

The EMU Newsletter

PROCLAIMING THE TRIUMPHS OF THE GOSPEL

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Ken & Joan Jensen
Director

ALONG THE WAY . . .

The World Cup (more appropriately named than The World Series!), beginning on June 12 and ending on July 13, is in full stride. Having been born at, grown up on, and attended a soccer-centered university, I have been a fan of soccer for almost 60 years. From 17-30 years-old, I played organized soccer, i.e. teams with an official jersey and referees. And though my skills were adequate for the arena in which I participated in the sport, no one would ever have mistaken me for a professional player. The young men who made it onto the World Cup's verdant pitch in Brazil, did not get there by just walking in off the street one day and asking to be on the team. Almost to a man these players began serious soccer training as children, practicing for years before being signed by professional teams, and finally being chosen by their native countries to compete on the national teams in the World Cup. These are not part-time players like I was. These are men whose livelihoods depend on playing soccer.

It is true that every Christian is to be a Christian "full-time," which is why every child of the Kingdom should grow in a knowledge of the Word of God and exercise their spiritual gift(s) for the

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A NEW GENERATION

by Tanja Crnkovic, pastor's wife in Koprivnica, Croatia

God truly blessed us on June 15! We had a beautiful Sunday, even though the weather forecast foretold rain and colder weather. Instead of rain showers, the Lord showered us with blessings. The baptismal service began at 2:00 PM on the shore of the Drava River (the primary border between Croatia and Hungary). We had about 160 people in attendance. Many unsaved friends and family members came, but also guests from about nine other Baptist churches. Ten young believers publically proclaimed their faith in Jesus Christ through baptism. Nine of them were from our city of Koprivnica, and one was a young man from North Gradiska who was saved last year at the youth camp. All but one of the candidates came from a Roman Catholic background. Many of these young people have experienced opposition from friends and family members who tried to convince them not to be baptized. But in spite of the opposition, these believers stayed strong in their decisions and faithfulness to the Lord.

It was a special joy and blessing to have our oldest daughter, Andrea, as one of the ten believers who were baptized. For

Kornel it was a privilege to be able to baptize Andrea. We are glad that many of our family members were able to come – including Tanja's parents and Kornel's mom, sister, and brother. It was a special time and an occasion for a small family reunion.



Baptism at the Drava River in Croatia

The young man from North Gradiska goes to Miro and Ivana's church. Miro has been discipling him, and it was great to have a good number of his unsaved family members come for the baptismal service. It was their first time to be present at a church service. We pray that the Lord will work in the lives of all of them, and that the seed sown in their hearts will bring forth fruit.

Others who were baptized were Petra and Luka who are planning to get married in the future! Biljana and Vid are brother and sister. They are Gypsies and live in a Gypsy village close by Koprivnica. Their living situations are not good. As a church we try to help them as much as possible. It is difficult for them to find jobs. Biljana has two sons (ages 11 and 12 years old). Her husband left her and remarried. The boys come to church with their mother. The Maderic family - Kristinko, Renata, Neven, and Misel - were also baptized. Please pray for each one who took this step of obedience.

After the service, the ladies from the churches prepared some delicious food which all of us enjoyed. During that time we had many good conversations with

non-believing friends and family members who had many questions. Pray for these young Christians as they face new challenges and trials each day as they live among their unsaved friends and

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building up of the Church. But there are some whom the Lord has called to make their living laboring full-time in ministry. For this group, intensive training, mentoring, and practical experience are required to properly “compete” in this realm of spiritual warfare. Whereas professional soccer is pursued for personal glory on and off the turf and for financial gain, those in full-time Christian ministry do so for God’s glory and the souls of mankind. The results are eternal. How much more important is the training of those who labor in the vanguard.

JD Crowley, along with **Brian Kane** and **Jeremy Farmer**, have been working on an enhanced, expanded curriculum for the Bible school in Cambodia’s Ratanakiri Province. The national pastors and Christian leaders are excited about the opportunities this will bring from further learning and practical experience. Two tracks of study will be offered: the **Ratanakiri Church Ministry School** in the mother-tongue of various local tribes, and the **Ratanakiri Pastor’s Institute** taught in Khmer. There are still many things to be worked out, including securing textbooks in the Khmer language for some of the subjects. (JD has already written several commentaries on New Testament books that will be used.) The first school has basically already taken place. The Institute has a tentative start date of January 2016 – not far away when planning a new school. Pray for the missionaries and nationals as they work through the various issues and aspects of the proposed school.

There is some “new news” about **Matt and Becky Hancock** that I can share with you. In early June their shipping container arrived at their house – literally! At first the delivery driver was going to park outside the neighborhood complex, fearing that the truck would not make it through the narrow roads dividing the various apartment buildings. Thankfully, a neighborhood gate guard convinced the driver that the truck would fit, allowing the Hancocks to unload the container at their front door. The container included supplies for other missionaries, too, and most of those boxes have been picked up by interested parties. Secondly, Matt and Becky each have a Khmer language teacher. Matt takes his lessons with one teacher in the morning while Becky cares for the children, and then in the evening Becky studies with a different teacher. It seems that Becky’s teacher is not quite as interesting, understanding, and dedicated to the process as is Matt’s. We trust she will soon have a better instructor. Finally, I think I have permission to announce that Matt and Becky will be adding to their family in December of this year.

Becky is having morning sickness, so pray especially for her. The heat, new foods and smells, and being away from caring parents and family don’t help the situation. Otherwise the Hancocks seem to be doing well in Phnom Penh.

Jeremy and Bonnie Ruth Farmer with their children will be in the capital of Cambodia beginning June 29. Their trip is multipurposed. On the 30th in the morning they will have doctor appointments. Then in the afternoon Jeremy flies to Indonesia to visit his brother and his family for three days of brainstorming concerning outreach. Jeremy returns to Phnom Penh in time to welcome the younger Jensen family to Cambodia.

Josh and Amy Jensen leave the States on July 3, arriving in Cambodia on the 4th to begin their first term on the field along with their three children. You probably will not receive this Newsletter before their departure from Atlanta, GA, but if by some miracle you do, please pray for their flight. As you can imagine such a long flight with layovers is always strenuous, but especially with a baby, a toddler, and a 4½-year-old. (Although my wife would love to be asked to accompany them on the flight to help with the children, I am relieved that it is not a part of my job description!) I am not sure who all will be meeting the Jensens at the airport, but the potential is for the Farmers, the Hancocks, and I would not rule out JD showing up. For now the plan is for the Farmers and Brian Kane to help Josh and Amy get settled into rented housing as soon as possible. The Jensens and Farmers will be staying at the Christian and Missionary Alliance guest housing in Phnom Penh until no later than July 10. After that date, there is a regional CMA conference and all the rooms will be filled by their missionaries. (From personal experience I know how much missionaries appreciate having access to this facility.) The Jensens hope to not only secure housing early on, but also furniture, a stove and refrigerator, a vehicle (hopefully a good, used Toyota CRV), possibly a small motorcycle for economical single transportation, drivers’ licenses, and whatever else is needed to begin life in the capital. As parents Joan and I are so thankful for the wonderful help our kids will receive when they arrive in Cambodia. And as the director of EMU, I am so proud of our EMU missionaries in Cambodia who I know will take good care of our new missionaries.

On the Sunday evening before leaving for Cambodia, Josh Jensen will be ordained at Hampton Park Baptist Church. I am privileged to be the preacher for that message. In 1978 I was ordained at the same church. (Although Isaiah Jensen is only two-years old, I have hopes that

he will be the third Jensen ordained at HPBC!)

In Uruguay two other ministry training schools have just ended their first semester for 2014, with the winter break taking place in July. Joan, Steve Erkens, and I had a Skype meeting with **John Mark Steel** earlier this week. One of my questions concerned how the new Bible college (FEBU) and the EMU Bible Institute did in this first semester. John Mark is the acting director of FEBU while Matias Espinel and his family are on furlough. Juan Marcos is also teaching a class in the Bible Institute. In his traditional, diminutive style, he stated, “Oh, I think they were okay.” I’m assuming that from John Mark that means “Great!” From July 28 to August 1 there will be a special Pastoral Training seminar held at FEBU. The guest speaker will be Dr. Ron Self, a missionary from Buenos Aires, Argentina.

During the winter break in Uruguay, several of our churches will be having **Vacation Bible Schools**. For at least one church – Gethsemani Church – the final service will be on Sunday evening, just before the final game of the World Cup! But those in charge of the program at the church have faith that they should still go ahead with the service at that time. Also, the **Winter Teen Camp** will be held at Camp Emmanuel July 3-5. Unlike winter camps here in the States – or almost anywhere in the world – the heavy coats and sweaters remain on inside the buildings since there is no heating except a fireplace in the dining room.

The Steels are renting the EMU mission house in Montevideo for their and the mission’s convenience. Their sleeping and living quarters are on the second floor, but the kitchen and dining room are on the first floor. The mission office is in the basement. Anyway, on the first floor is a tiny bedroom that has been occupied by the lady who was the housekeeper beginning when the Dabolds bought the house over sixty years ago. She is 88 years old and is having increasing physical problems, including failing eyesight and memory. John Mark shared with us some developing behavioral problems that could be dangerous to herself and to others if not closely monitored, and the Steels do not have time to do that monitoring. The consensus is that EMU is responsible for her, but there are no good options to take care of this dilemma – and believe me, I and the Uruguay Board have considered everything! Would you pray with us to know what steps to take to forestall this and further difficulties?

Pedro Donzé, the office administrator of EMU in Uruguay and the Camp Emmanuel director, is scheduled to fly to

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Peru on July 5 for a couple of weeks. The guest speaker at EMU's family camp and workers' conference at Camp Emmanuel last February was Segundo Rodriguez from Trujillo, Peru. He is the director of a Bible institute there in northern Peru, but he also has contact with dozens of churches throughout Peru. He invited three of our Uruguayan missionaries to visit Peru and teach at seminars at the institute and in other places. Pedro will be primarily teaching on how to use the computer to organize a ministry and for time-management. I am sure Pedro will be preaching some, too. The fly-in-the-ointment is that Pedro's wife **Paty** has been hospitalized several times in the past month due to two unrelated illnesses. Her health has been tenuous, though improving during the previous summer, but it has regressed in recent months. Pedro is reluctant to leave her, though she does have family members who have offered to care for her during his absence. Thanks for your prayer for the Donzé family and the success of the Peru trip.



Ted & Marla Allston in Oslo, Norway

Ted and Marla Allston returned home safely from their three-month sojourn

in Oslo, Norway, at the International Baptist Church, an expat church pastored by Ted's brother-in-law, who was on furlough. The Allstons had a wonderful time of ministry with this highly diverse congregation. (There are almost as many different nationalities represented in the church as there are members.) After a couple of weeks of rest, Ted heads to Morocco on July 11 for two weeks to teach national pastors and church leaders.

The Bixbys and Coles in northern France will have a busy July. Besides the preaching they do at the Saint Denis church, they will be hosting two large groups of Americans. July 4-7 the **European Musical Ministry Team** from Bob Jones University will be holding concerts in northern France. On July 5 one of those concerts will be in the "protestant temple," an old church building that the Bixbys and Coles would like to rent in the town of Sarcelles, where they hope to start a new church. The MMT will also be performing in other venues just north of Paris. Then on July 18 a youth group from **Friendship Baptist Church** of Raleigh, NC, will arrive to help with various outreach ministries. They will be with our missionaries until July 28. It is a blessing to have groups like these two participating in ministry, but hosting can be very tiring and time consuming. Pray for good opportunities and lasting fruit from these visiting groups. And pray for strength for Tim & Ruth and Michael & Liz.

Also in June Tim and Michael were elected as elders of the Saint Denis church. There are Frenchmen who serve on this board, but since Michael and Tim do so much preaching at the church, it was thought wise to have them as part of the unpaid pastoral staff. The Coles and Bixbys believe that this will also help them in establishing a work in Sarcelles as a church-plant.

Tom Chapman sent us an interesting email announcement in June. June 16 was the 50th anniversary of Tom's first visit to Chile, along with two other BJU students. Tom was twenty years old then. Tom and Connie have been missionaries with EMU for twenty-seven years. Three of their six children are in full-time missionary work, too. On August 2, Tom and Connie plan to travel to Brazil for the wedding of **Daniel Salvatierra**, one of the two brothers who have been trained to



Emily & Daniel Salvatierra

take over the church in Antofagasta. Tom and Connie have started Bible studies with two of the newer families attending their church and have asked prayer for opened hearts in these folks.

Tim and Cheryl Chapman leave Lima, Peru, for Michigan on July 9 to begin their furlough. Their base will be from their home-church in Midland, Michigan, where Cheryl's parents live. Ten days after arriving stateside, Tim flies to Mexico to help with two weeks of youth camp. Matt Collier from Camps Abroad (The Wilds) and Jairo Villegas will also be participating in the camp.

Our EMU office changes have afforded the opportunity for learning. In June we upgraded two of our **computers** and converted to newer programs. (Any (continued on page 4)

The New Generation

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family. We are encouraged to see them growing spiritually, faithfully witnessing to others, and living each day for Christ. Rejoice with us, pray with us, and let us together praise and thank God for the great things He has done and will do in the lives of these believers.

Preparations for the summer camp are in full motion. Camp starts July 11th and will last till the 19th. This

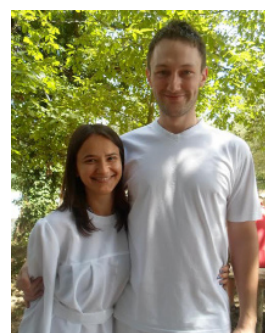


Kornel baptizing his daughter Andrea



The Maderic family: (l-r) Kristinko, Renata, Misel and Neven

year it will be a bit longer than in the past. Many have already signed up, and we receive more calls daily. We will most likely have a large group again this year. Please pray with us for this ministry. ☩



*(At left)
Petra and Luka*



*(At right)
Biljana
and Vid*

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Coming Back

by Hector Gomez, pastor in Rivera, Uruguay

Thank the Lord the ministry is going forward. We are finally having more children attend Sunday school. For many years local Charismatic churches have been offering children all kinds of "goodies" to attend their Sunday schools, greatly decreasing the large number of children we once had. We are also having more people in the services during the week, and we have especially seen an increase on Sundays, with a substantial number of new souls visiting us.

During Holy Week we had our camp at Las Flores. We enjoyed a good time there, though we were a small group of campers. However, at the meetings in the afternoons and nights, we had up to fifty in the services with the brothers and sisters from the Las Flores community.

At the Las Flores church we are having a good attendance of adults and children. With the latter we are using a study plan called "THE GREAT ADVENTURE" that we used in Rivera. The children are showing real interest, and even the adults are happy seeing the faithfulness of the little ones.

We are having discipleship with the children and parents of some of the newer visitors. It is good to see new believers in the congregation, some of whom are young people who grew up here in the church in Rivera but later forsook God's ways. But today they give a testimony that they have now accepted Christ as their Savior. One example is the family

of Henry and Patricia Castro who have three children. It is a joy that Patricia, through our work of discipleship, made the decision to receive Christ, and today she and her family attend our church with joy and gladness.

Last week I was in the interior Department of Salto with the Montaldi family and a young man named Jose Sosa from Rivera. We enjoyed a good time together and with other brothers and sisters from several of the villages in Salto.

Thank the Lord Graciela's and my children are doing well. Claudia and her husband are both working, and their children are in kindergarten. Their family attends our church in Rivera. Santiago, his wife, and their children are well, although the oldest, Romina, has Celiac Disease, which she inherited from my mother. Nicolas and his wife have moved down to Tacuarembó to open a furniture shop in conjunction with the Bosca family from Pando. (The Boscas are longtime members of the church pastored by Carlos Olivera. This furniture-making family has made pews for many of our churches and furniture for our camps. Mr.



Rare photo of parents, children, & grandchildren: (l-r) Hector, Claudia, Natalia, Romina (being held), Graciela, Santiago, & Nico (Claudia's sons are being held, too)

and Mrs. Bosca recently moved to Tacuarembó to set up a new store in the interior. The church there is currently without a pastor, so having a young man like Nicolas in the church will help carry some of the load.) ✚

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computer user knows that Windows XP is no longer being supported by Microsoft, and smooth operation of the OS was becoming an issue. Also, Kami's computer was old, slow, and needed upgrading. My computer was also having some issues that the other office members (Joan, Steve, and Kami) were concerned about since my computer acted as the mainframe. Our IT guy (Joan's brother Doug) told us what to purchase, but will not be able to set us up until the end of July. As the two new Dells sat in our office in unopened boxes, Steve decided he would like to take a stab at switching out the computers and updating the programs. He did, and they worked - much to my amazement and relief. But with new programs comes new features, screens, and a need to relearn how to use them. And I am not computer intuitive and have thought about retiring early several times!

Although it is a little strange to be thinking about school during our summertime, there is teaching going on by all of our missionaries year-around. Those being trained are the next "generation" of church leaders in their area of influence. Reading about, praying for, and supporting EMU missionaries may not be as emotionally exciting as the World Cup, but it certainly has a more eternal value than the World Cup, or any other cup for that matter. We count on your continued involvement with EMU. Thank you. ✚

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