 1 billion people in India identify as Hindu. That is 80% of the population. There are thirty-three major gods in Hinduism. Some would say there are 330 million gods. There is a strong belief in one consciousness that manifests itself in infinite ways. Therefore, even a worm is a god. I am not a god, but I am a worm, as Isaac Watts declared, "Would He devote that sacred head for such a worm as I?"

William Carey, known as the father of the modern missions movement and also a missionary to India, had written on his tombstone this simple statement, "A wretched, poor, and helpless worm, On Thy kind arms I fall."

I went to India with the purpose of serving precious believers in this spiritually darkened country. Four hundred million people in India have never heard the name Jesus. One-third of the world's unreached people groups are in one country: India. I wasn't going as a

celebrity, definitely not a god, but as a servant.

At the invitation of EMU missionary Billy J, I was thrilled to have the opportunity of speaking at the first annual Good News 360 Conference. I joined five other Americans in making the trip up and over the polar region to Mumbai and then on to Hyderabad. My travel day began at 4:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 5, as my wife Joanna drove me to the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport. My flight left at 6:00 a.m. for Newark. I was traveling with Mike LaPierre, founder of Christian Leadership Worldview International. Mike is a former professional baseball player and a former executive with UPS. We really got to know each other during our 11-hour layover in Newark. The flight from Newark to Mumbai was a brutal fourteen hours. We were glad to make it to India. But there was one problem - my luggage was still in Newark. It was a minor inconvenience, and it arrived at Billy J.'s door two days later. After another nine-hour layover, we flew from Mumbai to Hyderabad. In all, from the time I left home until the time I arrived at Billy J.'s house, I had been traveling forty-two hours.

On the ride from the airport in Hyderabad to Billy's house, we experienced what to me looked like mass chaos, but to Indians it is just a way of life. I'm talking about their crazy driving. First of all, we were driving on the wrong side of the road. Well, not really. Like in the United Kingdom, Indians drive on the left side of the road. That was just a minor

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The 360 Conference coordinators & speakers. Billy is on far left & Jeff is in center w/light pants.

**ALONG THE WAY...***(continued from page 1)*

that we love who will have a new “hole” in their family pictures this Christmas. Dear **Pastor Yearick**, whom I mentioned in the November EMU Newsletter, died on Wednesday, October 26. His twins, Marla and Bob, were born the same year I was, and we grew up at BJU together. And Pastor Yearick was my pastor from 1970-2002. The next week, **Mrs. Phyllis Hess** passed away at her home following a long and painful illness. She and her now 99-year-old husband **Paul**, have been our children’s 3rd set of grandparents since our children were very young. Paul was our best deacon at Hampton Park Baptist, and this couple “adopted” our children as their grands since they never had any of their own. Mrs. Hess’s infectious joy and humor were wonderful, and her thoughtfulness was a trademark. Then on Friday, November 11, we attended the greeting-of-the-family and funeral for **Mrs. Barbara Rumminger**. Of her five children, the twins, Valerie and Hillarie, were also born the same year I was at BJU, and we grew up together. Barbara was one of the kindest, sweetest ladies we knew, and her character never changed over the 63 years I knew her. And all three of the departed loved ones loved the ministry of EMU International. (Barbara and her husband were long-time supporters of the **Crnkovics** in Croatia.) Although these saints are with their Savior in person this Christmas, the Yearicks, Hesses, and Rummingers will feel the loss and a “hole” will be in their hearts and photos.

I trust you will be blessed by **Jeff Davis’** article on his journeys in India. The end of this year will mark the Davises’ first full-year with EMU. He has been a pleasure to work with, and, if he survives his adventures across eastern India, I look forward to another year of training for his and my new positions.

**Joan and I** will be departing Monday, November 21, on an odyssey that will continue through December 15. Our first destination is Beijing, China, where we will stay with **Steve and Charity’s family** for one full day. Leaving our winter wardrobe in Beijing, where the temperatures at night will be as low as 7°F, we will board a plane on Thanksgiving Day for Siem Reap, Cambodia, where the lows are in the 70s and highs in the low 90s. If our bodies survive the transition, we will be visiting the **Crowleys, Kanes, Farmers, Josh Jensens, and Hancocks** in four different cities (towns). Since Joan and I last visited Cambodia, EMU has added two missionary families and more babies have been born to four of those families than I can keep track of! We look forward to not only visiting with our EMU families, but also meeting the other missionaries who minister in the same areas.

Within the past week, **Joshua Jensen** and a colleague from another mission board have received the approval of the Jarai church leaders in Ratanakiri Province to begin planning for an eventual Bible translation project into their dialect. Over the next year Josh will be learning Jarai, helping put together a Jarai committee to oversee the translation, and working to promote the new Jarai Khmer-based alphabet. Also, the Kachok alphabet that Josh developed has received positive feedback from a group of villagers who were introduced to it last month.

During the week of November 13, Joshua was one of the teachers at the Khmer Bible school that is held twice per year. Pray for Josh, who has been low on energy because of a bout with dengue fever which began a few days before Bible school.

**Tom and Connie Chapman**, and **Tim and Cheryl Chapman’s family** will be stateside in December. The Tim Chapmans will spend some time with Cheryl’s parents in Michigan, with Tim’s family at a reunion in Wilmington, NC, and will have a short stay in Greenville, SC. The Tim Chapmans return to Lima, Peru, on January 16 from Michigan.

**The Steels** arrived in Florida in October for a visit with Deborah’s dad and step-mother, and a visit with John Mark’s parents in Greenville, SC, where John Mark is also taking a class for his doctorate. They leave Greenville on December 8 to fly back to Uruguay.

**Rick and Kathy Jensen** were at our house on a Sunday afternoon and evening in November for his debriefing concerning his work team trip to Uruguay (article in the November EMU Newsletter). One of the main points of interest to me was the problem with the septic fields, which were prematurely clogged by tree roots. The corrective measures that were taken, we hope, will prevent or at least delay this invasion in the future.



*Rick is holding the roots that were taken out of one of the septic lines. Jason feigns a sample taste, while Titus looks on.*

Rick also gave me a rundown of the new Fiat truck that we bought earlier in October. It’s small, but we trust it will



*The new Fiat 5-passenger truck for Camp Emmanuel*

serve the camp well. Let me give you just a short report on how we could buy this vehicle. A few years ago, we sold the old Fiat cargo truck because it was costing about \$5,000 per year for repairs. **Pedro Donzé**, the office administrator, sold the van and put the money into savings, along with the \$5,000 that had already been budgeted for repairs that year. Pedro had a small Cheri, a Chinese sub-compact, that he bought years ago. With the absence of the old Fiat, Pedro was using his car for ferrying materials and supplies to camp. It was obvious to everyone that he was “killing” his car for the camp. A plan was devised in September to solve the problem. Pedro sold his car, and the mission added the Fiat sale and repair money to the pot, and we were able to purchase the Fiat truck. The truck is in the mission’s name, but, by the Junta’s insistence, if the truck is ever sold, the Donzés will receive the percentage they put into the truck. The truck is used for Camp Emmanuel and for Pedro’s personal use, which he pays for. So, two problems were solved with one truck! It is a tremendous blessing to have this vehicle for hauling cargo and people. (It’s a 2-door king-cab.)

Concerning the needs for **Rick’s Team Trip** that I listed in the October EMU Newsletter, I want you to know that many of our readers were most generous. All the **listed needs** were provided for, plus we were able to cover the food expenses of the Americans and Uruguayans who were at Camp Emmanuel working on the many projects. Any surplus money has been designated to the Camp Emmanuel budget. We are still praying for monthly supporters of Camp Emmanuel to cover the everyday expenses of maintaining this wonderful facility. Thank you!

One sobering aspect of Christmas is its proximity to New Year’s Day a week later. Actually, it is not the start of a new year that is disturbing, but rather the end of *this* year. It seems so unfair that the older we become, the faster years come and go. And then comes the time when you realize that you will *never* finish each year’s To Do List. I crossed into that lower plane some time ago. I trust that as you progress through this month of December, you will likewise progress through your To Do List at a pace that far exceeds my own. We are so grateful for your interest in at least some aspect of EMU International this year. ☩

## "I am your servant"

(continued from page 1)

adjustment for my psyche. The real jolt was riding in traffic that would make the world's scariest roller coaster seem tame. I'm sure I could fill an entire article describing our adventures on the roads of India. I still don't think I would be able to capture the sheer terror that we experienced. I must say, though, that I found the Indians to be delightful people. Most were extremely friendly and helpful. But their driving is nuts! I told Billy if this missions thing doesn't work out for him, he could be a Formula 1 driver.

The next day, Mike and I met up with the other Americans. All four of them are from the Raleigh, NC, area. Pastor Scott Wylie and Paul Funchess serve on the staff at Colonial Baptist Church in Cary, NC. Dr. Jerry Knoblet serves on Adjunct Faculty at Shepherds Theological Seminary in Cary, NC. Russ Andrews is the founder of Finding Purpose, a men's ministry in Raleigh, NC. Each of us was asked to speak on one of the four themes of the conference: Preaching, Praying, Equipping, and Servant Leadership.

That evening we had a wonderful time meeting with the Indian executive committee members for the conference. This was their first effort at a national leadership conference. Some people traveled two days to participate. There were a total of 570 delegates participating, from nine different States of India. The organizational meeting that first night with the leaders set the tone for a great conference. The purpose of our meeting was for worship and prayer. I had a tremendous time getting to know these men who are in the trenches serving God in India. We later shared a buffet supper with these leaders.

If Ken would allow me the space in a newsletter, I could fill it with descriptions of the foods of India. Fortunately, I love spicy food. I thought many times that India is a place for sensory overload. The sights, the sounds, the tastes, and even the smells, covered the range of expectations.

The next morning, we began the conference at the Ashirwad Global Learning Centre. We could not have asked for a better place to meet. It is a beautiful 3-acre campus that is like



360 Conference delegates, coordinators, & speakers

an oasis of refreshment in the middle of all the hustle and bustle of India's fourth largest city, Hyderabad. There is a large meeting room, a nice outside amphitheater, and smaller meeting rooms which accommodated the workshops. The delegates stayed in dorm rooms with bunk beds, and the speakers were in hotel-type rooms on the top floor.

The meeting began with an organizational time in the auditorium where all the speakers introduced themselves. We then had a general session followed by lunch. I learned for the first time that Indians eat with their hands. Dr. Chiranjeevi, one of the speakers and the director of the Ashirwad Centre, showed me how to mix the food together and then scoop it into my mouth. When in India, do as the Indians do. Joanna would have died had she seen me plunge my hands into my spicy meal of chicken curry and rice.

After lunch we began our workshops. I was asked to speak on the theme of servant leadership. This is a needed topic because the Indian culture is still influenced by the caste system. Leaders are expected to be tough and domineering. I spoke on the subject of "True Greatness" from Matthew 20. In verse 25, Jesus describes the way the world thinks about leadership. *But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.* He then gives a mind blowing message to His disciples in verses 26-27, *But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant.* Literally Jesus is saying if you want to be great then you must be a servant. If you want to be first you must be a slave. That word slave strikes a chord with the Indian believers. They understand the meaning because of the lingering influences of the caste system. According to the Global Slavery Index, with 18 million people in slavery, India is home to the largest number of enslaved people in the world. I tried to teach our precious brothers and sisters that there is dignity in being called a slave. That dignity is tied to our Master. Jesus Christ is our Master, and we are His slaves.

Because the organizational meeting earlier in the day had gone so long, we had to cancel the 2nd workshop. We took a break, and then we met again, this time for praise and worship. The Indians like their music very loud, and they sing with much passion. While we sat,

different people would randomly get up and sing. After about half an hour of music, we then heard from two more speakers. Like they do in Uruguay, we had supper around 9:00 p.m. Everyone then returned to their rooms physically exhausted, but spiritually refreshed.

Billy had done a great job organizing the conference. In all he did, he was trying to make all of us happy. I did my best to help alleviate any pressure. I kept telling him, "I am your servant." It was hard for their leaders to accept this, but each of us from America didn't want to be celebrities, but servants. We went out of our way to try to shake hands and to talk with and pray for the Indians. We enjoyed special times before and after the meetings just listening to their stories. These stories would fill a binder full of newsletters. There were stories of struggles that they were facing. There were also stories of victories that they were celebrating that were nothing short of miraculous.

Day 2 of the conference was a full schedule that began with an early morning visit from an Indian that just wanted to talk. We sat in my room, and I listened to his story. He was part of the security detail that Billy had organized to escort the speakers around the conference. I cannot express enough how thorough the committee had planned for the meetings. There were six general sessions that day and three workshops. I spoke in two of the general sessions and led three workshops. I preached on John 13, a message I entitled, "Swollen Heads and Stinky Feet." We saw in this text Jesus modeling servant leadership when he washed the disciples' feet. You will recall from that text that Jesus washed 24 dirty feet and 12 proud hearts. I asked the question of the group, "How many people had their feet washed?" The obvious answer was 12. Then I asked, "How many people were in the room?" After a short pause, they answered, "13." The Bible doesn't say it specifically, but we have every reason to believe that Jesus went back to the table without having His feet washed. The challenge is for us to understand His command to wash one another's feet. This should be taken literally, and I assume it was as they gathered again in the Upper Room for prayer following the resurrection. Jesus was also teaching the principle of serving one another. I also believe there is a deeper meaning in that when we serve one another, we are washing our Lord's feet. *As ye have done* (continued on page 4)



Each delegate received conference notes & several books to add to their libraries



These ladies prayed everyday during the general sessions. Their lanyards read: The Prayer Warriors

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***"I am your servant"***  
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it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Matthew 25:40.

For the workshops, I spoke on Philippians 2:1-18. I looked at three points about humility. We looked first at the exhortation to humility, then the example of humility (Jesus Christ), and finally the evidences of humility. This set the stage for my final session that day when I zeroed in on Philippians 2:12-15. I spoke about Biblical change. We saw the tension that is felt when Paul commands us to *work out your own salvation*. He then reminds us that *it is God that works in you*. We saw how change for the Christian is more like a sailboat than a motor boat. We are not totally passive. We have to set the sails and steer with the rudder, but we cannot supply the wind.

This was another full day, and after speaking five different times, it didn't take me long to fall asleep that night.

The final day of the conference was such a tremendous blessing. I was given the privilege



*Jeff preaching at a general session w/translator*

of leading the entire assembly in a couple of English songs. I had all of the American speakers join me on the stage. We sang, "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus." The Indians knew that song well, and the declaration of commitment echoed throughout the assembly hall. Next, we taught them "In Christ Alone." It only took a verse for them to learn the tune and join us in singing. I wish there was a way that my words could capture the emotion we all felt as the 500 of us with different skin colors and different languages, even accents, declared "Here in the pow'r of Christ, I'll stand."

There were a couple of general sessions and then a time of recognizing each of the

speakers and workers. I had the opportunity to give a final charge to the delegates. I chose Psalm 67 as my text. This was just a brief five-minute reminder of what God is doing among the nations. The leaders then spread throughout the room and with lifted hands prayed over each of the delegates. Following this time, every delegate's name was called and they received a certificate for participating in the conference.

I want to thank each of you that prayed for the conference and those who prayed for me specifically. I truly believe God was honored at this conference. God is doing an amazing work in India.

In the next newsletter, I will tell you about the second week of my trip in India when I had the opportunity of visiting and preaching in several churches and Bible schools. I will share with you what I learned about Hinduism and Islam, and how they dominate the religious thinking of this dark land. I also will describe the influence that Baptist missions has had on this part of India. What a joy it was for this worm to serve God for a couple of weeks in India. ✝

**Donations from your IRA**  
**(for those over 70 ½)**

**Over 70 ½ and required to take a Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA in 2016?**

You can request that all or part of your RMD be contributed directly by your IRA trustee (the bank or financial institution where your IRA is invested) to EMU International, or another eligible charity. If you do this, the amount of your donation will be **TAX FREE**, i.e. not taxable to you as income. Consequently, if you itemize, you cannot take a tax deduction for the gift because the funds were never counted as income to you. (You will still get a receipt acknowledging your gift.)

The check must be send directly from the IRA trustee to qualify. If you have any questions, contact your bank or tax advisor, or call our EMU Office.

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Phone: (864) 268-9267