

The EMU Newsletter

PROCLAIMING THE TRIUMPHS OF THE GOSPEL

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Ken & Joan Jensen
Director

ALONG THE WAY . . .

In the last EMU Newsletter, I began this column with several statistics that, hopefully, helped us greater appreciate Memorial Day, a holiday which tends towards solemnity rather than celebration. But this month is different as we, indeed, celebrate the two-hundred-forty-first anniversary of the United States of America. However, July 4, 1776, was anything but celebratory across the 13 Colonies as war raged throughout the then-called-States for the next six years, until the defeat of the British at Yorktown. And even then, it was not until the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1784 that Briton officially give up its claim to the territory of the United States of America.

I do not believe that God created the United States simply for the comfort of Americans and as a base to send our warriors around the world to fight to relieve physical oppression. Rather our relative freedom and prosperity is given to facilitate the preaching and teaching of spiritual freedom through the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the building up of His Kingdom with citizens from around the world. May all of us be engaged in this war to liberate the spiritually oppressed.

I want to begin our EMU topics by mentioning that we are still looking for an individual, preferably with Excel and QuickBooks experience, and a bent

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PREPARING FOR "RICK'S WORK TEAM"

by Ken Jensen

In the hot, humid month of July, it is difficult to contemplate mid-fall with its refreshingly cool temperatures, and even occasional frost. (Wow! That feels good just writing the words!) It is even more difficult to imagine that the men of Rick's Work Team to Uruguay will spend up to two weeks in spring, in the middle of our fall, as they travel to Camp Emmanuel at the end of October to once again engage in repairs and improvements at the camp. But to provide the materials for those work projects, we need money. (Funny how that works.) And the amount of funds we can raise will determine Rick's (my brother) and Pedro Donzé's (the camp director) plans.

The following list is my "wish list," but Pedro would be quick to point out that his list is MUCH longer!

1. Replacement of the metal roofing on the Dining Room/Kitchen - right at \$10,000. (We could buy cheaper metal, but the roof would have to be replaced again in under 10 years. Also, the recommended metal panels are insulated on the underside, which would make the dining room/kitchen a more comfortable environment. A new roof is the first priority, so even if we need to use the less expensive metal panels, this job will get done - Lord willing.)

2. Replacement of Water Heaters for Cabin Bathrooms

- \$1,450 per water heater. (The ones that Rick installed years ago have succumbed to rust due to the salt-air environment. They have been repaired many times, but they have developed major irreparable problems. There are six water heaters in the cabins and one in the kitchen.)



The short water heaters are much cheaper than the large tanks (\$2,399), but efficient enough.

3. Repair of the Water Tank - no cost yet. (The tank is concrete and has not been repaired since it was built over 40 years ago. The concrete at the bottom of the tank is deteriorating and some of the re-bar is showing.)



Water pressure tanks on 1st floor; storage on 2nd floor; & water tank on 3rd floor

4. Repair of a Kitchen Wall damaged during a hurricane (cyclone) earlier in the year - \$230.

5. Replacement of the Chapel Lighting - \$2,320. (The current lights use a lot of electricity, and new energy-efficient lights would save on the monthly electric bill.)

6. Replacement of the rotting Bridge that spans a wetland between the soccer field and the obstacle course - \$1,140. (Currently unusable)



Bridge to obstacle course when first built.

7. Concrete Tables and Benches - \$600 per set. (These will be used mainly for cabin groups during God & I Time, but also as general places to meet for fellowship.)

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

towards precision, to work in **EMU's Home Office**. At this point, the position could be part-time or full-time. **Joan** needs to be "liberated" from the added office work she has been under since the beginning of June. Joan's new "temporary" responsibilities have swamped her work load. Not only does she work in the office, but we entertain a steady flow of EMU missionaries and other company – all of which we greatly enjoy, but all of which takes time. (Jeff Davis and I are only marginal help in the office. Only a new, trained office employee will solve this problem.)

One of our missionaries was recently delivered from a growing, yet blessed, burden. On June 16, **Kristine Espinel** went into labor in Montevideo, Uruguay, while her husband, **Matias**, was just finishing up his evening Bible class at FEBU college. He got her to the hospital, which is quite near their home, and the doctor took the baby by C-section. Because the baby was breach, this operation was planned, but not for that early date. After the delivery, the doctor told Kristine and Matias that the umbilical cord was in a knotted position but had not been pulled tight yet, which could have resulted in severe damage to the baby had the pregnancy progressed and the knot tightened. The Espinels are rejoicing in this earlier-than-expected-C-section. Okay, now what you ladies have been waiting for: at birth **Megan Karis** was 6.4 pounds and 18.5 inches. Another blessing



Big sister Sofia with baby Megan

of the timing of Megan's birth is that she was born after the last class at the end of the first semester of FEBU. The Espinels have July to recover! (This makes the third addition to the EMU family this year via births.)

From July 6-8, there will be a **winter retreat** for the adolescents and Jovenes at **Camp Emmanuel** in Guazuverá, Uruguay. Pray that the Word taught will be taken home in the hearts of the young people.

Recently, the pastor of Gethsemani Church in Montevideo, Uruguay, began having blurred vision. At a visit to his

eye doctor, **Gabriel Gomez** was told that he had central serous chorioretinopathy, a buildup of fluid behind the retina. Treatment is usually not necessary as the fluid dissipates after one-to-two months. However, until that time, Gaby's reading and studying will have to be curtailed. Pray that he will regain his good vision again soon.

Marco and Gwendolyn Nuñez continue to be on their summer furlough. Most of their services have been in the northeast. However, their travels will also be taking them to Texas, northern Mexico, and Greenville, SC. Pray for their safe return to Cancún on July 26.

Billy, Saritha, and Bernice* were in the US for much of June, returning to Hyderabad, India, on July 9. Though their main base has been with friends in Carey, NC, they were in Greenville, SC, for about a week in June. Billy spoke to my Sunday school class at Hampton Park Baptist on June 25. We also had Billy, Saritha, and Bernice in our home for a day. And I met with Billy two more times (once with Jeff Davis) to discuss Billy's ministry. It is truly an exciting outreach. Unfortunately, because of the "iffyness" of their flight dates, it was not possible to line up services in advance. However, Billy met with some folks who are interested in helping him acquire equipment for an A/V recording studio in the new offices in Hyderabad. Pray that more churches and individuals will take on the support of this family.

Also, Billy and a team in Hyderabad, India, have organized the first **Good News 360+ Conference** for women from August 8-10 at a new conference center in Hyderabad. There will be seven main lady teachers. Billy is expecting over 300 delegates from nine States of India. Pray for this conference as it is one of the first of its kind for orthodox-evangelical Christians in India – that we know of. The Good News 360+ group is accepting donations to help defray the expenses.

Susan Watkins returns home to Greenville, SC, from Shanghai, China, on July 10. She is not planning to go back to China to teach in the nursing school, but will remain in Greenville. Thus ends her one-year stint as a missionary with EMU. She was a very "low maintenance" missionary. It has been good to get to know her over these last many months through interviews and her prayer letters.

Steve, Charity, Caleb, Luke, and Jacob * remain in China this summer, and they will be busy with several camps. The first will be at their church in Beijing beginning July 10. They will then take a five-hour train ride to SuZhou for two weeks of camp starting on July 17 for 6 to 11-year-olds. The following week is for 12 to 14-year-olds. The work-load at the church in Beijing is heavier on Steve and Charity during the summer as the students who



*Steve, Caleb, Jacob, & Luke
(back) Susan & Charity at Forbidden City*

attend the Three-Self seminary next to the church are on vacation, leaving several "helper positions" open.

In the same time zone, but further south, more travel is going on in connection with our missionaries. First, **JD, Kim, and Nathaniel Crowley** arrived in Greenville, SC, on June 21, for a short furlough that will last through August 28. The "big event" is the wedding of second son **Taylor** to **Emmie Vroman** on July 15. We had an enjoyable time with JD and Kim here at our house at the end of June.

During the time that the Crowleys are in the States, the mothers of two of our Cambodia missionary wives will be in Cambodia – mainly visiting grandkids! **Ruth Marshall** will be staying with the **Farmers** in Stung Treng, and **Shelia Potts** will be with the **Kanes** in Ban Lung. Both will be staying for about a month. Also, **Brooke Illsley**, who has been helping the Farmers for the last couple of years or so, returns to Greenville, SC, for about a month, beginning in July, to attend a wedding.

The Hancocks had an unusual opportunity near Kampong Cham, Cambodia. Matt and the two other men he works with in spreading the Gospel in this city on the Mekong River had the occasion to present Christianity in a public school in Pa-au for two hours. Pray that the leaders of this school will request that Matt and the team continue to speak at the school.

Also in the States for a wedding is the **Tim Chapman family**. Tim officiated in the ceremony for his good friend from Peru, **Jairo Villegas**, and his new wife **Suz Olson**. The wedding took place at the Chapmans' sending church in Midland, MI. The Chapmans left Lima, Peru, on June 26 and return on July 26. Sadly, we will not see them during this short trip.

Down in Antofagasta, Chile, where **Tom**
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** These families prefer that we not use their last names due to their field of service.*

A Thief Gets a Bible

by Ursula Thiessen, missionary in
Montevideo, Uruguay

Some weeks ago, I was asked to visit Osmar, who is 68-years-old and was in the hospital. He and his wife have never been consistent in attending church. When I entered the ward of the hospital, he recognized me right away. While sitting beside his bed, I showed him his spiritual need and how he could become reconciled with God. His indirect answer was that he was sure of his salvation. When I started praying with him, he grabbed my hand, squeezed it, and began shedding tears. May his emotion and conviction result in real conversion to Christ. Some days later when I saw his wife at the hospital she said that the wife of another patient in Osmar's ward mentioned to her that she had been quite impressed by the message she had listened to. I had purposefully spoken loud enough in that little ward so that everybody could hear! Osmar is continuing his treatments at home now. May the sown Word bring forth fruit. Salvation is of the Lord.

Without going into many details, I want to tell you how a thief got a Bible. It happened several Sundays ago when Reyes and his wife, Elena, were waiting for a bus after church to return home. (They are members of our church and live 55 km outside of Montevideo. Also, their daughter Vanessa works part time in the mission office in Montevideo.) The robber first started a conversation with them. Then, suddenly, he showed his revolver, demanding their money, cell phone, etc. Dear, bold Elena offered him her Bible, and exhorted him to read and believe what the Bible says. She also gave him the address of our church. Elena told me that the eyes of the thief filled with tears, which indicated that he was not ignorant about what the Bible teaches. But he still stole their belongings. This certainly was a strange assault. Reyes and Elena had to go back to church to borrow money for their bus fare home. Elena keeps praying for the salvation of this thief.

I want to ask you to please pray for Silvia, who is 40-years-old and in great despair. Last Sunday morning she came to our Sunday school seeking help. She hugged me and begged me for help while weeping. She said, "I do not want to live anymore. Though I have everything, even a wonderful daughter, I am empty. Please help me." She stayed for Sunday school, which she had attended as a child and teenager. We see once again that following the world's system never satisfies our soul. She said that she will come to my house this week. Let's pray that she will personally experience the truth that "Salvation is of the Lord." ☩



A Servant Serves a Servant

by Maria Teresa "Chicha" Rodriguez,
missionary in Montevideo, Uruguay

There are only a few days left until I travel back to Uruguay (July 5). I am very thankful to God for the opportunity He gave me to be in the US these past three months. It has been a very refreshing and valuable time with my dear family members who live in this country. And it has been a pleasure and a blessing to see and fellowship with our family in Christ.

Thanks to WhatsApp, I have been able to call and send pictures to my friends in Uruguay and get updates of what is going on over there. Let me share with you something my dear roommate Ursula Thiessen told me. Our pastor from Calvary Temple of Montevideo visited her and noticed that the house was cold. (It's currently winter in Uruguay.) He asked why she hadn't started the fire in our wood stove. She replied that the wood was too heavy for her to carry into the house from the back patio where it is stacked. (She will be 90-years-old in a few months.) We always buy firewood during the summer and store it for winter, but she couldn't lift the pieces. Our pastor came back that afternoon with an ax and commenced to cut enough wood into smaller pieces for one week of use so Ursula could keep the house warm. (Editor's note: Ursula and Chicha have space heaters in the house, but electricity to run them is expensive.) He also asked a couple of young men from our church to be in charge of cutting wood for Ursula on a weekly basis. What a kind way for our pastor to care for his feeble sheep!

As some of you know, Ursula has been writing a book about her experiences on the mission field, something many of us have been asking her to do for several years. She finished the Spanish manuscript, but her desire and prayer was to also have the book translated into English. She gave me copies of the book to bring to America when I came in April and asked me to find somebody here who would be willing to do the job. In an obviously providential way, I met a lady who heard that I was in the States and told my sister Susana that she wanted to meet me. She has read about our ministry in Uruguay for many years. Mrs. Marcy Wolsieffer has been a Spanish teacher at Bob Jones University for many decades and was even the Spanish teacher of our director, Ken Jensen, when he was a student in the early 1970's. (Editor's note: Miss Wolsey was doing her student-teaching when I sat under her tutelage. She was a wonderful teacher!) After a nice talk with her in Spanish, I asked if she would be willing to help with the translation. After looking over the notes, she agreed to take on the project. The following week I gave her the full manuscript. She is now done with the translation and told me how blessed she was reading and translating such a wonderful testimony. I request your prayers concerning the next steps in the process of getting constructive suggestions, editing, and whatever else is necessary to do in order to make this book available for others to be blessed by it as well. ☩

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Finishing touches made to original bunkbeds.

Preparing for "Rick's Work Team"

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- 8. Repair of old Bunkbeds - \$400 for all.
- 9. Repair of Equipment in the Children's Corner (playground) - \$730.
- 10. US & Uruguay team expenses - \$1,300 (in-country food & transportation)

The information above is not as complete or detailed as some might prefer. If you would like more info about any of these

projects, please let me know, and I will endeavor to get the answers.

Even if you cannot give towards the Camp Emmanuel projects, we would very much appreciate your prayers. Pray, too, that Rick will assemble just the right American team members, and that Pedro will assemble just the right Uruguayan team members. Thank you! ☩

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Antofagasta church meeting at the community center

and **Connie Chapman** are missionaries, the area received their annual rainfall all at once on June 6. The building where the church was meeting on their new property was severely flooded. Tom and his youngest son, **David**, who is currently helping Tom and Connie, along with his wife **Kristin** and their two sons, were able to salvage many of the church possessions. Because there was sewage in the flood waters that rushed down the streets from the mountains on the east side of the city toward the Pacific Ocean on the west, everything has to be sanitized. The church building cannot be used for a while, so the congregation is renting the local community center for \$8 for Sunday services. This might be a good alternative meeting place when the old building on the church property is torn down and a new structure is erected.

Tim and Ruth Bixby brought their family to the States on June 27 to begin a two-month furlough, ending on August 29. They will be visiting New England churches until July 23 and then heading west for meetings in CO, WY, and AZ before coming to the southeast on August 7. We

hope to see them then! Pray for safe travels.

Back in Sarcelles, France, the **Coles** are expecting **Michael's** parents to arrive on July 3. Another blessing took place on May 19 for the Bixbys and Coles when the new group of believers incorporated the Sarcelles church, though they still do not have any property. (I could not find a name for the new church organization.)



Newly incorporated church in Sarcelles, France

Ted* will be taking to the air again in August. He flies to Morocco for two weeks beginning August 13, and he then will be in Togo for two weeks. He is still not sure if he will come home between those two trips or just make it one long away-from-home trip. Pray for Ted as he teaches church leaders in these countries.

The **Jeff Davises** closed on their new house in Greer, SC, on June 16. Their house is about twenty-minutes from the EMU Home Office – a much easier drive than from Anderson, SC! They have most of their belongings at the house now, but they still have a few things to move out of Jeff's mom's house, where they had been living. In about two weeks construction will begin on the basement apartment for Jeff's mother, and Jeff's office and storage room.

Thankfully, the upstairs living area did not need a lot of work, other than new carpet. So, the Davises are able to live there. Pray that they will get settled soon.

On Saturday, July 22, we will have the annual **EMU Board meeting**. A few of our Board members will not be able to attend for various reasons: **Steve*** is in China, and **Rick Miller** just had a second knee replacement surgery at the end of June and will be laid up through July. A few of our missionary families who will be in the Greenville area at that time have been invited to the luncheon after the meeting. Pray that we will make wise decisions.

The **Declaration of Independence** is a beautiful document to read. Of course, the "independence" was from Britain, but it was also a "declaration of dependence" of the new states upon one another. Spiritually, when we became Christians, we did not become independent, but rather completely dependent upon our Lord Jesus Christ. In addition, we also became – or at least should be – dependent upon one another, mainly in church groups but in other relationships, too. The missionaries of EMU are dependent upon churches and families from all over the USA in order to carry out the ministries the Lord has given us. We depend upon your prayers, your encouragement, and your financial support. And we trust that you depend on us to reach those corners of the world that you would like to have reached through us. Thank you for partnering with us. ☩

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