

The EMU Newsletter

PROCLAIMING THE TRIUMPHS OF THE GOSPEL

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Ken & Joan Jensen
Director

ALONG THE WAY . . .

In 1912, the last in a series of short stories by Jack London was published. The serial touted the deeds of Smoke Bellew, London's alter ego, during the Klondike gold rush at the end of the 19th century in western Canada. The adventures of Smoke Bellew never gained the popularity of Jack's "The Call of the Wild," "White Fang," or "To Build a Fire," but it is a fun read for young men and boys with an out-of-doors bent. Several decades ago, a good friend loaned me his collectors' volumes, which I very much enjoyed. I still remember the last adventure to this day. The title of the episode is "Wonder of Woman." In all of the previous stories, Smoke showed himself to be a loner when it came to women - the installments are morally clean. However, in this last adventure, he discovers the great moral and physical strength and resolve of two women, as well as their steadfast devotion to the one they each loved. When the blinders, preventing Smoke from seeing the virtues and true character of a virtuous woman, were removed, he began to "wonder" at such a marvelous creature.

The panorama of Easter was encompassed in the last week of March. The Pascual account details the men of the story. However, we also see, as if in the background, women playing a part. And the contrast between the men and the women of the epic account is stark.

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WONDER OF WOMAN

by Joshua and Amy Jensen, tribal linguistics in Ban Lung, Cambodia



Clara Grace Jensen

We are excited to announce the birth of our fourth child, Clara Grace Jensen, on March 13, 2016, @ 5:30 am. (6.95 pounds, 19.25 inches) We came to Bangkok, Thailand, at the end of February to await Clara's birth. We asked our friends and family to pray that Amy could have a surgery-free, intervention-free birth. The Lord answered in a surprising way. Here's the story, told by Amy.

"Sunday morning, March 13, 2016, I started having contractions sometime after 3 AM. I wasn't sure whether the contractions were going to go anywhere, so I tried to sleep through them. Finally, around 4:45, I left the bedroom and began putting our toiletries together to head to the hospital. Again, I didn't think there was a big rush, since the timing was very similar to Anna's birth, and it was many hours after the contractions started before she was born. The pain was strong, but I also didn't know how bad the pain would get, since with Anna the doctor gave me an epidural once I arrived at the hospital. (The two births before Anna were by C-section.)

"Getting ready was slow going, since I had to stop for each contraction. I was planning to wake Josh up after I had packed the toiletries. Thankfully, Josh woke up on his own around 5:07 AM and noticed he was alone. When Josh found me contracting, he started getting ready to go while I tried to do things between contractions. Josh called our doula at 5:14 and started to time the contractions. I was having contractions

lasting about a minute, with less than a minute break between. I told Josh I didn't think I could have the baby. (I expected the pain to get much, much worse and go on for hours and didn't know how I could handle it. Little did I know I was almost done!) Mandy, our doula, told us to get in a taxi and head to the hospital. Josh called our apartment managers (who just happened to be awake on account of the grandchildren staying with them) and asked them to call a taxi for us.

"So there I was contracting on my hands and knees, while Josh is telling me I have to walk and get into a taxi. I was trying to decide when it would be appropriate to tell Josh that I was not going anywhere and that we were not going to make it to the hospital.

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Top: The anticipated delivery room
Bottom: The actual delivery room

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Most of the men – disciples and haters of Christ – are boisterous in proclamation, yet cowardly in action. In contrast, we see Pilate’s wife’s attempt to free “this righteous man” Jesus. The disciples of Christ are scattered after Jesus’ arrest, but it seems that the women who had ministered to Jesus during the past three years continued to be as near to Jesus as possible. At the foot of the cross, we see John the beloved, and a group of women believers. And the first followers of Jesus to visit His tomb and believe that He had indeed risen were women. Every man who reads the Bible should come away saying “the wonder of woman!”

More historically immediate, these words came to mind when I learned of the birth of **Joan’s and my 9th grandchild**. An accompanying article with that short story title - “Wonder of Woman - is Amy’s account of the birth. I am sincerely hoping that the descriptions in the article do not seem beyond good taste – to me they are not, but I am not “everyone.” I asked Amy to write this account, and I’m the editor of the Newsletter, so all the Bucks stop here! When I told Amy she was the new “Wonder Woman,” she nonchalantly stated that millions of women give birth in huts and work fields every year. But that has not deterred me from my settled opinion. Josh and Amy Jensen have a very busy year ahead of them even without a newborn. Pray for their safety in travel and success at finding new housing in the Ratanakiri Province among the Jarai tribes.

Another young lady that has made me “wonder” is **Petra** in Koprivnica, Croatia, in the church that **Kornel Crnkovic** pastors with his brother-in-law. **Tanja Crnkovic** wrote about Petra and her fiancé **Luka** in their last two prayer letters. This couple became husband and wife in February. The “wonder” part is that Luka has severe cancer and has not been given long to live. Luka and Petra’s original wedding date was set for much later this year. But



Kornel Crnkovic conducting the wedding of Luka and Petra in Koprivnica, Croatia

Luka’s recent diagnosis spurred them to move the date considerably forward. Petra went against her unsaved parents’ advice not to marry a dying man. But she loves Luka dearly and wants to care for him, as difficult as that will become. That is truly a selfless love. Pray for this Christian couple that they will have a tremendous testimony to their many unsaved family members. Pray, too, for grace for both Petra and Luka as they have many difficult days ahead of them. And if you have faith for Luka’s healing, pray to that end. God’s name would certainly be mightily glorified through Luka’s recovery!

Another prayer request that the Crnkovics have is for a larger church building. They currently rent a building, but the congregation has grown to the point that the auditorium is too small. According to Kornel and Tanja, they can buy a sufficient-sized edifice for 43,000 Euros or around \$49,000 USD. The Lord has been greatly blessing this church for their outreach into the community, and for serving other churches in northern Croatia that do not have pastors.

Two other of our missionary teams are also searching for meeting places. The church plant of the **Bixbys and Coles** continues to meet in a restaurant on Sunday mornings. The setup is far from ideal, but thus far it is the only option. And the Sarcelles municipality continues to be far from helpful. But the team is encouraged by the contacts they are making and the folks who are attending the services and Bible studies.

Tim and Cheryl Chapman have also been looking for a place to hold services, and it seems they found the perfect place. It even looks like a small church auditorium. I believe they have already signed a rental contract with the owners. There is a faithful group of men and women who are helping with visitation and getting the word out about this new church in downtown Lima, Peru.



Tim & Cheryl Chapman (left) with church plant team

And then there are those of our missionaries looking for new housing. Thankfully the **Farmers** found a fixer-upper rental house in the capital of Stung Treng Province in northern Cambodia. **Josh and Amy Jensen** will be looking for a house between now and June. And after this current semester of language classes, **Matt and Becky Hancock** will need to find

housing when they move to the city where they will be helping other missionaries with a Khmer church plant.

In San Fernando, Uruguay, **Alberto and Carolina Diaz** are in the process of building their own house. They were able to find an inexpensive lot not too far from the church and are constructing a house with their own hands. EMU helped with some of the financing, and the Diazes found a “new” kind of building blocks. I visited the worksite in February, and the building process is quite unique. They hope to be in the new house by the end of April. This will free EMU from having to pay rent for the Diaz family, who minister at the church in San Fernando.

Also in Uruguay, our church in Treinta y Tres, pastored by **Rubito Rodriguez**, is actively looking for a larger building for services. Seating has been a problem for several years, but there are just not many affordable structures for sale within the city limits. They have their eyes on an abandoned warehouse, but I think the renovations might cost more than buying the building. They need real wisdom about this decision.

Kim Crowley was in Illinois for several weeks in February & March for the birth of **Anna Kawainohia Crowley Pruden’s** first baby, **Brett Adauré**, born on March 4. Kim has returned to Cambodia for several weeks, but she will be coming to Greenville, SC, later in April for the birth of **Charis Crowley Johansen’s** 3rd child. While Kim is stateside in May, **JD** and his son, **Nathaniel**, will visit Myanmar where JD’s Romans Commentary is being published in Burmese. The printing cost is \$800. If you would like to help offset the cost, it would be appreciated.



The teachers at FEBU in Montevideo

During the Easter break in Uruguay, **the Espinel family** drove to Chivilcoy, Argentina, due west of Buenos Aires. A church in that city requested that **Matias** present the ministry of FEBU and preach. It is always a blessing when any of the

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The 27 students attending FEBU this semester in Montevideo

teachers at FEBU are able to reach out to churches to tell them more about the Bible college.

Ted Allston had a busy winter with trips to Morocco, Kenya, Uganda, and South Sudan. He returned from the most recent of these excursions on March 20. Ted, **Marla**, **Joan**, and I try to have breakfast together after many of Ted's trips so I can ask a "ton" of questions. His trips are always fascinating, and I can only imagine what a blessing his teaching is to the pastors and Bible teachers. Please continue to pray for Marla's dad, **Pastor David Yearick**, as some medical decisions need to be made. Dr. Yearick is our senior Board member of EMU.



Ted Allston teaching in Kenya

We thank the Lord for a gift that was given to purchase a motorcycle for **Billy Judson** in Hyderabad, India. This will save him much time in getting around that enormous city. Billy is still trying to raise the needed money for a high-end printer for the magazine "Wisdom for the Heart."

Well, I guess I should throw this prayer request out to you at this time since this might be the last Newsletter you receive before **May 10** - sometimes I'm late with getting the Newsletter finished and sometimes the PO is super-slow delivering it. Just before I went to Uruguay

Wonder of Woman
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Josh, for his part, could only think one thing: We need to get in a taxi soon! I finally told him we were not going to make it to the hospital, and I apologized to him several times. A few moments later my water broke. Then I looked and saw what looked to me like my entire insides coming out—this was not a comforting sight! My initial worry was that the placenta was coming out first. I gave about three to four pushes (I hardly knew what I was doing) before Clara's head appeared. Both Josh and I caught her as she came out, and then she was in my arms. It was 5:30 AM.

"While Josh rushed out to get our apartment manager's wife Kerri, who is a nurse, I held Clara. She was completely blue. Though it was only seconds, it seemed forever as I worried about her breathing. I checked to make sure the cord wasn't wrapped around her neck and began hitting her back. She let out a little squeak and began to turn pink. Then I checked to see if we had a boy or girl. Surprise! A GIRL! Then I held her in the solitude of our bathroom.

"A minute later, Josh came back with Kerri, and we prepared to get into the taxi. Our doula told Josh over the phone to leave the cord alone, since it was still pulsing and the placenta was still inside, so I carried Clara, who was still attached, and walked to the taxi to go to the nearest hospital.

"It took a few hours before we were settled into a

hospital room. But all was well. And every once in a while, I started smiling really big; to think, I'd just had a baby in our bathroom!

"God answered our specific prayer requests in an unexpected way, and we're thankful for His protection. Thanks be to God."

We also asked for prayer that Clara's birth certificate and U.S. Passport would be issued quickly so we could return to Cambodia. The hospital issued the birth certificate the day after Clara's birth, and the U.S. Embassy here in Bangkok opened up an extra appointment in their schedule for us at the end of the same week. Clara's passport has been issued and is ready for us to pick up, just 6 working days after we submitted the paperwork! We plan to head back to Cambodia this weekend (April 2-3). (They arrived safely. KJ)

Please pray for us now as we begin looking for a suitable place to live in a Jarai village. Josh plans to begin meeting with missionaries and Jarai leaders soon after we return to Cambodia to identify the best possibilities. We will also need to get permission from government officials to live in a minority village. We have to move out of our current house by the beginning of July, and we are hoping to go directly

to a house in a village, rather than making two successive moves. Please pray that God's will would be done.

Thank you for your faithful prayers for us, and for the glory of God among the people of Cambodia. ✝



(l-r) Becca, Clara, Amy, Isaiah, Anna, & Joshua

in February, I had a meeting with the doctor who performed my prostate biopsy. Turns out that I have **prostate cancer** that is at a level which requires a prostatectomy to remove the prostate and the cancer. Joan and I just met with a surgeon who performs the da Vinci robotic prostatectomies. (Yes, the da Vinci is named after Leonardo, who developed the first robot.) I need to have interviews with a few more specialists - anesthesiologist, etc. - but the surgery is scheduled for May 10 at noon. (Please, no more horror stories about killing and/or removing the prostate. I would like to think that I've heard them all. And I pray not to be a new story!) The recovery is supposed to take 5-6 weeks before I can get back to regular physical work. I know how I am after any surgery, and I'm not fun to be around; so, please pray especially for Joan. I'm serious

about that! I don't even like to be around me at times like that.

I hope that **Jeff Davis** and I will be able to continue to meet and discuss EMU during my recovery. Jeff has been sending out letters to churches and friends announcing his new position with EMU and his need for financial support. He will begin to visit churches to present his ministry and EMU, which are almost impossible to separate. Pray much that the Davises will raise all of their support very rapidly. (To do so will go completely against the norm for mission office personnel, even assistant directors and directors.) Joan, **Kami**, and I finally had the privilege of meeting the rest of the Davis family this week. Their son and his wife, **Caleb** and **Jamie**, along with **Hannah**, **Joanna**, and **Jeff** had brunch

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Christmas Thanksgiving

by Ursula Thiessen, missionary in Montevideo, Uruguay

Our various 2015 Christmas celebrations, for the sole purpose of glorifying our Lord and Savior, are history. At our church's Christmas dinner, our pastor Gustavo reminded us not to forget to praise and thank our Lord for the many benefits He has given us. He also asked us to share those blessings with the congregation on the last Sunday of the year. So on that Sunday I stood up and shared what was in my heart. It was not about recent blessings. I will share them with you, too.

I can never forget what God has done for me. I began that Sunday by saying, "From the news these days, we hear about the hundreds of thousands of people from the East who are leaving their homes and are fleeing toward the West to escape suffering and torture. I can identify very well with them because 71 years ago I, too, was like them - fleeing from the enemy. It was late at night on a cold wintery day, when hearing the thunder of bombs and the howling of dogs, that I called upon God, almost begging Him in my desperation, to save our lives, and if He did so, I promised I would live for Him. Nevertheless, I did not have the faith to believe we could escape. Humanly thinking it was impossible because we were already surrounded by the Russian armies. But regardless of my unbelief, our Almighty God responded to my prayer. He not only worked out one, but many, many miracles in that terrible war, and He saved our lives. All glory and thanks to Him. And what about the promise I had made to Him? Nine years later, when I was already on the Mission field of Uruguay, studying to teach a lesson from 1 Samuel 1, where Hannah made a promise to God, that God brought to my memory that I, too, had made a promise to Him a long time ago. I bowed down and thanked our blessed Lord

for all His grace and mercy towards me. I had forgotten my promise, but of course God had not, and He took me at my word. I'm so thankful to our Lord Jesus Christ for calling me and putting me into the ministry. It is all by His grace!"

That Sunday I also expressed my gratitude to God and the directors of EMU, our mission board, for the many years they have watched over us [the workers here] that we might not be deceived. They have warned us to be careful and not compromise with new movements that have shown up in Uruguay through the years, such as the Charismatic movement, the Ecumenical movement, etc. I thank the Lord and the leadership of EMU that we still stand firm on the fundamental doctrines of the Holy Scriptures. Our Lord will reward them for that. Our pastor, Gustavo, preaches Bible doctrines to his flock. We are thankful for his teaching from the Word of God.

I also praise God for sufficient health and strength, "that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God." Acts 20:24. I still go with our church group to the hospital on Sunday mornings and witness to the people there. It is also a blessing to visit people in their homes for the purpose of sharing the gospel. Last week when I visited two ladies who once attended our church services, they showed very different attitudes. The first one told me twice that she would not change but will continue to believe her own way. But the other lady, Yolanda, invited me into her apartment and listened carefully when I read and explained the Scripture to her. Though Yolanda comes from a Catholic background, she professed to believe in the

Lord Jesus Christ. Please pray with me that she will grow in the Lord. When I left, she hugged and thanked me so much for my visit and also for praying for her.

Before closing, I want to thank you for your prayers and for partnering with us in God's work in Uruguay. May our Lord bless you and supply all your needs, because He is faithful. Amen! ✠

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with us. I had a wonderful time getting to know Caleb. He's what I call a "top drawer" young man - smart, well-read, using his spiritual gift and talents, kind, humble, and obviously loves his parents and sisters. (He already knows my vote as to where he should serve the Lord when he graduates from seminary!)

I fully understand the place of the man in a family and in the church. Yet I am overwhelmed by the service, mercy, love, caring, thoughtfulness, prayerfulness, and spiritual-mindedness of Christian women. I know that there are plenty of selfish destructive women, too - just like among men. You women (and young girls) who read these Newsletters and pray for EMU International do us a great service. And those who are able to financially support this ministry adjoin an additional measure of blessing. To all of you, male and female, thank you for your interest in EMU International. ✠

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