

EMU⁺

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PROCLAIMING THE TRIUMPHS OF THE GOSPEL

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Assistant Director*

ALONG THE WAY . . .

Normally, when I compose a Newsletter, I begin by penning "Along the Way . . ." and then fit other articles into the space remaining. That *modus operandi* allows me to make sure I can cover all the subjects I want to cover in this first column and subsequent linked columns. This month, I had 3 articles before "Along the Way . . ." even had its first sentence. And it is clear to my "professional eye" that there "ain't" room for all my topics and news.

As this is the **Nativity** month, I'll begin with up-coming new MKs. (Missionary kids - I've run across folks lately who were not familiar with MK!)

Saritha Judson, missionary wife in Hyderabad, India, is officially due on December 12, but, according to her husband Billy, her doctor wants to induce labor the beginning of December. She is very much praying for a natural birth rather than a C-section. The baby girl will be named **Keren**.

Billy has been busy wrapping up another school year at the Hyderabad Bible college. The last week of November began several days of a battery of tests covering all that was taught to the students this past semester.

I finally have permission to announce another "infanticipating" EMU mother.

Ruth Bixby, serving in Sarcelles, France, is expecting fourth boy/fifth child in April.

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VENEZUELA REFUGEE PROJECT

by Tim Chapman, church planter in Lima, Peru

Just about one year ago, I was finishing the teaching of a class at our church in Downtown Lima on a Sunday morning, and I noticed a young couple that had slipped into the back of the classroom. As soon as the class was done, I went back to meet them. Their names are Carlos and Meli, and they were there that morning with their one-year-old daughter Grace. As we talked, their story began to come out. They are Venezuelans, and at that point they had been in Peru for about five months. Like many Venezuelans, they had reached the conclusion that if they were going to be able to provide for their family, they would need to leave Venezuela. Carlos and Meli had been in Spain for four years while Meli completed a PhD in chemistry. They returned to Venezuela in 2015 with the intention of staying a short time before going back to Spain to make their life together there. However, Grace was born during their stay back in Venezuela, and by the time they started to make plans to return to Spain, the door was closed to them. As they considered where they should move, they eventually settled on Peru.

The most prominent newspaper here in Lima, *El Comercio*, runs articles almost daily concerning the crisis in Venezuela. This morning's paper (October 23rd) indicates that an estimated 5000 Venezuelans flee their own country every day, and that the total number of displaced Venezuelans has surpassed similar numbers

in both Somalia and Myanmar. More than 1.5 million Venezuelans have fled their country. It's estimated that over 100,000 of them have ended up in Peru, many of them here in Lima.

There are three factors that seem to be the main drivers for the Venezuelan exodus. First of all, there simply isn't enough food available. Secondly, many of them leave the country hoping to end up in a place where they can work and send money back to their families still in Venezuela. Thirdly, many of them don't see any future for themselves or their children in Venezuela, so they leave with the intention of making a new life somewhere else. About a year ago, we started to notice more and more Venezuelans working around the city- as waiters at restaurants, parking attendants, and doing other such jobs. Many of them are on the streets selling Venezuelan foods such as Arepas (a doughy, pocket-like sandwich with beef or chicken inside). They are all looking for a way to make a living here, at least for the time being.

About ten years ago, Carlos and Meli heard the gospel and were saved, and got involved in a Charismatic church in Merida, Venezuela. Eventually, they realized that they weren't getting good teaching at the large church, and God began to move in Carlos' heart to study the Bible and Christian doctrine more seriously. Carlos admits that their four years in Spain

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Iglesia Bautista Gracia (Grace Baptist Church) de Lima, Perú

Commencement of the Cambodian Jarai Bible

by Joshua Jensen, Bible translator in Oyadao, Cambodia

Though Joshua is my son, and I have followed him through his rising thermometer of degrees, it does not follow that I understand the process of Bible translation very well. And I'm assuming most of you don't either. In a recent report letter, Josh laid out the various stages he and his team pass through to achieve the most accurate translation of the Bible for the Jarai tribe in Cambodia. In step 2, he speaks of two missionaries who head-up the translation team. One, of course, is Josh; the other is Mee-Sun (first name), an American-Korean, who, with her husband, was working on the Jarai language before Josh and Amy arrived in Cambodia.

Many months of work went into organizing, planning, and training before the teams began the arduous and lengthy process of translation. The book of Ruth was chosen as the commencement because it is a short, known, and relatively uncomplicated story. The book of Jonah was chosen as the 2nd book for translation for the same reason. Learning to work together smoothly is another motive for these choices. kj



The translation team: Mee-Sun is at the right, and Josh is the tall one in the center



1 - Before translating a book, the team holds a workshop for the translators, covering the background, structure, and theology of the book. On Oct. 1 they held a workshop on Ruth, including not just the translators but also leaders from all the Jarai churches in our province. Many came to learn about Ruth and to join in dedicating this translation project to God. In the photo at left, the participants are listening to one of the translators sing a song that he wrote based on the story of the Proud Pharisee's Prayer. We hope that the book of Ruth will inspire new Jarai songs like this one.

2 - On Oct. 2, the team of six translators—four Jarai men, plus two missionaries—split into two groups, one working in Ban Lung (the provincial capital, about 45 minutes away), and the other (pictured at right) working at Saom Kaning church. The two men working with Josh every day are named Swin (center; pronounced like “win” with an s on the front) and Yat (rhymes with “cat”). Both are married and have kids, and both teach and help lead in their churches.



3 - The first step (after learning about the book) is drafting. In Josh's group, the current practice is to have both translators separately translate a verse from the Khmer Bible, then the group compares the two drafts and writes a new version, with input Josh provides from English and the Hebrew (full disclosure from Josh: I use an interlinearized Hebrew Bible, not the Real Thing!). In their first few days of work like this, they averaged about 8-10 verses a day. They hope to get faster! By the end of the second week, the two teams had completed drafting the entire book of Ruth: Josh's team had been assigned chapters 2-3.

4 - After a chapter is drafted by one group, the other group checks the translation and offers suggestions. There is also an outside reader who offers input. Every Friday, all the translators meet together in Saom Kaning to go over suggested revisions and produce a new draft, as pictured here. At these meetings they discuss how to translate difficult words and verses. (For example, Jarai has one word for grain still in the hull and another for grain that's been removed from the hull, but no general, non-specific term: so which kind was it that Boaz measured out to Ruth? The team thinks it was grain that had already been hulled.) After everything has been Team Checked, one of the groups writes an introduction and adds footnotes, which also need checking. By the end of the third week, the translators had Team Checked all of Ruth and written the additional materials.



5 - Once the draft has been checked by the team, it is read to the Jarai Bible Translation Committee (at left), a group of men and women who represent Jarai churches from different districts. They had their Committee Check for Ruth on Friday, October 27. The next time the full translation team meets, they'll discuss and incorporate input from the Committee. Then they will take the updated draft to a village and read it to someone unfamiliar with the story, to ensure it is clear. After that comes another check with an outside consultant (an experienced Bible translator); this check is scheduled for the end of January, 2019. Then it will be ready for typesetting and eventual inclusion in the full published translation.

In these first four weeks, the team also drafted the book of Jonah, and Josh has worked through the text with the translators to ensure accuracy. The next steps will be: review it with an outside reader, Team Check, Committee Check, Village Check, and Consultant Check, as described above for Ruth. In the meantime, the team will probably start drafting the book of Matthew, perhaps in the next week or two, since many of these steps for Jonah cannot be scheduled immediately. †

Venezuela Refugee Project

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were somewhat of a dry time for them spiritually, and when they realized that God was moving them somewhere else, they prioritized moving to a place where they could connect to a doctrinally sound church. After doing a lot of research, Carlos decided that the best place for them was Peru. They connected online to a pastor of a small church on the north side of Lima, and in May of 2017 they moved here. The church they found wasn't what they had hoped for, and eventually God led them to our church, Gracia. Their first Sunday, I happened to be preaching through a series on Ephesians chapter four, and as Carlos listened to the preaching on the reality of the new life, the Lord settled in his heart that this was where God was leading them. The people in our church were very warm and receiving of them, and that made all the difference.

We visited them a few days later. They were living in a small, two-bedroom apartment with very little furniture. The kitchen was in the living room, and we sat on plastic stools with no backs while we sipped coffee and got to know them. That night, we observed what has become the norm for the Venezuelans coming to Peru. To make ends meet, multiple families will live together in apartments. At that point, Carlos and Meli, with Grace, had a bedroom to themselves, Meli's sister lived with her husband in another bedroom, and there were a couple of single guys who slept on air mattresses in the living room/kitchen.

Carlos and Meli almost immediately began to bring other Venezuelans to church with them. As Cheryl and I got to know many of them, God began to form in our hearts a desire to help the Venezuelan Christians whom God was bringing to our church. We also began to consider the possibility of helping others who had not yet been able to leave Venezuela. Earlier this year, in one of our quarterly updates, we communicated a plan to setup a fund from which we could help Venezuelan families come to Peru and get established here. We have received some generous gifts to the fund, and that

has allowed us to be able to help several families. Some of those we have helped are families that moved here recently and have struggled to make a go of things. In one case, we were able to help a family of four (Johan and Carolina with their two young children) and a single guy (Emanuel) come all the way from Venezuela to Lima. The fund covered their bus tickets (a six-day trip), food along the way, and housing and a basic income for two months. Johan has found work that allows them to get by for now. The work is not always consistent, but God has provided for them. They live in a small, one-room apartment where rent is low and they can make ends meet. Emanuel is living with Carlos and Meli, and they are working hard at getting a business going. They sell a small food item called a Pastel, similar to an Arepa. It's hard work, with long hours, but God has been faithful in providing for them. It's been a blessing to minister the Word to them these few months that we have gotten to know them.

Please pray for those Venezuelans that are here in Lima that God has placed in our path. It has been very difficult for all of them. Through the fund, we have been able to help them with specific needs; however, they need to be able to find work in their areas of training so that they can settle into an economic situation that will allow them some stability as they form a new life here in Peru. We are grateful for the opportunity God has given us to get to know these Venezuelan believers. They are a blessing to our church, even as people in our church have been a blessing to them.

Please take a moment to read a short summary of each of the Venezuelans that God has sent to our church so that you can pray for them more effectively.

Ricardo and Johana – Ricardo is a civil engineer, and he has been able to work consistently for a construction company. Sadly, however, the company has taken advantage of his situation (as is happening often here), and they do not pay him an appropriate salary for the work he does. Pray for their spiritual growth as well.

The **Coles** in Bordeaux, France, are looking for a house to purchase, believing this would be a better use of their money rather than renting. Also, The congregation that Michael pastors needs to find another building in which to hold its meetings.

While I'm thinking of it: most of the churches under EMU and MEU (in Uruguay) will have special **Christmas programs** this month. Many unsaved and unchurched people attend these services. Pray that the Holy Spirit will use the message presented to draw folks to Him as Lord and Savior.

Ted Allston returned home safely from several weeks ministering in India with



Carlos, Meli, & baby Grace

Carlos and Meli – They have been in Peru for a year and a half. They are still struggling to make ends meet financially. Meli works part-time teaching science at a Christian school. Carlos works with Emanuel trying to get the food business established. They have become close friends of ours, and the work of God's grace in their lives is real.

Johan and Carolina – They have been here since June. Pray that they will grow spiritually. We are not sure about Carolina's salvation. We would love to see God make their stay here in Peru a time of great spiritual growth and maturity.

Audis – She has been attending our church for several months now. She comes to church with her 15-year old daughter, Beatriz. Audis' son works here in Lima, and his income has allowed them some stability, even though she lives with borrowed furniture in a small apartment.

Gustavo – Gustavo is a medical doctor with a specialty in Radiology. The Lord provided a job for him almost right away in the medical field, but like in the case of Ricardo, he doesn't get paid all that well. Pray for Gustavo and his family. His wife and two children live here in Lima, but his wife has chosen to live separately from Gustavo.

Emanuel – Pray that God would help Emanuel as he and Carlos work at the food business. Pray that God would continue to grow and mature him in his faith. †

ALONG THE WAY...

(continued from page 1)

Tim wrote to let us know that the repairs on the Sarcelles church building, paid for by the insurance company, should be completed before Christmas. Finally!! The **Smith family**, who were in France this past summer hoping to help with renovations in the new church, are again flying to France to help with this construction to turn a dance studio into a church with classrooms. Also, **Dave Wilbur** will travel to Sarcelles to help with this project in mid-January 2019. There are some other folks who are planning to go from the States to help with the construction.

Billy Judson, teaching in the Bible colleges closer to Hyderabad. Billy has many photos of this trip posted on his One Fair Chance Facebook page.

The **Pastors' School** in Ban Lung, Cambodia, was a success once again, with around 70 church leaders attending. **JD Crowley, Brian Kane, Jeremy Farmer, and Joshua Jensen** taught various classes on OT historical books of the Bible and OT theology. These men have already received encouraging feedback from the students, who will now be teaching this material in their churches.

Lydia Kane and their oldest daughter Mia
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A Call for Sponsors



by Ken Jensen

In January, the summer youth camps begin in Uruguay at Camp Emmanuel. The training of the staff begins in December. Clockwise are pictured the Jovenes (16 years & older), adolescents, and children who were helped to attend Camp Emmanuel this past January. In addition, some of the Sponsorship Fund is used to pay for the weekly expenses of the staff - maintenance, cooks, and counselors. (The staff is not paid for their work, but Camp Emmanuel incurs expenses for food, water, electricity, and

natural gas for each person at camp whether they are workers or campers.)

As donations are made to the Sponsorship Fund, our pastors and other missionaries in Uruguay are able to know how many people can be recommended as recipients of the "Fund's" funds.

Young people, such as these, will not be able to attend summer camp without your help. Thank you for whatever you can give. †



ALONG THE WAY...

(continued from page 3)

flew to the Philippines on December 1 for Lydia to visit some medical specialists concerning continuing physical problems she has had for many years - and some new ones. In October, Lydia and Brian went to Malaysia for medical help, but the tests were inconclusive, and Lydia continues to suffer debilitating pain. Pray that her maladies will be properly diagnosed and treated. I don't know how long Lydia and Mia will be in the Philippines.

Jeff Davis arrived in Beijing on November 29 for a 5-day visit with Steve, Charity, and "the boys." On December 4, he flies to Seam Reap, Cambodia, to begin a 2-week visit with the EMU team in northeastern Cambodia. He returns to Greenville, SC, on the 19th. Jeff's goal is to observe the various ministries in China and Cambodia, and get to know the missionaries on these fields.

Brooke Illsley's parents visited her in Cambodia in November. In addition to being with Brooke, the Illsleys were able to get to know the Farmer family better in Stung Treng.

In closing, I want to apologize for presenting so many Funds that need funding: Sponsorship, Christmas, and Refugees. As the editor of the EMU Newsletter, the fault is all mine. The Sept./Oct. combination newsletter really messed up my schedule! But I do trust you will seriously pray about contributing to one or more of these funds. They are all very worthy of your support.

Finally, Merry Christmas to all, and to all a blessed New Year! †



***Please consider a gift to the
Christmas Fund***



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