

the EMU Newsletter

PROCLAIMING THE TRIUMPHS OF THE GOSPEL

Volume LX

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*Ken & Joan Jensen
Director*

ALONG THE WAY . . .

Have you ever wondered what goes on at an EMU Board of Directors' Meeting? Okay, probably not, but I'm going to tell you anyway! We held our annual Board Meeting on the Saturday morning of July 22, and much of what transpired is information I would give you in this column regardless. First, I want to thank Hampton Park Baptist Church for allowing us the use of their executive-wing conference room. After prayer, I always try to dispense with the items that require a vote such as missionary housing allowances, reimbursement policy statement (required by the IRS), and board officers. The board members are not often listed in this Newsletter, so I would like to do so now:

Rev. Ken Jensen – President
 Rev. Brad Lapiska – Vice President
 Nelson Neal – Treasurer
 Joan Jensen – Secretary
 Dr. Drew Conley
 Rev. Jeff Davis
 Rev. Steve Erkens
 Ken Martin
 Dr. Greg Mazak
 Rick Miller
 Rev. Steve Ridge
 Dan Sallé

(Absent were Drew, who was on vacation in England, and Rick, who is still recovering
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THE GOSPEL IN OVERALLS

by Ted Allston, 10/40 Window teacher

The focal point of my trip to Togo, West Africa, in late May was to teach a course on Christian Living to a class of nursing students. There are two mission hospitals in Togo. Our family is very familiar with the one in the south (Hôpital Baptiste Biblique, or HBB), having used its services and visited it many, many times during our ministry in Togo from 1987-1998.

HBB trains its own nurses. These 17 students were chosen from hundreds of members of their association of churches to enter a three-year program of training in preparation for a life of medical ministry. Therefore, one of the first classes they take helps further prepare them to grow in practical Christian living and service.

One of the joys of returning to Togo is to see former students. Pastor Ametefe and his family minister on the mountain above HBB. He has worked faithfully over the past 20+ years. He oversees at least 6 church plants in nearby villages. Rather than complaining about a lack of financial resources, he has learned to raise animals. The pens behind him in the picture are filled with chickens, turkeys, sheep, and pigs. He is recognized by



Pastor Ametefe & his family at his farm



New nursing students at Hôpital Baptiste Biblique in Togo

local government agencies as a model for others to emulate in the practice of animal husbandry. He is showing his community what the gospel looks like "in overalls."

This is Pastor Wela and his family. He serves several churches out in the bush about 20 miles north of HBB. He supplements his meager resources by farming. About 6 months ago, thieves stole all his family's belongings while he and his wife were at work in their fields. A month after that, thieves again robbed them, this time stealing all the food they'd stored. I helped his church with a gift, but he needs the encouragement that comes from the Spirit as we pray together for him, his family, and his ministry. †



Pastor Wela & his family

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from knee surgery. Steve joined us via Skype from Suzhou, China.)

Pastor David Yearick, who had been on the Board since 1975, passed away in October of last year. He was replaced at the Saturday meeting by **Jeff Davis**. Jeff, also, was the subject of two other votes: he became the official **Assistant Director**; and he was voted to become the next Director of EMU on January 1, 2018. (Although it is understood by the Board that I want to continue as a missionary with EMU after the 1st of next year, no title was given to me at that time; so, I will appoint myself to the coveted office of Number One Lackey!)

I then announced a couple of other changes in our personnel. **Mel and Jan Wingrove** are retiring from EMU as **Field Representatives** effective December 31, 2017. Jan has developed Parkinson's Disease, and the lengthy travels and spending the night in a different place often 5-6 times a week has been hard on her, and as a result, on Mel, too. We are hoping that Jeff and Joanna will take up the slack in visiting churches in the future. (Though I enjoy meeting folks in the churches that support EMU, I, too, do not travel well any more – nor have I since the onset of my major malady nine years ago.)

Another significant change is in the **EMU home office**. **Melody Sherf** will begin working with **Joan** starting August 1. Melody and her family moved to Greenville (Greer), SC, in July from Allen Park, MI, for her husband's job. Besides meeting Melody at her interview with Joan, Jeff, and me, we also had the joy of meeting her family when they visited Hampton Park Baptist Church. (Currently the Sherfs are just visiting churches; so, this is not an announcement.) Melody seems to have the qualifications and abilities, and certainly the personality, that we have been looking for to fill this position. Although the last two months have been very busy for Joan as she carried the weight of the home office work, Joan will be even busier teaching Melody the office procedures. Pray for Melody and Joan as they work through the many facets of office operations.

Following these subjects, the 2016 financial report was presented by **Nelson Neal**. The sum of the report was that the mission took in more money than it and our missionaries spent. That's the good news. A few unexpected, large donations kept the profit/loss in the black. My part in this discussion was delivering a sub-report on the Candy Land royalties. They were down over the previous year by several thousand dollars, which cut into our ability to supplement the Uruguay expenses as much as we would have liked.

The **Board of Directors in Uruguay** had to make cuts from the cuts of the previous year. I fear that if the Uruguay budget becomes any more bare-bones, we will be cutting out marrow! We (the four mission organizations which receive royalties from Candy Land) have had some difficulties with Hasbro concerning the production and quality of the game, which have led to a decrease in sales. We hope and pray that Hasbro will make wise decisions to restore Candy Land to its previous status among homes with young children.

Although we would like to see some of our missionaries have an increase in their donations, all of them have had sufficient funds to live on. Our main concern is when major expenses arise, it is best if they have the funds on-hand. We, also, hope that the Davises will be able to raise a significant amount of their salary soon.

And speaking of the Davises' income/expenses, they will have a temporary "slight" increase in the latter due to an event on August 12: the eldest Davis girl, **Bethany**, will be marrying **Kris Wilder**. Both are currently working at The Wilds this summer, as are **Abby** and **Hannah**. (I think the girls were just trying to avoid the joys of moving!)

We also discussed the needs for **Camp Emmanuel in Uruguay** at the Board meeting. The first of these is for more monthly donations for the camp's regular ongoing expenses, of which we are lacking about \$5,000. And in the last EMU Newsletter, I presented a list of 10 projects we would like to fund for the "**Rick's Work Team**" to Uruguay in October – which is coming apace! So, here is the list again:

1. Replacement of the metal roofing on the Dining Room/Kitchen – right at \$10,000.

2. Replacement of Water Heaters for Cabin Bathrooms - \$1,450 per water heater.

3. Repair of the Water Tank – no cost estimate yet.

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

5. Replacement of the Chapel Lighting - \$2,320.

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

7. Concrete Tables and Benches - \$600 per set.

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)

Because our Board Meetings do not follow the calendar year, i.e. January to December, our "yearly update" spans the months between the Board Meeting. I began with a very short summary of the two overseas adventures that **Joan and I** took. The first was in November-December 2016 to Beijing, **China**, and northcentral and eastern **Cambodia**. We were able to be with all of our missionaries in these places, if only for overnight in some cases. My flu and subsequent return of my *Trigeminal Neuralgia* (T.N.) symptoms rendered me sequestered for much of the time, but did not slow down Joan at all, as she drove around northeastern Cambodia in a Crowley-provided-vehicle. Then in February-March 2017, we were in **Uruguay** for the Workers' Conference and Family Camp, at which **Jeff Davis** was the guest speaker – and accompanied by **Joanna** and **Hannah**. On the first day of the Workers' Conference my T.N. again returned, this time at the end of the first Junta (Board) meeting. These T.N. episodes take a lot out of me, and make me very "gun-shy" about any kind of meeting or distance traveling, which tend to be stressful. But again, Joan took up the slack and had two busy weeks. It was a blessing to have Joanna and Hannah in Uruguay for the first time to be able to meet most of the people who are missionaries with EMU in that country.

While I am still the **director of EMU**, I made some future non-travel plans that I announced to the US Board: I will not be flying to Uruguay with my brother, Rick, and his team at the end of October this year, though Jeff will be among the passengers. This will be Jeff's first time working at **Camp Emmanuel** with Rick. Considering my track record on foreign soil lately, the Team is better off without me. Also, Joan and I will not be going to Uruguay in February 2018 for the **Workers' Conference and Family Camp**. This will be the first time Jeff will be in Uruguay as the director of EMU. He was with me on my last two February visits to Uruguay, so he knows the ropes. And I believe it is best that I not be there. Hopefully, Joanna and Hannah will be able to be at the camps with Jeff. Also, we have confirmed that **Paul and Theresa Bixby** will be the speakers at these two camps in February. They both speak fluent Spanish (even if it is not the Uruguayan dialect). With Paul and Theresa as the camp speakers, Jeff will be free to fully engage in the Junta meetings, missionary interviews, and fellowship with the Uruguayans. Joan and I will certainly miss being with our Uruguayan friends.

Between Cambodia and Uruguay, our missionaries added four baby missionaries in the past twelve months:

Elisha Farmer – October 2016

Hans David Hancock – May 2017

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Gabriel Windmoller – February 2017

Megan Espinel – June 2017

Joan and I have only met Elisha Farmer so far. We like to think of this as acquiring four more grandkids!

The Plan in Uruguay is continuing forward. In the past year, all of our churches in Uruguay became incorporated, if they weren't already. And all of the pastors, once employees of EMU (MEU), are now employed by their churches. MEU continues to assist with their salaries on a 6-month decreasing schedule. This puts a lot of pressure on the churches to increase their offerings substantially every year, even if there is not an increase in church attendance. Please pray that all of these churches will grow in number and in giving as they are faithful in desiring to fully support their pastors. For space-sake, I do not want to go into the nitty-gritty of **The Plan**, but you should know that **The Plan** is a test of faith for the pastors, as some will see a decrease in their monthly income as prescribed by their churches. (It's complicated!)

Another goal that I had from many years ago was that all of our **pastors** would own their own **house** by the time they retire. As of this year, they all have their own houses! What a blessing for each family – and for the churches. There is one non-pastor with MEU who does not own a house, but will need one in about five years.

FEBU is into its 6th semester of classes now. The leadership of the college is still trying to find suitable housing for out-of-town (and country) students and for classrooms – all at one campus. Currently, all of the options are extremely expensive – like \$1,000,000 expensive. We know that God has a perfect plan for this Bible college – the first ever in Uruguay. In the week before classes began for this semester, a week-long block class was held at a Christian camp in Paysandú in northeastern Uruguay. The classes are open for anyone to attend, but they are designed especially for the **FEBU** students. The teacher for the week of July 23 was **Dr. Ken Casillas**, the pastor of Cleveland Park Bible Church in Spartanburg, SC. He teaches Bible at Bob Jones University and grew up speaking Spanish in Puerto Rico. He has been to Uruguay before.

Over this past year a landmark event took place in **Ban Lung, Cambodia**: the first **Pastors' Institute** had its grand opening with over 70 pastors, future pastors, Bible translators, and women Bible teachers. Only individuals who had completed all of the courses in the foundational Bible school were eligible to attend. The classes are all taught in Khmer. Meanwhile, the **Bible schools** are continuing and are all being taught by Christian tribal leaders

in their own languages: Khmer, Krung, Tampuan, Brao, and Jarai – and maybe one or two I've overlooked. One of the products of the Bible school and Pastors' Institute is more commentaries and theology books written exclusively for the cultures of southeast Asia. **JD Crowley, Jeremy Farmer, Brian Kane, and Josh Jensen** are all working on translation and writing projects.

While writing this column, we received an email from **Matt Hancock** with a special prayer request. He will be driving to the city of Pursat where Forrest McPhail established a church some time ago. A problem developed in the church and Forrest, who cannot travel as he used to, asked Matt to visit the church and render spiritual advice and guidance. Pray that Matt will have wisdom as he deals with the delicate situation among believers. This could very well be a situation that will require more than one visit.

Two other seminal events took place in Sarcelles, France, and Lima, Perú, during the past year. In both cities, new churches were incorporated. These were both mentioned in past newsletters, so I won't say more than that one is in France, where **Tim & Ruth Bixby** and **Michael & Liz Cole** minister, and the other in Perú, where **Tim & Cheryl Chapman** minister. **The Tim Chapmans** have been in Michigan for a wedding and a very short visit, and returned to Lima the end of July. Also, **the Tim Bixbys** are now on furlough for two months and return to France on August 29. They will be in the Greenville, SC, area beginning August 11, and we plan to be with them in the following week. Also, leaving the US at the end of August (the 28th) is **the Crowley family**. They have been in town mainly for the wedding of their son Taylor to Emmie Vroman. (This makes three nurses in the Crowley family so far!) **JD** preached at **Hampton Park Baptist Church** on Sunday night, July 23, and **Ted Allston** preached in the morning service. (Ted will travel to Morocco and then Tunisia in August.) In attendance at the evening service, besides the **Crowleys**, were **the Nuñezes, the Davises, and the Sherfs**, and of course, **Joan. The Ridges**, in town for our Board Meeting, were also there.

My report to the Board finished with an update on **Billy Judson's** work in Hyderabad, India. In August, the first **360+ Conference for Women** will be held. They are expecting upwards of 300 ladies from across India. Then in November, the second **360 Conference for Men** will be held, with an expectation of 600 delegates. Pray for these conferences as they play a vital part in fellowship among conservative Christians in India, as well as providing biblical teaching.

After the Board Meeting, we drove to our house for a **luncheon** with the Board members and their wives. **The Crowleys, the Davises, the Nuñezes, and the Wingroves** also attended, and each husband gave a brief update of their ministry. And I must say that Joan did a stellar job of organizing everything to make for an enjoyable time of food and fellowship.

A couple of other activities have been going on that did not make it into the Board meeting news. From July 14 to the 21, **the Crnkovic family** was helping with a summer camp on an island in the Adriatic Sea, just off the coast of Croatia. **Kornel** was one of the teachers and **Tanja** was the chief-cook-and-bottle-washer. I don't have a report on that camp yet.

There was a **winter retreat** for young people at **Camp Emmanuel** in Uruguay, July 6-8. In spite of the heavy rains – and the leaky dining room roof – the teens seemed to have a great time.



Camp Emmanuel winter retreat in Uruguay

Steve, Charity, and the boys were involved with three camps in July. The first was a 2-day camp at the church they attend in Beijing. The next two were in Suzhou, China, at a local church. Suzhou is a 5-hour bullet train ride south of Beijing, where the temperature was well over 100 degrees for days. In these last two camps, there were teachers and helpers from several churches in the US. These are called English language camps, but the Bible is the basis for the teaching.



Charity, Caleb, Luke, Steve, & Jacob at the church in Suzhou for the two camps

For their **July 4** celebration, **the Kanes** and **the Jensens** drove to **the Farmers'** house in Stung Treng. It can be difficult to celebrate an American holiday in a foreign

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The 3 beautiful young ladies below (Bonnie Ruth Farmer, Amy Jensen, & Lydia Kane) are mothers to the 19 wonderful children above.



country, but these three families made the best of it with hamburgers, hotdogs, a red-white-and-blue cake, and decorations.

On Monday, August 21, when it becomes eerily dim or even dark during the afternoon, don't look up at the sun to see if it is cloudy! A **total eclipse** will be taking place across a swath of the US, reaching Greenville, SC, at 2:39 PM.

In thinking of the eclipse, **James 1:17** came to mind:

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and

cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." (KJV) What a rich verse! Just a few points: (1) Good does not happen to us by chance; it is always a gift from God. (2) In the Greek text, there is an article before "lights," indicating that God is the Father of THE lights, e.g. the sun, moon, and stars. He is the Creator and Sustainer of the greatest bodies in the Universe. He can certainly sustain our puny lives. (3) The Greek word for "variableness" is an

astronomical word from which we get the word "parallax," having to do with seeing changes in the heavens when viewing the sky from different places on earth. God is the same the world over. All Christians have the same God, and the same Word of God applies equally to us all. (4) The last phrase uses two Greek words found only here in the scriptures (as is "variableness"). Again, it gives an astronomical picture of the sun which spreads continually changing shadows on the earth from dawn to dusk, and from the winter to summer solstice. God does not change with times or seasons, but is always the same. The God of the OT is the same as in the NT and the Church Age. He is the same toward us in all periods of our lives. His gifts are always good and perfect. As you view, or rather experience, the eclipse this month, let it be a stark reminder of Who God is. As we reviewed the history of EMU for the last 12 months, we can attest that every good and perfect gift is from our unchanging Father of the lights. May we all walk in His light. †

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