

The EMU Newsletter

PROCLAIMING THE TRIUMPHS OF THE GOSPEL

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Ken & Joan Jensen
Director

ALONG THE WAY . . .

On Saturday, November 22, EMU International added another member to its family -without a vote from the Board of Directors! That Saturday afternoon at 3:05, **Henry Martyn Farmer** made his grand entrance into view at a hospital in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Though a bit tiny for a missionary (8 lbs., 2 oz.), we are trusting that the Lord will use Henry for His honor and glory, as He has used Henry's parents and Henry's namesake. (If you have never read the biography of Henry Martyn, you are missing out on a real blessing. He was a missionary to Persia and India in the late 1700's and early 1800's. I read an account of his short life when I was a teenager, and it had a lasting impact on me.) Bonnie Ruth and Henry are doing well.

"He/she is a little miracle!" A facsimile of this sentiment can be oft times heard in the vicinity of fresh new little faces. (The only "miracle" I witnessed at the birth of my children was seeing a pain-ridden, "I-want-to-die-and-take-you-with-me," crazy woman instantly change into the most loving, kind, sane creature on earth!) Although a newborn baby is certainly a marvelous occurrence, it falls short of a true miracle. One of the best definitions of a miracle that I found comes from Dr. William Craig: *A miracle is an event which is not producible by the natural causes that are operative at the time and place that the*

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UNEXPECTED DIFFERENCES

by Gabriel Gomez, pastor of Gethsemani Church in Montevideo, Uruguay

I had the opportunity to visit Peru for 18 days in October. Last February, Pastor Segundo Rodriguez, who was speaking at Camp Emmanuel, spoke to me about possibly traveling to Peru to preach in some of the churches and to see several other ministries in Peru. I wasn't sure at the time if I could go as there were many things to arrange first. I started to pray, save money, and wait to see if this was the will of God. I was also wondering what profit for the Lord this trip would bring to my ministry. In July I found a good ticket price on the internet and received permission from my church to go. God had opened the door, so Pastor Segundo started to work on my schedule. October was the 43rd anniversary of the Seminario Batista del Peru (the Baptist Seminary of Peru in Trujillo). The school had invited 3 speakers: one from Argentina, one from Ecuador, and me. During the 1st week, they wanted me to teach 4 classes about pastoring in postmodern times. The second week I was invited to preach at the seminary's chapel each morning.

There is a student in the seminary named Maicol who is from Treinta y Tres, Uruguay, and attends the EMU church there. He and I shared a great time together, and he was very encouraged. He wants to continue his studies in Trujillo, Peru. He has a half scholarship but needs some additional

support for his expenses. Pray for him.

Apart from the seminary, I had the opportunity to preach in churches in Trujillo, Poroto, Paita, Piura, Sullana, and Chiclayo. When I arrived in Trujillo, after being on planes and in airports (I missed one connection) for 24 hours, Segundo was expecting me to preach at a Quince - the birthday party of a 15-year-old, which is always a very big deal. The celebration was very different from our Quinces in Uruguay. That experience was a good introduction to the differences that I would see between our cultures during my time in Peru.

Peru is very different from Uruguay: food, transportation (I thought traffic was bad in Uruguay, but Peru is terrible!), people, weather (I was told that Peru is the country of eternal spring, but I found it to be very cold - I even got sick). Almost everything was different, although in Christ we are all "one," and we do have a lot in common within the Church. I was a bit sick at the beginning of my time in Peru, but the Lord allowed me to preach every day, and sometimes more than once a day. I had my first opportunity to preach to a group of deaf people, and I was also invited to visit and preach at Bethel Home - a ministry that helps people who are struggling with alcohol and drug addiction. Seeing the work

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Gabriel preaching at an outdoor service.



The very different transportation in Peru. Uruguay has none of these motocabs.

Pleasant Surprises

by Rick Jensen, from The Wilds Camp of North Carolina

This year's trip started out smoothly, but in Miami, where our team was planning to meet for our final flight to Uruguay, we found out that Britt Hopper's flight from Dallas to Miami had been delayed. Many prayers were going up about that situation. His plane finally landed in Miami about 25 minutes before we were to leave. Britt ran to the gate, and when he stepped onto the plane, the stewardess closed the door. Unfortunately his checked luggage didn't make it onto the plane and didn't arrive in Uruguay until the next day. This year each of us was allowed to take two 50 lb. bags. So we were able to take down extra things for the mission and some of the missionaries. What a blessing it was when we were able to get them all through customs in Uruguay without any problems.

When we first arrived at Camp Emanuel, camp director Pedro Donz  took us around the camp to go over the list of things that he was hoping we would get done during our stay. With the size of the list and already having the delay of getting Britt's tools, I was wondering how far down that list we would get. As usual, a few things were added to the list throughout our stay. To my surprise, and despite the rain, almost everything on the list was completed. It really wasn't until later when we were back in the States and my brother Ken asked me to make a list of everything that we were able to get done while in Uruguay that I realized how much the Lord allowed us to get accomplished in the eight days of work.

We had a few of the national missionaries

at camp to help with the work during the first week. Pedro had a separate list of projects for the Uruguayans to work on besides his list for the Americans. Britt Hopper, a co-owner of Hopper Glass in Wichita, KS, was back with me this year to finish changing doors and windows in various buildings - four windows and eight doors, all of which were set into concrete. He also worked on a chimney leak and roof drain on top of the tank house. His son Titus, who has worked at the Wilds for the last two years, went with us to Uruguay and helped his dad most of the time. Titus also joined in on some of the other jobs, such as digging up two large stumps by hand, helping to move gravel, and assisting with a concrete pour for a sidewalk extension. Pat DalPorto, a retired Electrical Engineer and deacon at our church in Brevard, NC, was my right-hand man. He worked on a number of electrical projects, changed many water-system valves, replaced a lot of commode tanks, helped me construct shelves and doors in the kitchen basement, assisted with the concrete pour, and relit the water heater tanks.

A last minute surprise was Steve Erkens' arrival. He found a great deal using his frequent flyer miles. He arrived a few days after us, but worked with us at camp until we returned home to the States. At Camp Emmanuel he helped caretaker Louis Rios a good bit of the time and did a lot of sanding on the cabinets for me, as well as helping to install the cabinet door latches. Basically Steve did anything he was asked to do and did a good job, too. After we left Uruguay,

Steve stayed in Montevideo an extra week.

I stayed busy with many projects. I replaced the land trolley cable, fixed a few playground pieces, installed a new panel box in the Casita (little guest house), fixed a few other electrical projects there, designed and constructed shelves for the kitchen basement storage area, and made some electrical changes in the basement. We averaged working about 12 hours a day, and even on the last day we worked until 4:00 PM - Britt until 5:00 PM - before leaving for the airport at 6:30.

On our only full Sunday in Uruguay, we drove to Montevideo to go to church and do some sightseeing. However, due to the wind and rain we were not able to see much. That evening, Britt and Titus attended church with Pastor Carlos Olivera in Pando, and both father and son gave testimonies and had supper with the Oliveras. Pat, Steve, and I went to Gethsemani Church with Pedro Donz . Pastor Gabriel Gomez was still in Peru, so Pat and I gave testimonies and Steve preached. Gabriel's wife Rosanna was the translator.

This year was the first time that Ken was not in Uruguay while I was there, and he was greatly missed. The Lord really blessed in so many ways, even considering some setbacks. Each of us thank you for your prayers. The Lord gave us safety, good health, and good times of fellowship. What a great group of men we had for this mission trip. Each man had different abilities, and each man completed the task that was set before him. Again, praise the Lord. ✚



Top: My hero brother Rick

Bottom: My hero son-in-law Steve working with Luis installing walking/driving rails



Top: Pedro Donze, Luis Rios, Titus, Juan Gonzalez, Carlos Olivera - co-workers

Bottom: Pat DalPorto working on water heaters



Top: Supperman Titus removed a tree root so concrete could be poured for a sidewalk

Bottom: Britt, Titus, & Rick took a hike to the beach on an evening when it wasn't raining



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event occurs. The birth of a human – or any creature for that matter – cannot be categorized as a miracle, precious as they are.

Since the beginning of time, no birth has truly been a miracle except one, and we celebrate His birth on the 25th of this month. Even so, the birth of Jesus of Nazareth was not a miracle, though His conception was. God becoming man was a miracle. And the life of Jesus was fraught with miracles, including heavenly dreams, voices, and appearances. And yet Jesus was as human as any one of us, except without a sin nature. He was as human as Adam was human before the Fall. (I hope I'm not skating on thin theological ice here, I but believe this statement to be orthodox.)

I have heard it said that the greatest miracle in the work of redemption is that God loved us enough to die for us. I used to think that, too. But in reality, isn't God's plan of redemption and love for His people "natural" for Him? It is not unusual for God to love, for God IS love. The miracle is that God creates a new heart in each believer, contrary to our inborn nature. It is as much a miracle as raising the dead, a process contrary to natural man.

Though our American society speaks of the "miracle of Christmas," the world continues to besmirch the season with everything except the true meaning of the season. The Apostle John summed it up well in a letter to the early church when he said, *Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.* (1 John 4:10).

Having announced the birth of Henry Martyn above, I need to remind you to pray for the soon delivery of another EMU MK. **Becky Hancock** is due to give birth to their 3rd child on December 12. On the last Saturday of November, the Hancocks drove to Bangkok, Thailand, where Becky will have the baby. One taxi ferried them to the Thai border where a van-taxi took them the rest of the way. It was a 13 ½ hour journey! Becky's mom is with their family in Thailand. As our missionaries in Cambodia who have traveled to Bangkok to have their babies know, there is no way to predict how long their stay in Thailand will be since the new family member needs his/her documents before crossing the border back into Cambodia. I will let you know when the Hancocks are in Phnom Penh again.

The last week of November was a busy one for EMU's five Cambodia families. I'm so horribly confused about what happened when and who arrived when that I'll give the short version. The **Farmers** were already in Phnom Penh and staying at the Christian and Missionary Alliance (CMA)

guest house following Henry's arrival. The **Kanes** and **Crowleys** showed up the week of Thanksgiving, and of course the Hancocks and Jensens live in the capital. On Wednesday the **Jensens** had everyone over to their house to celebrate **Becca Jensen's** 5th birthday with a pizza meal and a party. Five years ago Becca was a tiny 2 lb. preemie; today she is a healthy, beautiful, vibrant girl. What a blessing!

The day after Thanksgiving, all the families gathered again for a praise service and Thanksgiving banquet in a large room at the CMA house. **Ethan and Emily Crowley** were also in the capital, from Siem Reap (in the center of the country), for this celebration. I'm looking forward to hearing about their get-together.

After Bob Jones University classes end for the semester on December 18, **Jenna and Taylor Crowley** fly to Cambodia to spend Christmas vacation with their family.

Although all of these families have been busy with their missionary work, **Brian Kane** sent us a special report about the latest Krung/Brao Bible School in Ban Lung, Cambodia. There were 45 students, who were taught by 17 teachers – one of whom was Brian, the only white face in the group. It is such a blessing to see the nationals now doing most of the teaching at the various Bible schools that are held in northeastern Cambodia.



2014 Krung/Brao Bible School in Ban Lung, Cambodia

A few days ago, I Skyped with **Kornel and Tanja Crnkovic** about a special donation that was given which will allow them to come on "furlough" in 2015 to visit supporting churches and individuals in the USA. (Furlough is in quotes because the Crnkovics are Croatian and living at home already.) This family has not been able to visit their USA supporters for many years because of a lack of funds, so this is an exciting and encouraging gift. We are just on the front-end of making arrangements for their visit, so if you would like to have the Crnkovics speak at your church, please let us know.

While speaking to Kornel and Tanja, they told me about the evangelistic meetings they had at their church on November 21-23. There were dozens of first-time visitors, and the church was filled every night. Many good decisions were made during those evenings, and the church now has

more prospects to visit. I also learned that Natanael Spicak, who is the head pastor at Koprivnica Baptist Church, has taken a part-time job with Every Home for Christ and is doing a lot of traveling around Croatia representing that ministry. Kornel is taking more of a head pastor role now.

Marco and Gwendolyn Nuñez arrived at our house on November 24, having flown to Atlanta from Cancún and rented a car to get to Greenville. The low price for Delta Airline tickets from Cancún to Atlanta sealed their decision to spend Thanksgiving with Marco's son and the grandkids in Greenville. They came by our house to go out for a late lunch with Joan and me before unloading their suitcases at Marco, Jr.'s house. One of the first things Marco told us when he got here was about the 4 people who had recently been saved in the church in Cancún and 2 other churches pastored by his men. Another blessing is that a friend of the Nuñezes bought Marco and Gwendolyn each a new laptop computer with all the programs they need. These were picked up by the Nuñezes on the Friday after Thanksgiving. Needless to say, there is a lot of thanksgiving going on in the Nuñez family.

We also had a wonderful visit with **the Tim Chapman** family early in November when they drove to Greenville for services at their sending church and

another local church on Sunday the 9th. We had **the Erkens**, with their 3 boys, and the **Chapmans**, with their 3 children, at our house for lunch. The adults observed a rather humorous development. The kids barely talked to each other before the meal and during the lunch. But afterwards Joan got them playing

Pictionary with 2 teams, mixing the families. From then on it was like they were all best friends! It was so fun to see the transformation. (I think maybe there is a lesson there for Christians of all ages, too.) It was such a blessing to see how well Cheryl is doing health-wise and to talk about the Chapmans' past and future ministries. The Tim Chapmans' furlough ends on January 5 when they fly back to Lima, Perú.

Steve Erkens returned home to Taylors, SC, from Uruguay on November 13, ending a 2-week trip. He was able to help Rick's team for a few days at Camp Emmanuel, then visit with **the Espinels and Steels**, and attend some of the FEBU block classes taught by **Dr. Gary Reimers**, a seminary professor at BJU in Greenville. Steve's time in Uruguay without me was a help to him in understanding more

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about EMU's ministries in Uruguay. My "debriefing" time with Steve was a blessing. Since his return home, Steve and I have been able to discuss some important topics about future plans for the mission. It is a real encouragement for me to see his intense engagement and growing knowledge about EMU in all areas.

I hope you will read Rick's and Gabriel's accounts of their trips. Gabriel's visit to Perú was a help to the folks in Perú and to Gaby. Rick and his team, as always, did a tremendous job at **Camp Emmanuel** in spite of the rain. Though I wish I could have been there, I think this non-Ken team was good for Rick as he had to rely completely on **Pedro Donzé** for the team's needs. Once again, we are so grateful to Rick and the other men on the team for sacrificing their time and money to improve Camp Emmanuel. As Uruguay progresses towards summer, the camping season will start in January 2015.

Please consider gifts to the **Camp Sponsorship Fund** and to the **Christmas Fund Offering**.

The Lord has wonderfully blessed EMU International in 2014. Our needs have been met in some unexpected ways. But more importantly, lives have been changed through the various ministries of our missionaries. Many Christians have been strengthened, and the training of national church leaders has continued unabated. But the miracle of seeing the spiritually dead made alive in Christ has been the greatest of blessings. And thank you for your part in helping each of us do what God has called us to do. May the Lord grant you a blessed Christmas season and prosperous New Year! ✝

Please consider giving to

The Christmas Fund



The Camp Sponsorship Fund

Unexpected Differences

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Gabriel preaching at one of the Peruvian churches.

they are doing there was very good for me, because we don't have places like that in Uruguay, and they are needed for sure.

Christians in Peru are very open to share the Gospel everywhere, and the Peruvians seem to be ready to listen and even attend church when invited. That is very different from Uruguay, but very encouraging. The Christians also have a great vision for the great commission, not only for Peru, but around the world. I'm very grateful also for the hospitality that was shown to me. Many families received me with great love.

I'm very grateful to God for the opportunity I had to go on this challenging trip, and I hope that my time there was a blessing for the people I visited. I pray that what the Lord taught me through this journey will result in the building up of my

church in Uruguay, too.

Of course I also saw many very beautiful places and ate a great variety of foods that we don't have in Uruguay. Thanks to the Lord, my stomach worked well! There are so many more things I could tell you, but it is very difficult to encompass everything in a short letter. I hope that I have given you a good summary of my time in Peru. To all those who knew I would be in Peru and prayed for me and my family, thank you very much. The Lord protected each of us, as He always does. ✝

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