

EMU⁺

INTERNATIONAL

Evangelical Mission to the Unreached

Evangelical Mission to Uruguay

PROCLAIMING THE TRIUMPHS OF THE GOSPEL

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*Ken & Joan Jensen
Assistant Director*

ALONG THE WAY . . .

Aaaaah! The “bers” are finally here, and the “burrs” can’t be far behind. I begin looking forward to this time of year about 2 days after December fades away. (The “uary” months are bleak enough to make you long for almost any other time of year!) Though September can still feel like summer, cooler, lower-dewpoint days often prevail, and the smell of fresh-

cut, seeding grass still smells like soccer to me. October begins our fabulous display of color on flora; November harvests the summer leaves in time for Thanksgiving; and December is Christmas all month. The “bers” are worth the wait! They also begin the busiest third of the year for most of us, and especially those who still have school-age children in the home or at college, though I know many grandparents whose schedules are impacted by the school-schedules of the verdant generation. And even for our EMU missionaries south of the equator, the variables – excepting the temperatures – remain the same. For each of us, the “bers” will be a time of blessing and “hecticity.”

There are few things that shake-up life more than new life, or more specifically, newly birthed life. **Josh and Amy Jensen** welcomed their fifth child (second son) into the family on Monday, August 13, at a hospital in Bangkok, Thailand. **Ezra Emmett** (after Joan’s dad) weighed in at 7 lb 12 oz and length of just over 20 inches.



*(l-r) Becca, Clara, Amy, Ezra, Anna,
Joshua, & Isaiah Jensen in Bangkok*



*Ezra holding his
brand new passport!*

The Josh Jensen family left Cambodia the day before the national elections, on July 29, to ensure their ease of crossing into Thailand. The trip from their home in Oyadao, Cambodia, to Bangkok was spread over several days for both ease of travel for Amy and to accomplish several goals along the way. The journey went smoothly, even the dreaded border crossing with four children and luggage.

Brooke Illsley was scheduled to fly into Bangkok from Siem Reap, Cambodia, to help with the children when Ezra was born, but didn’t

As of this mailing, over half of the financial needs for the “Rick’s Work Team” projects have been met. If we include the expenses for American and Uruguayan teams while at camp, and the rest of the costs for material, the remaining need stands at around \$14,000. If you can help, it would be greatly appreciated.

1. Three Fire Hose Stations: \$25,755
2. Six New Cabin Doors: \$4,200
3. Repair of Bathroom Dividers: \$542
4. Stainless Steel Kitchen Cabinets: \$6,100
5. Repair of Large Crack in Chapel Wall: \$3,039
6. Tree Removal
7. Repair the Leak Problem of the Porch Roof Over the Outside Kitchen Grill



arrive until the day after Ezra’s birth. Josh and Amy had made friends with a family at the Guest House where they were staying who cared for **Becca, Isaiah, Anna, and Clara** while Josh and Amy were at the hospital. Amy’s recovery went well, as did the process of getting the needed documents, including a new passport for Ezra, needed before the family could return to Cambodia on Tuesday, September 4. Rather than taking a taxi partway, the Jensens flew from Bangkok to Siem Reap, where they picked up their vehicle and then drove to Ban Lung and Oyadao. Brooke stayed with the children for 4 ½ days before flying back to Cambodia. We are all grateful for how well things progressed on this “adventure.”

Before leaving for Thailand in July, **Amy** was able to meet with the Jarai ladies who teach Sunday school. She has been teaching these ladies each week to help them with the lessons for the upcoming Sunday classes. At her last meeting, she needed to go over the material for the several weeks that she would be in Bangkok. Also, **Josh** was meeting with the men and women who would be working on the Jarai Bible translation project that is to begin in October. This group of tribal people have agreed to help with the difficult work of making an accurate translation. In October, Josh will be working out of the **Saom Kaning church**, where the Jensens worship with the Jarai. Another missionary lady, who lives in Ban Lung, about 45 minutes away, will assist another group of helpers working on this same translation project. Pray for God’s blessing on this huge project of Bible translation into the Cambodian Jarai language. Satan certainly doesn’t want another good translation of God’s Word for another people group!

Shelia Potts, the widowed mother of **Lydia Kane** in Ban Lung, Cambodia, will be visiting the Kane family early in October. She will also help her daughter in the Philippines after the birth of her first child before returning home to South Carolina. Pray that Shelia will be a tremendous blessing to the families of her children during this extended trip.

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Kim Crowley will be Stateside beginning September 28 for a month as she visits her children and grandchildren in Chicago, IL, and Greenville, SC. **JD and Nate** will remain home in Ban Lung.

The **Sesan River** enters Cambodia from Vietnam making an arching traverse of the Province of Ratanakiri from east to west, before flowing across the Province of Stung Treng and lending its immense hydro-power to the Mekong River. (When Joan and I visited the Farmers in the provincial capital of Stung Treng almost two years ago, our hotel window overlooked this enormous river a short distance from where it flowed into the Mekong.) If the Sesan River flowed straight from where it completely enters Ratanakiri to its exit into the westward province, it would course through the city of Ban Lung and miss Oyadao by a short distance. As it is, the highlands of central Ratanakiri divert the Sesan in a circuitous route to the north of Ban Lung. The rivers in Cambodia flood every year during the monsoon season, which is now. By August 10 the floodwaters of the Sesan River had cut off road travel for many villagers living along this waterway. Some Christian friends in that area organized a food relief effort to these folks and let **JD Crowley** know about the needs. JD posted a Facebook announcement of the need stating that \$12 could provide "33 pounds of rice, 10 cans of canned fish, and 20 packs of ramen for one family." From that post, within a few short days, over \$3,600 was donated online to EMU and transferred to JD. The first delivery was made on August 17 to 150 families. The balance of funds will be used to reach other families along the Sesan who were not able to gather for the initial parceling of grocery items. Pray that Christian missionaries and tribal church leaders will have many added opportunities to witness to those who received food as a result of this endeavor.



Sesan River food distribution

As mentioned above, the **Farmers** live in the city of Stung Treng. Their house is about a half block from the Sesan River. We have received no reports that the river overflowed its banks in their area. Homeschool started July 31 for six of the eight Farmer children. Interestingly, our EMU missionaries in every country except Cambodia and China send at least some of their children to public

or private schools, except the Espinels in Uruguay. All our missionaries in Asia homeschool all of their children. Brooke is helping with the teaching of the Farmer children again. Jeremy continues teaching an introduction to the Bible to three groups of people. He is also more encouraged with his Khmer and Laotian language study, though he is still looking for a long-term Laotian teacher.

The **Hancock** family continues their furlough in the US. They still plan to return to Cambodia in January 2019. When not visiting and helping in churches, the Hancocks have spent time with **Matt and Becky's families** across the US. Continue to pray for their safe travels.

Steve and Charity's summer ministries in Beijing were not as extensive as in years past, mainly because of the government's recent crack-down on religious groups – even the Three-Self Churches and Muslims. New restrictions have been implemented and older laws that were enforced with laxity are now being activated. The enforcement is stricter outside of Beijing, but even in the capital, the government's grip is being felt. One law, which forbids children from attending church, is being re-enforced. And since Steve's and Charity's church ministries deal with children and young people, they are feeling the impact.

In August, the health of **Steve's mother** took a dramatic turn for the worst – diagnosed as congestive heart failure. After entering the hospital, it was determined that she could not live at home any longer, and the doctor said she would probably die within weeks or a few months. Steve had frequent flyer travel miles and used them for almost free tickets to and from Greenville, SC, where his parents live. His main purpose was to encourage his father during this time. Steve was in town for just under a week-and-a-half. During that time, his mother was placed in a nursing home. He was able to drop by our house a couple of times, where we were able to have good talks. His mom has rallied to some extent since her move to the nursing home, but she will need to continue there, probably for the remainder of her life. Steve began his flight back to Beijing on September 4. He had to jump right into school as soon as he got back. Some of Steve's university students have sat under his teaching before, and he and **Charity** are hoping to further build their relationships with these young people. Charity and the three boys were fine in Beijing, even getting some football in with another missionary family that has three sons the same ages as our Chinese grandsons. **Caleb, Luke, and Jacob** started homeschool in August and start their Chinese lessons in September.

Ted Allston returned from his teaching trip to Uganda on August 27, but as of Labor Day, we had not gotten together with him and Marla to talk about his most recent adventure – and adventure it was! (Since

the Allstons have been with EMU, it has been our tradition to have a meal together after his trips to hear a report.) While **Ted and Marla** were at the office on Labor Day to pick up a reimbursement check, it was decided to have the meal together that evening. Ted said that he will be writing a report to his supporters and for the EMU office soon, and I hope to publish it in the next EMU Newsletter.

For now, I want to give the Allstons' travel schedule for the next couple of months: **Ted and Marla** left Greenville, SC, on September 4 for their flights to Oslo, Norway, where they will be helping a new church plant until the 24th. After a week at home, Ted leaves (October 3) for the Mongolian capital to resume teaching the men and women he has been teaching for many years. On October 21, Ted flies to Beijing for a short stopover before heading to India to be with **Billy Judson** October 24-November 10. The layover in Beijing saves money from returning home between Mongolia and India. He will spend his China time with Steve, Charity, and the boys. We (the leadership of EMU) prefer that Ted not be overseas for such an extended time, and that he have a week or two between trips to rest. But Ted has been given a special dispensation to cram many miles and sessions into this short span of time. Pray that his ministry will be greatly blessed and that his health will hold up. Also, Marla is looking forward to ministering with the young ladies at the new church in Oslo.



The Crnkovics had a hectic summer of ministry in Croatia. The Baptist camp week was held earlier in the summer and was successful. **Kornel and Tanja's 25th**

wedding anniversary was August 7, but their church and other friends surprised them with a celebration party on August 4. One of the gifts Kornel and Tanja received was a night away on the Island of Krk (yes, that is spelled correctly!). Leaving after the morning service on Sunday, they drove to the coast, and then the furthest point on the island, for their getaway. They returned to Koprivnica the next day. Before that short vacation, the Crnkovics were getting ready for a tract distribution outreach to the northwestern city of Umag. A team of sixteen from a church in Northern Ireland arrived to help the twenty-four Croatians – mainly teens – with this ministry from August 8-15. The Northern Ireland team returned to Koprivnica with the Croatian church group and remained in that north-central city for another six days helping with various ministries. On one afternoon, the

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group went to a city park and played sports – mainly soccer, I assume. Afterwards, the youth group sang several songs followed by several of the Irish visitors giving their testimonies. Although these Irish teams are very much appreciated, they require a great deal of planning, time, food, and accommodations.

Tanja, who teaches music at a public school, began her teacher-in-service on August 21. Classes for the kids started September 3.

Andrea, the oldest daughter, was accepted into a music college beginning October 1. This will be her first semester at Music Academy of Osijek in eastern Croatia. She will be living on campus, so this will be her first lengthy time out of the Crnkovic home. Pray that she will be able to room with a Christian girl there that she knows.

Because of the large number of visitors the Crnkovics have in their home, they began a building project of adding several rooms and a bathroom in what was their attic. When finished this will also free up a room on the ground level for Kornel to finally have an office. A builder friend was hired for the construction. This is a side-job for him, so the house has been under renovation for a rather long time, but hopefully it will be finished by October. The added space will be a real blessing to the family and visitors.

Marco and Gwendolyn Nuñez took a short summer furlough beginning August 4. Their group of churches to visit were all in Colorado. Their services were very good and a blessing to the couple. The Nuñezes did take five days between two Sundays to fly to Greenville, SC, to visit their son and grandchildren. Something that Marco and I have talked about doing for *many* years is a reunion at our house of the 1973 championship soccer team that he and I played on at Bob Jones University. For the first time, Joan got involved and actually made this happen on the evening of Tuesday, August 21. What a wonderful and encouraging time this was. Two EMU missionaries were very blessed by this special event, and we thank the Lord for it.

In the last EMU Newsletter, I mentioned that the **Baptist Church of Pessac, France**, needs to find another building to rent for their services; and I gave the reason why. A new facility has not yet been found. The **Coles** have sent out another prayer request having to do with real estate in Pessac (Bordeaux area): the Coles have decided that the best use of their funds would be to purchase a house rather than renting; and they need a more efficient structure in order to lower their utilities, which are high. If they find a suitable house, they will need to begin the process of securing a home loan, which, as the Bixbys learned, can be time consuming.

For ten weeks earlier this summer, the **Mike Smith family** from the US were in



The Bixby & Smith families on the new deck

the Saint Denis area helping with a host of building projects for missionaries and the **Saint Denis Baptist Church**. It was hoped that the Sarcelles church building would be available for renovation by the time the Smiths arrived in France, but that just didn't happen. But there was still plenty of work to do. The Smiths were a great blessing to many Christians through their ministry, like the backyard deck for the **Bixbys**, which is sufficient for fellowships.

Since this is also the October EMU Newsletter, I want to mention Rick's Work Team to Camp Emmanuel in Uruguay, and Joan's and my Chile/Uruguay trips in October. **Joan and I** leave on October 16 to be with **Tom and Connie Chapman** in Antofagasta, Chile. Though I have been with the Chapmans a few times on their field in Chile, this will be Joan's first visit – one she has been looking forward to for a very long time. We will be with Tom and Connie for almost a week before flying to Uruguay to join **Rick's Work Team** - that will have arrived the day before on Sunday, October 21. It has been such a long time since I was in Antofagasta, so most of what we see of the Chapmans' home and church will be new to me as well as Joan. Because Joan and I are using our American Airline flight miles for this excursion, it is much easier to book non-round-trip tickets to Chile, then Uruguay, and directly back to the US. I would ask you to pray that my health would be good for our 2 ½ weeks in South America. During my last two trips to be with EMU missionaries, I had relapses with my T.N. and a cold on one of the journeys. When this happens, I am worse than a dead-weight to those around me. (Dead-weights don't moan and complain!)

Again, the financial needs for the work projects at **Camp Emmanuel in Uruguay** are listed in the newsletter. **Rick** and his wife, **Kathy**, and others have already invested financially in this work camp. Rick has lined up five other people to accompany him to Uruguay this time: **Britt Hopper**, who has been on two previous work teams to the camp; **Joshua Rock** and **Paul Johnson, Jr.**, who are on staff at The Wilds; and **Justin and Kathleen Schilling**. Justin will be our "tree man" for taking down several trees that are technically difficult to remove – if Justin thinks it is possible with the tools available! We very much appreciate these folks taking their vacation

time to serve EMU in this way. Four things are essential to get the projects done at the camp: funding for materials, the right tools, good weather, and good health. Pray that all of these will be abundant. **Pedro Donzè**, the camp's director, is putting together a team of Uruguayan men and women to work with Rick's Team – though I think both nationalities consider themselves as being on Rick's Work Team! Rick and his group leave Uruguay on the evening of October 30, arriving home the next morning. Because of a misunderstanding about travel dates, Joan and I won't fly out of Uruguay until November 1. We are hoping to take the extra time to visit with several Uruguayan missionaries who will not be at the camp. We love and miss our Uruguay "family."

FEBU and the **EMU Bible Institute** began their second semesters in August. Just prior to that, **Dr. Mark Minnick** taught a block course on the book of Romans in Montevideo, sponsored by FEBU. Several of the attendees have already let us know what a blessing the lessons were. Mark is the pastor of Mount Calvary Baptist Church, the sending church of **John Mark and Deborah Steel**.



John Mark translating for Mark at the FEBU sponsored seminar

The **Espinels** arrived back home in Montevideo, Uruguay, on August 15. Though classes at FEBU had already started, **Matias** was able jump into teaching his assigned courses for this semester. **Kristine** was the main speaker for the September 8 annual spring ladies' meeting at Calvary Temple of Montevideo.

In the last newsletter, I believe I mentioned that **Gabriel Gomez** and his first-born son, **Marcos**, who pastor and work part-time at Camp Emmanuel, respectively, have been suffering from injuries that have interfered with their ministries. The Gómezes' latest prayer letter gave an update on their conditions. Gabriel's doctor gave him a shot in the shoulder (probably cortisone) and prescribed pain medication and some exercises. Gaby is feeling much better, but he will probably need some further treatment in the future. Marcos, who injured his knee several months ago, was given a surgery date of November 7. He is thrilled to be having the operation early enough before the Uruguay summer in December so that he will be able to help at the summer camps. The surgeon says that Marcos

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should be ambulatory 15 days after the procedure. During the semester break in July, the Gómezes took their yearly family vacation. Because it is winter in South America, hotels and travel are cheaper than in the summer months. They were able to go to Santiago, Chile, for several days. And Marcos and Lucas were able to romp in the Andean snow – their first encounter with the frozen flakes. Gaby is back pastoring Gethsemani Church in Montevideo and directing the Bible Institute, and Marcos is back in college and helping at the camp, as much as his leg will allow.

Pedro Donzé, the camp director and MEU office administrator, received, quite literally, devastating news in August. For many years Vanessa has been his assistant in the office in Montevideo. All of the MEU missionaries have known her as a godly, faithful worker and vibrant member of one of our churches. One day last month she told Pedro she was quitting her job immediately and that she had lost her faith in God! And Satan has ensnared her into a particularly heinous sin. **Pastor Gustavo de Oliveira** and other mature Christians have been trying to counsel with her and the other individual involved. From **John Mark and Deborah Steel**, we understand that though there has



Pedro Donzé at the sound-board in the chapel at camp

been no change in behavior, the perpetrators have not cut off all contact with their Christian friends. Please pray that these two will repent and turn to God soon. They both know what the Bible says about the consequences of their actions.

Also, pray for Pedro Donzé. He was already “working himself to death” before he lost his assistant. He is in desperate need of another helper in the office, and even if one was hired today, it would take months to train him/her. Pray that Pedro will have wisdom to know how to use his time most wisely and how best to prioritize his workload.

Finally, many of you know our eldest daughter, **Caroline Floyd**, so I would like to give a brief update on her experience with cancer.

Just over a year ago, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. It has been a year filled with surgical procedures, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and infusions of various concoctions. Her two main goals during that time were to glorify God no matter the circumstances and maintain as normal a family life as possible. In one of the Newsletters, I recommended to you her blogpost updates entitled “*An Unexpected Journey*.” If you read those posts, you know the first goal was achieved. Although there were/are countless doctor appointments and “recovery” days, she continued to homeschool **Bella** and, to some extent, **Carson**, who was only 3-years-old. What many of you did not know is that her husband, **David**, had just enrolled in a doctoral program for nurse anesthesiology shortly before her diagnosis. Caroline convinced him to continue his course classes, even as he worked full-time as a CRNA at a hospital



David, Bella, Carson, & Caroline Floyd

over an hour’s drive away. During the week of August 19, the Floyd family flew to Phoenix, AZ, for David’s graduation. The week before, Caroline had a CAT scan. Her doctor called her in Arizona the day before the commencement ceremony at Midwestern University at Glendale to tell her that the scan showed her to be cancer free! We praise the Lord for this report. And we are so proud of David’s diligence and perseverance to earn his doctorate – he now has enough degrees to be considered an official thermometer! Caroline still has more surgery and will continue with preventive hormone therapy. Please continue to pray for her and the Floyd family.

Believe it or not, this article was started over three weeks ago. I know – the contents and form are not that impressive either! There are delay reasons for which I am shamefully culpable. However, almost a week and a half ago, I suffered a relapse of my T.N. condition, similar to the last time I was in Uruguay. Though not “full-blown” on the pain scale, these situations stop me dead-in-the-water until I can get the pain under control. I’m still not quite out of the woods. So, I apologize for the lateness of this report, but I trust it is a blessing, nonetheless. As the date on the masthead indicates, this newsletter is for September and October. The next paper - hopefully - will be composed at Camp Emmanuel in Uruguay. (Though most likely, from the Taylors office after Joan and I return home!)

Thank you for your interest in the ministries of EMU International, and may the Lord grant you blessed “bers.” †

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