

The EMU Newsletter

PROCLAIMING THE TRIUMPHS OF THE GOSPEL

Volume LIX

May 2016

Number 5



Ken & Joan Jensen
Director

ALONG THE WAY . . .

“April showers bring May flowers.” What conscious English speaker has not known this ditty since childhood. The rhyme is based on general observation, and was originally stated in a 1610 poem as “Sweet April showers/Do spring May flowers.” Though coined in the United Kingdom, the saying is quoted throughout English speaking peoples in the Northern Hemisphere, as April and May are the prelude for winter south of the Equator. So, what happens when the April showers do not coalesce, as was the case at our dot on the globe? Thankfully, the May and April flowers premiered, but with a diminished flare.

However, in Cambodia, where the monsoon season begins in April, scarcely a drop of rain fell. One writer declared recently that there had not been a substantial rain in Cambodia since last August - two months before the monsoon season generally ends. Letters from the **Farmers, Kanes, and Jensens** spoke of the unusually hot temperatures in April, as well. Even the nationals were complaining about the 100+ temps. The combined complications of extreme heat and drought were manifested by power blackouts from the hydroelectric dams, and dry wells and cisterns. And for a country that depends on rice for domestic food and export income, the Cambodian’s table and pocketbook are

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PERSEVERING THROUGH THE STORMS

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

We had our annual church assembly on March 5. It was a good time of planning and discussing important issues, and we enjoyed a good time of fellowship. We hope the Lord will bless all we decided to do, and we expect to see much fruit, too.

After Holy week, the Bible Institute opened its doors again. FEBU started, too, and we praise the Lord because for both, the number of students grew this year.

At the Bible Institute, which I direct, we have 7 students in Montevideo, and we have video courses at EMU’s interior churches.

At church Rosanna started the music classes again, before the youth group’s meeting each week. The students are very enthusiastic, and there are two new students this year. The time for her to work with them is short, but it’s very encouraging to see the teenagers involved in church activities in this way. They helped us with an Open Air children’s class that we scheduled for April 2 at a new location. The weather was so bad that we had to change the date to April 9. The weather was not good then either, but at least it was not raining in the afternoon, so we went anyway. It was cloudy, a bit cold and windy, and there were not many people there, but some were out, so we were able to give tracts, and the people saw we were there.



Rosanna teaching an open-air class to children in one of the local parks

Last week I had planned to help Juan González with a three-day evangelism effort in Cannelones. Some other pastors were helping, too. But again the weather didn’t cooperate. On Thursday the activity was canceled because the forecast announced rain. The day was not as bad as was predicted, so on Friday we went in spite of the forecast. This time the predictions were good, and it rained a lot! We gave out tracts for about two hours, and then we had to come back - we don’t have a building there to protect us from the rain. Pastor Ovidio’s van was our only refuge. When we decided to return, the van wouldn’t start. We had to wait for help more than an hour. Once we were at Ovidio’s house, Juan and I headed back to our church in Juan’s car, but his car broke down in the middle of the street (under a traffic light) in a very strong rain. I took a bus back, and Juan waited for help another two or three hours. Although we were wet, at least we were safe.

We heard some hours later that a tornado had affected the little town of Dolores in the interior of our country. It was devastating. Other shocking news was that while some people were busy dealing with the disaster, others took the opportunity to loot. When those working saw that, they became so angry that the police had to put some of them in jail - but just for one day!

The weather is still bad. Last Saturday Rosanna had another ladies’ meeting in a home near the church. There were no visitors, but there was a good group from the church, and they had a good time in the Word of God. Yesterday there was a lot of rain again. During our Sunday evening service, a family received a call on their cell phone that their home had been robbed. They had to leave. Then, while I was preaching, someone attempted to steal Juan Gonzalez’s car right outside the church door! (The car needs some repair work, so it doesn’t start unless many men push it). In the middle of all that, a woman who was

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adversely affected. Thankfully, the last two days of April the rains began to fall, and we pray that this will continue until life in Cambodia reaches its equilibrium again.

By the end of April, the **Farmers** had been living in Stung Treng for three months. **Stung Treng** is about an hour and a half drive from Ban Lung, in a different province, and is populated heavily by Laotians. This has been a period of increased stress, both physically and mentally, for the family. Besides the Herculean task of getting their rented house livable, they are dealing with the new Laotian language and customs. It is somewhat like starting all over again in a new country. Then in April the temperature spiked for weeks, the family ran out of water in their cistern on the roof, and a bug (virus or bacteria) paid a visit to all but two of the family members. And they are without the frequent fellowship of the other EMU missionaries who live in Ban Lung. This later difficulty is somewhat mitigated by driving to Ban Lung for short visits. Pray for the Farmers as they learn the Laotian language, adapt to the customs, make friends with neighbors and Christians in the area, and the children continue to be homeschooled.

Brian Kane continues to work with the Krung Bible translation, spending about three days each week in a Krung village to work with tribal men who are helping with the project. Lydia is due to deliver their 7th baby at the end of May or early June. (Hopefully, the delivery will be less dramatic than Amy Jensen's last one!) **Rich and Sheryl Kane**, Brian's parents, are flying to Cambodia/Thailand at the end of May to help care for the children. Pray for safe travels for everyone and for the safe delivery of a healthy baby.

As mentioned in the last EMU Newsletter, when **Josh and Amy Jensen** returned to Ban Lung from Bangkok, Thailand, after having their baby and obtaining all the needed documentation for baby Clara, they began seriously considering where to move in order to continue learning the Jarai language. A recent update from Josh indicated that they tentatively have zeroed-in on the village of **Saom Kaning**. Josh was asked by the Jarai church leaders to preach in their church this month. If that goes well, the church leaders and Josh will meet with the village leader to ask permission to live in Saom Kaning. Also, Josh is working on an agreement with SIL of Cambodia to work with the Jarai Bible – something that is more complicated than I can explain here. As to a house to live in, we have no word. From May 12-14 the Khmer Bible school will hold another teaching session from the book of Matthew in Ban Lung. Josh has been asked to teach two lessons in Khmer.

The **Hancocks** have celebrated their second anniversary in Cambodia. They continue to take Khmer lessons in Phnom Penh. However, in the fall they will be moving to **Kampong Cham** on the Mekong River about 77 miles northeast of Phnom Penh. It is the sixth largest city in Cambodia. Matt and Becky will be working with two other American church planting families. The Hancocks' desire is to get experience from veteran missionaries before sallying forth on their own to establish a Khmer church.

At the beginning of April, **JD Crowley** decided he needed to fly back to the States from Cambodia in order to spend some time with his aging father in Greensboro, NC. Before reaching Greensboro on the 14th, he made a stop in Chicago to see his newest granddaughter, born to **Anna Crowley Pruden**. **Kim Crowley**, JD's wife, had been with the Prudens for several weeks in March to help with Anna's first child. JD's window of opportunity to visit with his father was short because of a previously planned trip to **Myanmar (Burma)** at the end of April with recently retired pastor **Rick Bartosik** from Hawaii. A group of churches in Hawaii asked Rick to visit Myanmar to assess the feasibility of helping the Christians with Bible training. Rick asked JD to accompany him. (JD's son, Nat, was also in the caravan.) Last year JD went to Burma and taught from his commentary on Romans. The church leaders were so impressed and blessed that they translated the commentary into Burmese, and it is in the process of being checked and then printed. This Romans commentary is also being translated into Vietnamese and should be available for sale soon.

Incidentally, **JD's commentary on Romans** is available at Amazon.com in Kindle format. We have the paper copy available through our office. Also, a new book entitled "**Conscience: What It Is, How To Train It, And Loving Those Who Differ**" can be purchased at Amazon.com in paperback and Kindle format. This study is co-authored by JD Crowley and **Dr. Andrew Naselli**. (EMU makes no profit from either of these publications.)

Towards the end of April, EMU and our family lost two dear friends and long supporters of the mission. **Mrs. Virginia Platte** succumbed to cancer at the age of 91. When I was growing up, the Platte family lived next door to our family on back campus at Bob Jones University, and **Paul Platte** was my best friend. He was also the best man at my wedding. Unless you knew Mrs. Platte, you cannot imagine what a wonderful, loving, and enjoyable lady she was. She taught nursing at BJU, and Mr. Platte taught history and was one of my favorite history teachers. Ken and Virginia loved my parents – and us kids – and have supported my folks' ministry for more decades than I can remember. The second parting was that of **Tim Corey**, also from

cancer. Tim joined Hampton Park Baptist Church – my home church – in the 1970s. Before that time, while living in Michigan, they met a newly saved young Mexican named **Marco Nuñez**. When Marco joined EMU to become a missionary in Cancún, Mexico, the Coreys began supporting him. **Tim and Barb** have heavily invested in the ministries that Marco has started in southern Mexico. I will always remember fondly the two occasions I was with the Coreys in Cancún during special landmarks in the Nuñezes' ministry. Tim and Barb were one of the most gracious, generous, and fun couples I have known. And Tim had a laugh that made everyone else laugh. But he could also be quite serious and a disperser of wisdom, which I have benefited from.

Tim's funeral was on the afternoon of Tuesday the 26th, the same day that JD drove from Greenville, SC, to Atlanta, GA, to pick up **Kim** at the airport. She was beginning her several-week stay at **Brian and Charis Johansen's** house to help with the Johansen children as Charis, the Crowleys' eldest daughter, has her 3rd child. JD and Kim drove directly from the Atlanta airport to Hampton Park for the funeral. After good-byes following the funeral, we did not see JD again as he left the next day for Cambodia to pick up Nat and then travel to Myanmar.

Marco and Gwendolyn Nuñez were at a missionary conference in Colorado at the time of Tim's funeral, so were unable to attend. However, the Nuñezes were able to get a flight to Greenville that Thursday to spend that afternoon and Friday with Barb Corey before flying back to Colorado and then to Cancún.

While we (in Taylors, SC) and the folks in Cambodia were praying for rain in April, the Uruguayans were praying that it would stop raining. If you Google "**Uruguay Flooding April 2016**" you can see a host of photos of flooded Uruguay. One of our Uruguayan associate missionaries works at a Christian radio station in the interior of the country – cow country. In one picture that he posted, the landscape is more of a waterscape: from the camera's position to the far horizon, the grasslands are under water, with only the tops of clusters of trees looking like individual bushes sitting on the sea's surface. This makes perfect grazing for hippos, but horrible

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conditions for cows. Almost all of our national missionaries wrote about having to cancel different ministry plans because of the flooding. Sadly, thousands of families had to evacuate their houses due to the inundation, and some were members of our churches.

Another sad result of the weeks of rain occurred at **Camp Emmanuel**. Lightning fried parts of our sound system and several other electrical appliances. As you might recall, when my brother took a work team to the camp last October, one of the projects was installing a new ceiling in the dining room. April's furry exposed two leaks in the dining room's roof, and water actually accumulated on the vinyl ceiling. Another large leak became evident on a subterranean wall in the kitchen basement. And a number of other rain-entry-points were revealed in other buildings. It will cost quite a bit in time and money to repair the storms' havoc.

Yet there are many blessings still taking place in the churches with people getting saved and getting baptized. The **Bible Institute** in Montevideo has seven students this year,



Bible Institute students in Montevideo. The teachers are on the back row.

and the video Bible Institutes in our interior churches have good attendance this year. **Pastor Rubito Rodriguez** in Treinta y Tres reports that they have seventeen students taking courses this year. Also, the ministry of **FEBU** is going forward. The college is currently desirous of raising money to stock a **school library**. We would encourage any of you who understand the importance of a sound theology library to give towards this project.



Roberto Alvez sitting w/daughter; Nico Gomez standing

The camps that were held during Holy Week in Uruguay were well attended, too. At **Camp Las Flores**, the guest speaker was **Pastor Roberto Alvez** of Maldonado. The speaker at **Camp Bethel** was **Pastor Hector Gomez** of Rivera.



Holy Week family camp at Camp Bethel

One of the most encouraging aspects of many of the letter we receive from Uruguay is the continuing burden that our churches have for being mission-minded, with a vision even outside of Uruguay.

On April 21, **Joan** drove **David and Kristin Chapman** and their two young children to the Atlanta airport, from which the



David, Kristin, and children on the plane headed for Antofagasta, Chile

Chapmans flew to Santiago, Chile, and then on to **Antofagasta** to begin an eight-month visit with David's parents. David and Kristin's description of going through security in Atlanta portrayed a parent's greatest travel nightmare. I only hope that the ATF workers will regret forever having singled out this harmless family for detailed screening! The purpose of this trip is to help **Tom and Connie Chapman** with the groundwork of beginning a church plant in the northern part of Antofagasta, a section of the city that is growing rapidly. David will continue to give online guitar lessons to help with expenses. Pray for this church plant, and that all the Chapmans will make wise decisions in this pursuit.

In Sarcelles, France, the **Bixbys and Coles** continue to search for a meeting place that the municipality will approve. At their last service in the restaurant they use on Sunday mornings, there were 36 in attendance. A wonderful recent blessing has been the salvation of a Muslim woman who is married to a once backslidden Christian. Ruth befriended this lady and has been witnessing to her. The Bixbys, Coles, and **Krista Colas** are continuing Bible studies with "seekers" who desire to know more about the Bible and Jesus Christ.

On April 16, **Billy Judson** travelled seventeen hours via bus from his home in Hyderabad to the hamlet of **Kavalkaranpatty**, Tamil Nadu State, India, for the second graduation service of the **Good News Bible College**

and Seminary (GNBCS). Ten students were in this graduation class. **Ted Allston** will be flying to India on May 19 to travel with Billy to several of the GNBCSs to teach. Pray for safety, good health, and keen understanding on behalf of the students.



Billy handing a diploma to a graduate. Billy's father is wearing the coat & tie.

Last month Billy received donations to enable him to purchase a new **motorcycle** and a commercial grade **Samsung printer** for the purpose of printing the "Wisdom For the Heart" magazine that is sent to Christian leaders throughout India.



Above: Billy, Saritha, & their daughter on the new motorcycle. Bottom: Prayer of dedication for the printer.



I would be remiss not to mention that Marla Allston's father, **Pastor David Yearick**, celebrated his 90th birthday on April 29. I believe he is the oldest Board member that EMU has ever had, and probably will ever have! We dearly love this man, his wife (Margaret), and family.

May 1st was the first service of **Grace**
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Return Service Requested

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Persevering Through the Storms *(continued from page 1)*

passing by the church entered and heard the preaching.

So, problems are all around us. Our neighbor's home was in the news as a place that was "trespassed by zombies." It's so sad to see what is going on in our country. And it's becoming dangerous for us to walk down the street.

At the beginning of May we will have a family activity. From April 30 - May 6 we will have training classes for those who want to help in Sunday school, etc. Rosanna and Noemi González will be teaching, and most of the teenagers want to participate.

We are very thankful that our son Marcos has started the Bible Institute and also has gotten a part-time job. They arranged his work schedule so he can attend a high school class to finish Math, attend the Bible Institute, and he will get the time off to travel to the US with us.

We will be visiting the United States with our sons during part of June and July this year. We want them to meet some of the people who are supporting and praying for EMU ministries in Uruguay.

Marcos is working on our new church Website. Visit us at:

www.iglesiagetsemani.org.uy †



Marcos, Lucas, Rosanna, & Gaby Gomez

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Baptist Church of Lima, Perú, in their newly rented building. The location is owned by an architectural company, and the meeting hall is perfect for church services. It is situated in downtown Lima in the area that **Tim Chapman** and his group have targeted.



The 1st service of Grace Baptist Church of Lima, Peru, in their new rented building.

The Wingroves just finished a long stint of travel in New England. After a couple of weeks at home recuperating, they leave for Pennsylvania.

The Davises are hoping to put their house in Anderson, SC, on the market soon so they can begin looking for a house in the Greenville area. Jeff has also been working on a list of churches and individuals to contact about their ministry with EMU. Over the last several weeks, I have had some physical setbacks, and Jeff and I have not met here at the office as much as I anticipated, so I feel rather behind in his training schedule, but it is 100% my fault. I suppose this is one of the reasons I believe someone else needs to be the director of EMU!

And my meetings with Jeff are not going to get much more frequent in May - I think. If you get this Newsletter before May 10, please pray for me as I have my **cancerous prostate** removed, and that the cancer will

not have spread to lymph nodes or other tissue. (I feel like I should be embarrassed to mention my prostate, but for some odd reason I'm not. I sincerely apologize if doing so embarrasses you.) Actually, I am more concerned about the recovery after the operation. Now *that* subject certainly is embarrassing! As an absolute wimp when it comes to pain, I'm expecting a longer recovery time than the norm. And **Joan** probably needs your prayers more than I do. From experience I know that she is the best nurse I could have.

May, which is already in progress as I write, has already been blessed with rain at our house, for which we thank the Lord. Like the weather, it sometimes seems like we are having a drought of blessings - walking in the wilderness, if you will. But unlike the weather there are actually no droughts when it comes to God's blessings. We have aches, pains, sorrows, perplexities, discouragements, and losses. But in the midst of all of these, we continue to be blessed beyond our wildest imaginations. Like the Apostle John says at the end of his Gospel concerning trying to record the wonderful deeds and teachings of Jesus Christ - *And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written.* Amen. (John 21:25)

And we count you among those blessings from the Father. Thank you for your interest and support of the ministry of EMU International. †

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