

# The EMU Newsletter

PROCLAIMING THE TRIUMPHS OF THE GOSPEL

Volume LX

May 2017

Number 4



*Ken & Joan Jensen  
Director*

## ALONG THE WAY . . .

Anniversaries ending with a zero tend to be special milestones in life's journey, and, if the occasion is appropriate, are often times of celebration and reflection. Whenever I read one of our missionaries' letters that announces how long they have been on the field, I think back to when they first became missionaries with EMU. And truthfully, I am always amazed at how much has been accomplished in their ministries during that span of time. I'm glad we are able to share **the Kanes' testimony** of their 10th anniversary in Cambodia. Though I had no idea Brian would be doing what he is doing with the Krung language back when they first moved to Southeast Asia, I'm not at all surprised at the Kanes' accomplishments, since I have known the excellent quality of this couple since they applied as missionaries with EMU many years ago. And I know the God who has led and empowered them along the way. (And I don't want to leave out praise for their wonderfully insightful field director and his wife.)

Because of some "deficit" in the current EMU director, some recently passed anniversaries did not get mentioned – one important and one not as much so. Last year (2016) was the **70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of EMU**, which I failed to even mention in the EMU Newsletter that year. Nor did I state that 2016 was also my **40<sup>th</sup>**

*(continued on page 2)*

## 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

*by Brian & Lydia Kane, ministering to the Krung tribes in Cambodia*

On February 5, 2007, we touched down in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. We didn't know the language, the culture, or hardly anyone here. We had a general idea that we were going to work among the minority groups in Ratanakiri, but lots of the specifics were unknown, and it was not a little unsettling to me. We floundered through language training in Phnom Penh (the capital) and moved up to Ratanakiri in April 2008. As we continued floundering in the language, we were at least in the place where we planned to live permanently. Through various circumstances, beginning that July, we started visiting a Krung church on Sundays. Even though I could still hardly speak Khmer, God began to unite our hearts together with that small village church, and through them, to direct our focus of the last eight years with the Krung people. God has faithfully seen us through sicknesses, accidents, depression, and discouragement, and has graciously used Cambodia as a tool of sanctification for each of us. He has also given us the amazing privilege of working with the first and second generations of His Church among the Krung people, and He has even given me the unique privilege of helping translate His words into their language. Add to that five more wonderful children that He has added to the two we brought with us, and we count ourselves as

incredibly rich. Truly~ Amazing Grace!

January's session of the Krung/Bräo Bible School was held in Pyang village, right in the heart of Bräo land. It was the most remote Bible school we've had and, in part because of that, was one of the most enjoyable.

It is God's sense of humor that my "avid-outdoors-woman" wife spends most of her time at home, while her "avid-indoors-man" husband ends up trekking through forests and jungles. My family was thrilled to be able to join me for a day at the Bible school.



*The January 2017 Krung/Bräo Bible School*

In March, 15 believers were baptized from both Gam village and Krala village. Neither of these churches have seen new believers in many years. This is a huge answer to prayer.

*(continued on page 3)*



*The Kanes arriving in Phnom Penh in 2007*



*The Kanes (almost) 10 years later in Cambodia*



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

anniversary of serving as a missionary with EMU. (The latter is the “not as much so” part.) The only “special” thing we did for the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary was to have mugs made for the **Board of Directors** highlighting the occasion. No mugs were made featuring my anniversary! The 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the mission is certainly a milestone for EMU. The history of EMU is fascinating to me when I review what God has done through this ministry, and when I consider the many families that have served as missionaries with EMU over those seven decades – not all of whom are still with us.

This year is my 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary serving as the **Director of EMU**. To celebrate this milepost, I will be resigning this position and handing it over to Jeff Davis – Lord willing, Board willing, and Jeff willing. And I trust my year-markers will continue to increase as a missionary with EMU, as I love serving the Lord through this organization and with its many wonderful servants of God around the world.

In March of this year there was another major anniversary: the congregation of the **First Fundamental Baptist Church of Cancún** celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in March. Their activities included a baptism in the Caribbean and a special



*Marco & 5 baptismal candidates*

gathering of the six men that Marco trained who are also pastoring churches. Another recent blessing was the purchase of a used 21-passenger touring van for the church in Cancún. The van they had been using was given to one of the other churches – I believe **Pascual's church** in Chemax. (As you probably know, tourism is huge in Cancún, and occasionally a used touring van can be secured at a good price.) On May 29, **Marco and Gwendolyn** will be flying into Greenville, SC, to begin their two-and-a-half-month furlough. Their

services are scheduled for the New England area, but both Marco and Gwendolyn need to renew their driver's licenses, and they would like to see their grandkids while in Greenville.

**Kim Crowley** arrived in Chicago from Cambodia just a few days before the birth of **Anna's** second child. On May 3, Kim flies to Greenville, SC, for a short visit with her other grandchildren, and for the graduation of her son **Taylor Crowley** from the nursing department of Bob Jones University. Taylor's fiancée is also receiving her nursing degree from BJU that day. Kim will return to Ban Lung, Cambodia, on May 8. (I should add that Kim's mother and 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> daughters live in Greenville, too.)

On May 12-17, the 1<sup>st</sup> “semester” of block courses will be held for the church **leadership seminary** program in Ban Lung, Cambodia. The seminary classes will be taught in the Khmer language, and several EMU missionaries – **JD Crowley, Brian Kane, Jeremy Farmer, and Josh Jensen** – will be teaching along with nationals and some other missionaries. They are expecting 80 students for this 2<sup>nd</sup> level of courses.



*Back: Josh, Becca, & Amy  
Front: Isaiah, Clara, & Anna*

**Josh and Amy Jensen** in Oyadao, Cambodia, have started a neighborhood Bible class every other Sunday afternoon, which will be taught in Khmer, the main language of the folks in this small town. In April there was also a Jarai language Bible school which had 30 students. Josh taught two lessons as the group worked through several chapters in the Gospel of Matthew. Josh was able to find a Jarai language teacher, which is a definite answer to prayer.

For some reason, **Lydia Kane** wanted to spend her recent ending-in-a-zero birthday



*(l-r) JD, Brian, Josh, & Jeremy in Jeremy's office*

with the **Farmers** in Stung Treng, about a two-hour drive from Ban Lung. And for some other reasons, the **Crowleys** and **Jensens** made the trip, too. (I think that was a party of 29 people!)

**Jeremy Farmer** has decided to continue his focus on Khmer for the next 12 months to get a better grasp of the national language. He will then be better able to learn Laotian, his target language.

The **Hancock family** left their home in Kampong Cham, Cambodia, at the edge of the Mekong River, for Bangkok, Thailand, on April 30. Though the 3 Hancock children might feel like this is a vacation, the trip is actually for work, or I should say labor, for Becky, as her 4<sup>th</sup> baby is due on May 15. Becky's mom, **Ruth Christenson**, arrives in Bangkok on May 28 to help with the children. Shortly after Ruth gets to Thailand, the Hancocks and Ruth travel back to Kampong Cham. Ruth is scheduled to return to Pennsylvania on June 14. Pray for safe travels, a problem-free delivery, and that Matt will be able to get the legal documents for their new baby with no problems so they can return to Cambodia promptly.

**Tom and Connie Chapman** ended their furlough on April 4 when they returned to Antofagasta, Chile. **David and Kristin Chapman** currently live with them in Antofagasta, and together the two families will begin working in their new target area – the northern part of the city.



*(l-r) David, Kristin, & Tim performing at the Christian school. Cheryl is at the keyboard.*

Early in April, **David and Kristin** traveled to Lima, Peru, to see **Tim and Cheryl's** church plant and to engage in some musical ministry at a Christian school in Lima and at the church. These two families are very musically gifted and enjoy using those gifts in ministry together. The new church plant in Lima will celebrate their 1-year anniversary on Sunday, May 7.

We received a recent report from our **EMU church in Treinta y Tres (“33”), Uruguay**, with a short list of blessings. The family camp at **Camp Bethel** that was held during Easter week had 85 in attendance. Some of the folks even set up tents as the sleeping facilities are rather limited. Several of our interior churches offer the video

*(continued on page 3)*





*Easter Family camp at Camp Bethel in the Department of Treinta y Tres, Uruguay*

## **ALONG THE WAY...**

*(continued from page 2)*

**Bible Institute** directed by the pastors. The church in "33" has ten students this semester. Pray that the students will be faithful to finish the year of classes which will end in November. Also, the "**baptism class**" has six attendees. When the weather warms up next Spring, these new Christians will be ready for baptism.

Not all is going smoothly in "33," though. **Pastor Rubito Rodriguez** has had psoriasis for most of his life, and the skin disease gets worse or better depending on the weather and other environmental conditions. Right now the illness is so debilitating that Rubito has been bedridden at times and is in great pain. Pray for relief from his suffering. And to make conditions even worse, the congregation has been experiencing demonic attacks in a way that most of us have never experienced. Pray that these believers will stand strong in Jesus Christ against the onslaughts of Satan. It is evident that the forces of darkness are seeking to destroy this vibrant church.

In April, **Susan Watkins** made a "family emergency" trip from Shanghai, China, back to Greenville, SC, for the funeral of her cousin, **Matthew Conley**, on April 11. Matthew is also the son of **Drew and Mary Ellen Conley** of Hampton Park Baptist Church. (Drew is on the EMU Board of Directors.) Matthew died very unexpectedly and suddenly at the house he was renting in Greenville. This was an enormous shock to the Conleys, their extended family, friends, and our church family. God's grace has been abundantly evident in this time, but please pray for continuing comfort from the Lord for the family.

April was a productive month for the **Davises** in the housing market. They sold their house earlier in the month, with a signing scheduled for May 9. Then on April 30, they were able to sign a contract on a house in Greer, SC. Between the two closings, the Davises will need to completely move out of their current house, move in with Jeff's mom for several weeks, and then move into the Greer

residence. Although this is all an answer to prayer, it comes with a lot of extra work. Pray for the Davises as they make these moves in May and in the weeks following.

Also pray that more churches and families will begin to give towards the **Davises' monthly financial support**. They currently have very few who have agreed to partner with them in this ministry of EMU. And as you are praying for their support needs, pray about becoming one of those answers to prayer by partnering with the Davises. We are planning for Jeff to become the director of EMU later this year.

Birthdays are not anniversaries per se, but they have a lot in common in that both mark occasions by one year increments. My father will be having his **90th birthday** (or anniversary of birth) in June. I will not go into detail about his difficulties since he still sometimes reads these newsletters – though **very** seldom. When told how old he will be, his response is always, "Oh, that's too old!" He doesn't always understand when I remind him of the alternative to aging. Organizations also have anniversaries/birthdays, and like people they can become less vibrant with age, and even morph into something they never originally anticipated – which can be good or bad depending on what they have become. **Evangelical Mission to Uruguay** has obviously morphed into becoming **EMU International**. But we still retain our original purpose and doctrinal stand. It would be great if prayer could keep an individual vibrant and productive regardless of age. I believe it is in large part because of the faithful prayers and support of folks like you that EMU continues to grow and serve the Lord year after year. Thank you for being a part of the EMU family. ☩

## **10-Year Anniversary**

*(continued from page 1)*

Please pray that their faith would grow deeper and stronger.

In just one month, we start the next iteration of the Ratanakiri Pastors School. Over 80 students from around the province will be joining to attend the first session. As before, several of the missionaries in this province will team up to teach through the five-day block session. Please pray that God will use the study of theology and draw both teacher and student into deeper worship of our incredible God.

Nigh and I are currently correcting the translation of some lessons on the book of Romans for use in the upcoming Krung language Bible school in September. This one will be held in Somroh village.



*Brian Kane with his long-time Krung pastor friend and co-worker Nigh*

In addition to that, I'm continuing to work on checking the key terms that we are using in the Krung Bible translation. It's an amazing privilege to be able to help select the words that the Krung church will use to describe the key elements of our faith. Words like heaven, hell, sin, mercy, grace, and Kingdom of God are among the words we are currently working on. ☩



**You can now donate to EMU missionaries and projects by Credit Card via the EMU website**



*Below: Children who attended camp through the Sponsorship Fund*



*These photos represent how the money was "invested" from the Sponsorship Fund program.*

*Thanks to all of you who participated in giving so these young men and women could attend and work at Camp Emmanuel this summer.*

*Below: Jovenes who attended camp through the Sponsorship Fund*



*Center:  
Summer Staff  
at Camp Emmanuel*

*Left: Jovenes who attended camp through the Sponsorship Fund*



*Right: Adolescents who attended camp through the Sponsorship Fund*



*Email: [office@emuinternational.org](mailto:office@emuinternational.org)  
Website: [www.emuinternational.org](http://www.emuinternational.org)  
Phone: (864) 268-9267*



**You can now donate to EMU missionaries and projects by Credit Card via the EMU website**