

# The EMU Newsletter

PROCLAIMING THE TRIUMPHS OF THE GOSPEL

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Ken & Joan Jensen  
Director

## ALONG THE WAY . . .

Fall and Winter holidays have generally been easy for me to remember, but the Spring and Summer ones, except for July 4<sup>th</sup>, which is rather straightforward, have evaded my long-term memory, mainly because they are what I call “floaters.” They are on a different number date every year. And I usually get Memorial Day and Veterans’ Day mixed up. But I think I will remember these two from now on. We just “celebrated” Memorial Day on the last Monday of May. Marking the unofficial start of summer, I knew that the school year always ended near this holiday, which was always something to celebrate!

This year I became curious enough to ask Google how many American soldiers have died in our wars since 1775. Wikipedia had the most readily available stats, so I will use those. From the Revolutionary War until now, as many as 1.5 million US soldiers were **wounded** and at least 1,354,664 **have died** during wartime. And this detail is fascinating: of those **killed**, over half perished *outside* of combat, from things like accidents and diseases. Before and including WWI, disease was the bane of soldiers, killing off enormous numbers of military personnel. Another statistic that is sobering is that almost *half* of the *death-toll* took place during the Civil War. By comparison, France saw upwards of 1,397,800 of their soldiers die during WWI *alone*. And Russia’s count of dead

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## THEOLOGY FOR WORSHIP

by JD Crowley, missionary to the tribes of Ratanakiri, Cambodia

(The following is an edited re-publication of JD Crowley’s last prayer letter.)

This is the official seal of the Pastors’ Institute. The bottom blue panel contains the letters W.K.R., which stand for Wichiatan Krukongwiel Ratanakiri, literally Institute Pastor Ratanakiri.



Eighteen years ago, we started the Ratanakiri Bible School program, a twice-yearly province-wide block class for future pastors. Three years ago, the Bible school program split into four mother-tongue Bible schools, completely led, taught, and financed by the local churches here. Around 50 first-generation church leaders taught the five core classes of the original Bible school – Creation-to-Christ, The Book of Acts, and the Book of Matthew I, II, and III – to nearly 200 men, women, and teens in their own languages. Not bad for people who were barely literate when they came to Christ!

Those who successfully completed the mother-tongue Bible schools, and were chosen by their churches as leaders or future leaders with a good standing in their communities, were eligible to apply to attend the new Ratanakiri Pastors Institute, a twice-a-year program that will, after 10 years, be equivalent to an associates Bible college degree. We are delighted to tell you that 75 students were accepted into the program after extensive interviews.

Our inaugural session at the Pastors’ Institute began on Friday night, May 12, and ran until

Wednesday, May 17. The subject taught was Systematic Theology. Because of our constant emphasis on a narrative approach to the Bible, we have neglected this important subject. The missionaries and select local pastors taught 30 hours of Systematic Theology over the 5 days.

Our theme for this session was Theology for Worship. The study of theology is worthless if it doesn’t result in the worship and praise of God. Satan knows more theology than any of us, but he still hates God. James tells us that the demons know the theological truth that God is one, and they tremble. What a terrible thing if both teachers and students study theology for 30 hours and are not moved to a trembling awe of our mighty, holy, and loving God. We desperately need your prayer that our hearts would burn within us as we continue to meditate on what was taught during those 5 days about the true and living God.

In other matters, an aggressive Korean seventh day cult that believes that a Korean man is the Christ for our age and a Korean woman is “God the Mother” has invaded our province, unsettling the faith of some. I prepared some documents

to help pastors oppose this false teaching and presented a special session on this topic at the Pastors’ Institute.

Rejoice with us at the birth of our 6th grandchild, Anastasia Millay Pruden, born



JD Crowley teaching at the Pastors’ Institute (continued on page 4)

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and missing soldiers, just during WWII, was 11,000,000! (Of course, these stats vary considerably depending on who is compiling the numbers.)

I also queried whether there was equivalent remembrance of Christians who were either martyred or perished while in full-time vocational service of God's Kingdom. The closest parallel I found was All Saints Day, which varies greatly between the Roman Catholics and the oldest Protestant denominations. As a Baptist, the closest thing to a Christian Memorial Day I know of is a missionary conference, and fewer and fewer churches are having these. Understandably, there are no figures on the number of Christian martyrs over the past two millennia. One point of controversy would be "Who is a Christian martyr?" and "Who was put to death because of the name of Christ?" Historically, many were martyred as Christians who in reality did not believe the simple Gospel of salvation through grace alone.

It does seem that it would be propitious to have one day a year to honor those whom we believe were true saints and gave their lives for the building of the Kingdom. Almost all of us know the story chronicled in "Through Gates of Splendor" of the five missionaries killed by the Áuca Indians. And we each could probably name a few others. But what an encouragement if, as families and churches, we honored those who have gone before us and shown themselves to have been faithful unto the end. There is so much more I would like to say on this subject, but will refrain.



*Billy and Saritha in their new office space in Hyderabad, India*

There are several comings and goings in the EMU family for May and June, two of which were later than expected. **Billy, Saritha, and Bernice** from Hyderabad, India, had planned to be in Cary, NC, by mid-May to begin several weeks Stateside to visit some churches and endeavor to raise more support. However, Billy's passport and US visa were lost and needed to be replaced. Both of these documents took much longer to secure than anticipated. We just received an email saying that both of the documents are now in hand, and

Billy sent their flight itinerary: arrival in Raleigh, NC, on June 5, and returning to India on July 9. The Judsons will first visit in Cary, NC, where Billy attended Shepherds Theological Seminary. After being in Cary for a few weeks, they will drive to Greenville, SC, to spend some time here. If any churches or families reading this would like to hear about an incredible ministry to train pastor and church leaders in India, let us know and we will see if the Judsons can present their outreaches. I highly recommend the Judsons' ministry.

Another late arrival was the Hancocks' baby boy. The Hancocks travelled to Bangkok, Thailand, several weeks ago so Becky could deliver in a more modern hospital. After being over a week overdue, **Hans David James Hancock** finally made his grand entrance into the light of the



*Big sister Hope with baby Hans Hancock*

world on May 28. He weighed 7 lb. 8 oz., and was 21 inches long. Both Becky and Hans are doing well. Becky's mother flew to Bangkok, arriving on Saturday, May 27, to help with the children. As soon as Matt can secure the needed passport for Hans requiring seven Thai documents and eight Cambodia documents, the family will return to Kampong Cham, Cambodia, to take up their ministry with two other missionary families.

Continue to pray for **Kristine Espinel** in Montevideo, Uruguay, as her due-date for the birth of their 4<sup>th</sup> child is at the end of June. Because of a problem in a past delivery, a C-section was required. She



*Kristine (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) was surprised by a baby party during a break in her FEBU class*

currently has the same problem. Please pray for a safe delivery. The end of the 1st semester of FEBU is also at the end of June, and Kristine is one of the teachers at FEBU this semester.

**Kim Crowley** left on time for her return flight back to Cambodia on May 8. She was in Chicago, IL, for three and a half weeks of April for the birth of Anna's second child. Kim came to Greenville, SC, on May 3 to visit three of her children and the 3 grandchildren who live here. But the main occasion was the graduation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Crowley son, Taylor, from the nursing program at Bob Jones University. **JD, Kim, and Nathaniel Crowley** will be flying to Greenville, SC, on June 21 (the technical 1st day of summer) until August 28. They plan to visit several of their supporting churches during that time, and they will attend the dinner for the EMU Board members on July 22. But the main event during this trip is the wedding of **Taylor to Emmie Vroman**, who also graduated this year from the same nursing program.



*Kim & Taylor Crowley and Emmie Vroman & her parents*

**Susan**, who has been teaching nursing courses at a university in Shanghai for the past school year, will be returning home to take up residence again in Greenville, SC, beginning July 10. But during a Chinese holiday, Susan travelled to Beijing to visit **the Erkens** - May 27-30. Besides going to



*(l-r) Steve, Luke, Caleb, Jacob, & Charity with Susan at a favorite Beijing restaurant*

the Great Wall and other Beijing tourist places, Susan also learned that the food in Beijing - at least the food that Steve and Charity order at restaurants - is MUCH more palatable than Shanghai dishes! We are glad that Susan was able to spend some time with the Erkens family while she was still in China.

On the first weekend of May, **Connie**  
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Connie Chapman teaching at a ladies' retreat in Arica, Chile



Chapman travelled to the city of Arica on the northern border of Chile to speak at a ladies' conference. It went well.

Tom, Connie, David, Kristin and their two boys are all back together again in Antofagasta, Chile, after furlough and other travels. David and Kristin's family was in Lima, Peru, during the Easter season and ministered at Tim and Cheryl Chapman's church plant. They had already returned to Antofagasta before May 7,



First anniversary service of Grace Baptist Church in Lima  
Luis Miguel Ybañez & Tim Chapman  
presenting special music



the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary celebration of Grace Baptist Church of Lima. This church plant has been progressing well, and the Lord continues to supply adequate places to rent for their services in downtown Lima.

Ted Allston was in Kenya, East Africa, from April 3 until his return to Greenville, SC, on Easter Sunday. His time there was good, but he did not get to teach the group he was told he would be teaching. However, another group of Christian church leaders desired Ted to teach them, which he did. Ted, Marla, Joan, and I were able to meet for our breakfast debriefing before Ted headed to Togo, West Africa, for three weeks beginning May 18. He is teaching on Christian character to a group of nurses-in-training at ABWE's southern hospital. He will also be visiting some of the churches that he worked with many years ago as an ABWE missionary. And he has been able to spend some time with Dr. Tom and Melissa Kendall's family. This missionary couple grew up with our children at our home church and Christian school. Pray for Marla Allston as she stayed home and is spending much time helping her ailing mother, Mrs. Bobbie Yearick.

Marco and Gwendolyn Nuñez arrived at the Greenville/Spartanburg Airport on May 29 to begin their summer furlough of visiting supporting churches. They came to Greenville to renew their driver's licenses, and visit Marco's son and grandkids and Joan and me before heading north to upper New York for a service. They will mainly be in the Northeastern US for this furlough. However, they will also be in southern Texas and then visiting family heritage sights in northern and central Mexico with his sister and Gwendolyn. After returning to Greenville on July 24, they will fly back to Cancún, Mexico, the next day. We have already had a couple of good visits with them, and Gwendolyn spoke at a special Women for Missions gathering on Wednesday morning, May 31. Before coming to the States, there was another baptismal service for three people from the church in Cancún. The youngest candidate is the daughter of



May 21 baptism in Cancún.  
(l-r) Alejandra, Andrea, Marco, &  
Yohani Alvarado

Toño and Karina Alvarado, who are the youth leaders at First Fundamental Baptist Church of Cancún.

Chicha Rodriguez of Uruguay is still here in the Greenville area for a few more weeks to visit family. While in the States, she always likes to go to Greenville, MS, to get her dental work done by Dr. Jim Parkerson. He has also been my parents' and Joan's and my dentist for the last several years. (Jim has been to Cancún several times to minister to the people in Marco's church plants in Yucatan and Quintana Roo states.) So we five are driving to Mississippi on Saturday, June 3, to get our teeth checked and to attend Greenville Bible Church, which has long been a supporter of EMU.

On the last Tuesday of June, the Tim and Ruth Bixby family will be coming to the States to begin their two-month furlough. We will not see them until they drive to Greenville, SC, on August 11 to visit family, supporting churches, and the EMU office (i.e. us) for a little over a week. Pray for the ministry in northern France as Michael Cole and others continue working in the Saint Denis church and the Sarcelles church plant. There is still an urgent need for a suitable place for the Sarcelles congregation to meet. Also, continue to pray for the church in Bordeaux, France, that was pastored by Tim Bixby's father, who passed away in February. This church is still in need of a pastor - as far as we know.

The Davis family had a very busy May, and June looks to be the same. On May 9, Jeff and Joanna signed to close the sale of their house in Anderson, SC. In the days prior to that date, they were moving boxes and boxes of possessions to two storage lockers, and a rather large number of items were ferried over to Jeff's mom's house, one street over. The Jeff Davises are living with Elaine (Mimi) Davis in the midst of their boxes and stored furniture until they can move into their new house they purchased in Greer, SC, about 20 minutes from the EMU office. Jeff and Joanna will sign the purchase closing for this house on June 16. There is some work that needs to be done on the upstairs level of the house before they can move out of Jeff's mother's house. Then they will begin to construct a "mother-in-law" apartment in the basement of the house for Jeff's mom. She will be selling her house in Anderson and moving to Greer as soon as possible.

Also in May, Bethany Davis (their oldest daughter) graduated from BJU. Daughters Bethany and Abby are working at The Wilds of NC this summer, along with Bethany's fiancé. Kris Wilder and Bethany are getting married on August 12 - the last day of summer teen camps at The Wilds. (Not sure how that is going to work! Probably not working that last week.) Amid

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*Return Service Requested*

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all of this, Jeff is contacting individuals and churches about his ministry with EMU. He will be the director of EMU before January 2, 2018, at the latest. He will also be learning much more about our office procedures because of something that has recently taken place.

Near the beginning of May, **Kami Brenneman** let us know that she would be leaving the employ of EMU as soon as she found another job, which she did. Her last official day with us was on May 23. She agreed to come into the office to help **Joan** with some processes after that date, for which we are very grateful. Thankfully, Kami has updated the EMU Office Procedures Manual, so Joan and Jeff will know what, how, and when to do things. Kami has been an integral part of EMU for the past five years. Not only has she been an efficient, fast worker, but she has been "sunshine" in the office. Our missionaries have all loved her work and interaction with them. We will miss her greatly.

So, a vital prayer request for EMU International is for us to find another trustworthy, efficient, competent employee. Until then, Joan is more than swamped with work. Jeff has agreed to learn what he can to help in the office until we (read "Joan") find and train a replacement. Sadly, I am virtually worthless on that side of the office work, and I have a hard enough time getting my own work done. (It is not that I have so much to do, I'm just so slow in getting it done now.) Please pray for Joan especially as she relearns and becomes comfortable with the procedures Kami was once responsible for. And pray that we would soon have a replacement.

Like soldiers in arms, missionary work can be very discouraging at times, and

**Theology for Worship**  
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to Adam and Anna Pruden on April 10. Kim was able to be there for the birth. Also rejoice with us at the announcement of our 7th grandchild due in October

to Ethan and Emily Crowley here in Cambodia. The rich get richer! Thank you so much for praying. May He increase and we decrease. †



*Students and teachers at the first Ratanakiri Pastors' Institute in Ban Lung, Cambodia*

sometimes down-right scary. But as soldiers are trained to continue forward, the soldiers of Christ are taught to do the same. Those who have been in this line of vocation for many years have learned that God always gives grace to do what needs to be done. And we old folks are to strive to be an encouragement to the younger missionaries not to give up, if they are in God's will. The same is true for all Christians, though. Those who support

EMU go through difficulties in life, and it would also be easy to stop giving to and praying for EMU and other ministries they are interested in. One-time financial gifts are welcomed, necessary, and very helpful, but regular support is what is most needed for our missionaries to stay on the field. We appreciate all who support EMU in any way. May God's grace be evident in your lives. †

  
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