

# EMU<sup>+</sup>

## 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  
in Antofagasta, Chile*

### ALONG THE WAY . . .

It's times like this when I wish I had the space forfeited by the two newsletters earlier this year when I did combination-month editions. It sometimes feels like "feast or famine" where newsletter material is concerned. I already have the December EMU Newsletter full!

In August, **Steve Erkens** came to Greenville, SC, from Beijing upon hearing that his mother had congestive heart failure and was not expected to live. She rallied after being placed in a nursing home. Then on October 6, she took a turn for the worse and passed away that day. Steve was able to leave his university teaching duties and returned to Greenville again. The funeral was the following Sunday, with Steve heading home to Beijing on Monday the 15th. During the two weeks that Steve was with his father, Steve was able to help him go through things that were his mom's and help with some major projects at his dad's house. Joan and I didn't see Steve much, but that was understandable, and we rejoice that he was able to be with his family during those days.

Early in October the **Farmers** were privileged to host their dear friends, the **Boomershine** family, and show them some of the sights of up-country Cambodia, as well as their ministries. Later in October, **Bonnie Ruth's** grandmother passed away, and she was able to return to Greenville, SC, for the funeral. **Mrs. Bixby** was the

*(continued on page 2)*

## ALONG THE LONG, LONG WAY

*by Ken Jensen*

Realizing that my first desire of writing a detailed account of the travels Joan and I took to Chile and Uruguay is impossible, I opted for a photo travel history, which I found to also be impossible. So, I'm opting for bullet points – sort of – to cover our two-week visit to South America in October. Since I am writing this account, it is obvious that I survived, though just barely. Thank you for your prayers. Joan had a wonderful time at all locations available; I had a wonderful time at all locations where I was awake!

In 1987 **Tom and Connie Chapman** became the first missionaries that EMU accepted as American missionaries outside of Uruguay. Until this trip, Joan had not been to see the Chapmans' ministry in Antofagasta, Chile, and though I had made three previous visits to Chile, it had been over 18 years since I was last in Antofagasta.

Much has changed since my last visit:

(1) the Chapmans are in the "new" house they had started renovating 18 years ago. "Architect" Connie has done a superb job of designing and decorating their beautiful, comfortable, and ministry-wise functional house. They live next to "the Rock," along the coastal highway through Antofagasta, which is a landmark second only to La Portada (the Gateway), which is a sandstone arch. I believe "the Rock" is holding up the western side of Chile with its granite substructure!

(2) The Chapmans no longer have children or long-term live-ins in their house. Even



*Connie, Tom, Joan, & Ken overlooking La Portada (The Gateway) on a cold, blustery day after their children moved away, Tom and Connie allowed a young lady from Santiago to live with them as she ministered in their church. They don't even have a dog anymore!*

(3) The church has a new location about 2 ½ blocks from the Chapmans' house. The congregation decided to sell their old building and purchase a new piece of property – which is larger and will allow for expansion. The architectural drawings for the new structure are beautiful. While the church is still saving for the startup construction, they are meeting in a very nice, translucent tent between a building on the property and a boundary wall. The tent has an artificial turf floor, good lighting, ceiling fans, and electrical outlets. It is very functional. Sunday school rooms and a kitchen are in a house next to the tent. And there is a little parking on the property.



*The "Tent" Church in Antofagasta, Chile*

(4) The church now has a national pastor and national leadership. Pastor Daniel Salvatierra was trained through the Chapmans' efforts over many years, and the fruit is now clearly seen. There is a wonderful group of men, women, youth, and children in this active church. It was such a joy to fellowship with them during our time in Antofagasta.

*(continued on page 3)*



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

*The Farmer & Boomershine families by the Sesan River in Stung Treng, Cambodia*

grandmother of a couple of our EMU missionaries, Tim Bixby being the other. Also, our family and some of the Bixby families have been intertwined since the 1970s. Mrs. Bixby was a godly lady and left a wonderful heritage. Many of her children and grandchildren are in church and mission work with other organizations, too.

The **Hancocks**, on furlough in the US, had two new announcements in October. A young lady, **Rebekah Bradford** from Tri-City Bible Church in Ohio, has agreed to return to Cambodia with the Hancocks in January for four months to help as Matt and Becky look for housing in the city of "O-Ring-O," Amber Cem Province, where they plan to begin a new ministry. The 2nd announcement indicates how much Rebekah will be needed as **Becky Hancock** is expecting their 5th child in May. We hope to have the Hancocks at our house between now and Thanksgiving and glean even more information.

In October, **Lydia Kane** was admitted to a hospital in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, because of chest and back/neck pain. Preliminary tests showed that she has problems with several spinal disks and esophageal inflammation. Lydia and Brian were encouraged to see specialists in Malaysia as soon as possible. In God's providence, Lydia's mother was already planning to visit the Kanes in Ban Lung, Cambodia, in October. **Sheila Potts** also received some help with the seven Kane children from another missionary family. We do not have final word on Lydia's prognosis. Please pray for this family. When home in Ban Lung, **Brian and Nigh** continue checking the Krung translation of Romans, while they also teach the book. There are several concepts that do not exist in the Krung tongue, such as mercy, foreknowledge, and predestination, to name a few. Pray for wisdom for Brian and Nigh as they put the finishing touches on this translation.

**Josh Jensen** and the Jarai men and women in Oyadao, along with another Jarai translation team in Ban Lung, finished the book of Ruth, the 1st book of the Bible translated into the Cambodian Jarai language. They are now working on the book of Jonah and then will start the Gospel

of Matthew. I will have an article about this in the December newsletter.

**Kim Crowley** was in Greenville, SC, for the month of October, on what JD terms her "grandma time" visit. While here, it was discovered that her mother, Jean Martin, needed to have cancer surgery at the end of the month. JD gave Kim leave to extend her stay in Greenville for another two weeks. The operation was successful, and Mrs. Martin seems to be recovering well.



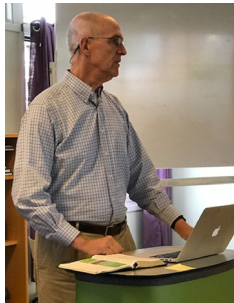
*Kim with her daughter Anna's children*

During October, **JD and Nathaniel Crowley** traveled to Myanmar where JD taught some church leaders. He has done this for several years for the same group. **The Pastors' School** in Cambodia will take place in Ban Lung November 19-24. Pray for safe travel for the pastors as they travel to Ban Lung, for good health and weather, and that the Word of God will lodge in the hearts of these men and women.



*JD teaching at the Church Planting Seminar in Myanmar*

**Ted Allston** was in the capital of Mongolia teaching leaders in a church from October 3-21. **Tim**



*Ted Allston teaching in Asia*

flew to Hyderabad, India, to teach in some Good News Bible Colleges with **Billy Judson**. Ted returns to Greenville on November 13.



*It was discovered that Ted & Jacob have the same birthdate, so they celebrated together*

After returning home and going back to work as a supervisor on a construction site, **Tim Chevalier** fell between two deck joists, cracking a rib and damaging his left leg. He was in a lot of pain but continued to go to work! Tim is an amazing guy in many ways, and his fortitude is one of those ways.

**Tim and Ruth Bixby** wrote to let us know that the insurance company *finally* gave its approval for repairs to begin on the new church building in Sarcelles, France. The construction workers say that they should be done sometime in December. The history of this building acquisition cautions us not to hold our breath! But this would be a fitting Christmas present for the congregation.

**Jeff Davis** will be visiting our EMU missionaries in Asia beginning the end of November. He leaves Greenville, SC, on the 28th and will first be with the Erkens until December 4. On the 4th he flies to Siem Reap, Cambodia. He will visit with the Farmers, Crowleys, Kanes, and Jensens in their various cities. Pray for Jeff's safety and health as he learns more about the Asian ministries of EMU.



*On October 4, Gwendolyn Nuñez became a Mexican citizen. She now has dual citizenship. Much more convenient for the Nuñezes!*

As for me, church is about as far away as I want to travel for a while. Joan, on the other hand, is more than ready to visit grandkids wherever they are! But we do plan to be home for Thanksgiving and Christmas. I'm pretty sure I can already smell the turkey cooking! We very much appreciate you taking time from your busy schedule to read this little mission "rag" and pray for the ministries of EMU. And we would very much encourage you to take part in the **Christmas Fund Offering** this year. Thank you, and may the Lord grant you a blessed holiday season! †





## Along the Long, Long Way

(continued from page 1)

(5) Tom and Connie are working toward beginning a ministry in a new target area several miles north of the church, in what is referred to as "the north area." The Chapmans drove Joan and me around this large district with hundreds of new houses and apartment buildings. A family in the church has volunteered to help the Chapmans with this new outreach. It was a joy to get to know Richard, Valeria, and their 3 young children. Tom and Connie have been meeting regularly with this couple to train them better for this new outreach. The first main blitz in the target area is set for February/March when summer vacations are drawing to an end and schools begin their first semester.



Tom & Connie with Valeria & Richard and their 3 children

What is not changed is Tom and Connie. They are a joy to be with and gracious hosts, and they have a deep love for the people of Antofagasta. Pray that the Lord will greatly bless their plans and the initiation of their outreach to the northern part of the city where there are no evangelical churches.

After five days with the Chapmans, we flew to Montevideo, Uruguay. **Rick's Work Team** arrived a day before we did and had already begun their long list of projects at Camp Emmanuel while Joan and I were in transit from Chile for an entire day. Again, I wish I had room to tell about everyone and



Pedro Donzć & Rick looking over the new pump for the fire hose stations

everything that went on at the camp as the Americans and Uruguayans worked hand-in-hand improving the camp facilities.

When Joan and I arrived in Uruguay, we learned that the father of missionaries **Hector, Gabriel, and Patricia (Donzć) Gomez** was in a coma and not expected

to live. On Thursday, Don Gomez passed away, so the whole family went to Montevideo for the funeral. Sadly, Don Gomez was not a Christian, nor is his wife Donya Gomez. It was a very sorrowful situation for the children and grandchildren who are professing Christians.

To cover the camp projects, I will use photos – as space allows. I would like to show everyone who sacrificed of their time (mostly vacation time) to be a part of this international team.



Left: 1,200 feet of trench was dug by a backhoe for the water lines to 7 new fire hose stations. Below: Walter Castro (lt), a pipe fitter from Rivera, & Nico Gomez installed the connections and station.



Other Uruguayan workers

Right: Hector Gomez & Luis Rios

Below: Marten, from Rivera, and Marcos Gomez, Pedro Donzć's assistant



This is the **only** known picture of the Jensen brothers together at **any** work camp! (I'm the handsome one!)



The "Greatest Show on Earth" was watching Justin Schilling cut down & trim dozens of trees. This is his occupation in North Carolina. Joshua Rock (ctr) & Paul Johnson, from The Wilds, assisted.



Joan J. & Kathy Schilling helped clean up tree limbs & rake foot-paths after the trenches were covered, and they vacuumed & wiped-down over 100 mattresses & bunk beds after Britt's masonry grinder dust storms in the cabins.



Everyone's favorite Gentle Giant, Britt Hopper, who owns a window/door installation company in Kansas, replaced 6 cabin doors & worked wonders with cement.



Uruguayan master carpenter, Bosca, assisted by Juan Gonzalez, was key in building a wooden deck, with seating, for the game pavilion

(continued on page 4)



Page 4

## *It's Beginning to Feel a Lot Like Christmas*

by Ken Jensen

For as far back as I can remember—though that statement doesn't necessarily indicate a long period of time anymore, but at least for several decades—our home church here in Greenville, SC, has had a program whereby members "adopt" an individual missionary, including each dependent "MK," for Christmas. The adoptee would then send a material or financial gift to that missionary family member. A list at our information table in the vestibule keeps track of who chose whom to make sure all the missionaries are adopted. Though the program has morphed through the years, one thing has stayed the same: the program is announced during the summer of each year. The givers and receivers seem to enjoy the blessings of this program.

For as far back as I can remember us doing so—ditto above—EMU has presented the **Christmas Fund Offering** project for our missionaries, beginning initially for our national Uruguayan missionaries, and later including our Americans/others as the mission expanded into different countries. My preference has been to announce this project each year in the October or November Newsletter—mainly dependent upon my diligence or lack thereof.

Unlike our home church's program, which matches one-church-member to one-missionary-individual, EMU's goal (i.e. the office leadership) is to encourage *everyone* who receives the EMU Newsletter to participate—a goal that has yet to be achieved, but a continuing goal nonetheless. We include the special Christmas return envelope with the paper Newsletter to assist in that goal. If you get the EMU Newsletter via electronic mail, your donation can be conveniently made through the options on the EMU website.



The program works like this: (1) if you already support an individual EMU family, your Christmas offering will go to that family. However, if you desire your gift be applied to other EMU missionaries as well, we ask that you designate that

on the Memo line of your gift or in a note sent to the office with the breakdown. (2) If you do not currently support a missionary family on a regular basis, and you don't include a note, your gift will be placed in a special fund to be distributed among our Uruguayan national missionaries. (The Steels and Espinels are in the "American" category, not Uruguayan, though Matias is Uruguayan.) If you designate your Christmas offering to go to a particular Uruguayan national, that full amount will be given to that missionary.

Over the years, we in the office have been excited to read the different ways that the **Christmas Fund Offerings** have been used to bless the missionaries' lives: meeting an unexpected expense; school clothes and books for the children's schooling; a first-time dryer; materials to help build their first house; tax increases or new passports; and, even the unthinkable, vacations or gifts for the family!

Although I would probably have a heart attack if *everyone* reading this paper gave to the **Christmas Fund Offering**, I ask you not to spare my health but seriously consider a gift at this Christmas season. Thank you! †



## *Along the Long, Long Way*

(continued from page 3)



Beatriz (lt) & Valeria Gomez (rt) were cooks for the work team. Valeria's mother was also a cook for the 1½ weeks. Kathy in center.



Justin bought a wood-burning tool to engrave the camp verse, 1 Cor. 10:31, on a stump by the chapel. He worked into the dark on his last evening in Uruguay. (A pencil sketch was first made by Kathy.)

Fortunately, or unfortunately, depending on your perspective, I never put my work boots or work gloves on. Joan, on the other hand, worked diligently each day we were at camp. She and I did visit some of our missionaries who were not at camp during that week. Some of these folks we had not seen in several years, so that was very special.

Thank you for your prayers during our 13,625 flight-miles and ancillary road-miles. I'm glad I made this trip, and it goes without saying that Joan had a wonderful time. †

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