

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 . . .

When you read the three articles from Uruguay that are in this newsletter, you will notice that they are all “dated,” i.e. written in December 2018. Our Uruguayan national missionaries write a prayer letter every two months, and I put these three aside for use in the newsletter, but I was not able until this month to fit them in. In “Along the Way,” I try to review as many of our EMU missionaries as possible, and I’m afraid that our Uruguayans often do not receive the space they deserve. Before EMU became EMU International, the newsletter was all-Uruguay-all-the-time! But alas, no longer. Our missionaries in Uruguay are hard working, dedicated missionaries who are all involved in worthy ministries. And these articles give you a taste of their exciting work for the Lord.

Before reviewing our non-Uruguay missionaries, however, I want to ask your prayers for **Marianne Rauter**. She has been our primary correspondence translator for many years and is heavily involved in hospital visitation and meetings in retirement homes in Montevideo. Four weeks ago she fell backwards in a friend’s backyard and hit a concrete wall. The impact broke at least one rib and injured other parts of her body. At 85 years old, Marianne does not heal as quickly as she used to. (She has been knocked down many times over the years by purse-snatchers!) We in the US Home Office did not learn of

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A PRIEST BECOMES A DISCIPLE

by Marita Rodriguez, wife of the pastor in Treinta y Tres, Uruguay

Our family is well. Rubito’s psoriasis has improved with the warming temperatures of late spring and early summer, and Victoria is finishing up her studies at the university this year.

In the ministry, we had a very blessed 2018. Last November Paul Milder became a member of our church, Calvary Evangelical Baptist Temple. He had been away from the Lord for ten years, but last January, he came to the Lord again and started attending church. Also, this past year, Rayan, a twenty-one-year-old, began attending the services. When Rayan was a child, he came to church, but he had not been for about 8 years.

Nelson and Marita Darrosa, a married couple, also started to attend about two months ago. They were Mormons for sixteen years, and he was even a priest in his church. We started visiting them, and they agreed to have a Bible study in their home with us. Little by little they came to realize the heresy of Mormonism. We are very happy and excited for them. Nelson and Nancy Mendez are helping us with this couple. Nelson and Nancy came to know the Lord ten years ago. Nelson had been baptized in the Mormon church by Nelson Darrosa!

Last November Marita and several other



*Ladies’ fellowship dinner
in November*

ladies organized the last ladies’ meeting for the year. Forty-five ladies attended, and they had a great time. Then on December 9, we had the anniversary celebration of the church. Pastor Carlos Olivera preached for us at the river. We had a meal for the whole church in the Rio Park, and then we had a baptismal service in the late afternoon. Roberto Avallaneda (58), who had been a deacon at a Pentecostal church, was baptized. Also baptized were Sonia Aguilera (65), Maria Teresa (63), and Luz Mendes (16).

We are very thankful for your support and love for the work here in Uruguay, and especially our ministry here in Treinta y Tres. †



*2019 Jovenes Camp at Camp Bethel, organized by
Calvary Evangelical Baptist Temple, pastored by Rubito Rodriguez*

Changing Hearts

by Carlos Olivera, pastor of Bethel Church in Pando, Uruguay

The Bible Institute classes in Pando were very good this past year (2018). I have high hopes for Maximiliano Ferreira, a young man who is fervent for the Lord and has a great hunger for the Word and preaching to the youth. My eldest son, Edgardo, is also doing a very good job teaching the youth. We were able to accomplish everything planned for evangelizing in our area in 2018.

For our church Christmas dinner, we used our new grill for the first time. We cooked two large lambs, twenty-six pounds of fish, and six-and-a-half pounds of chicken. It is a very large grill! And surprisingly, there were no leftovers.

The most important news from 2018 is that we have a number of new contacts. Diego & Jessica, a young couple, and their two children, Lautario and Camila, have come to Christ, and I am going through discipleship lessons with the parents. Maria Angelica is also a new believer. In addition, we made contact with Silvia Coronel and her son Emanuel. Silvia is a soldier who served in the Congo with NATO troops. We are working with Silvia. She has known the gospel since she was a young child, and it seems she is a sheep wanting to come back to the Lord. Silvia is from my hometown of Melo. Another new contact is Peter, a 25-year-old who has not received Christ so far.

Juan Bosca's aunt, Paula Bosca, is an older lady. *(Juan and his family have been very active church members at Bethel Church for decades. kj)* She disliked me because she said I had robbed her of Juan's love,

but our testimony and love toward Paula has had a good outcome. I used to tell Juan that one day his aunt would come to church. Juan would just laugh because she is such a devoted Roman Catholic. Paula has been a burden on my heart, and finally my prayers are being rewarded. She started attending our church, and she is very impressed with the atmosphere at church and the exposition of the Word. She has asked if we can pick her up in our vehicle because she wants to keep coming.

My wife, Mabel, is helping me a lot with the women at Bethel. And it is amazing, to me, to see what God is doing in my grandson Oseas' life. He has a faithful and willing spirit in everything I have asked him to do, and he even goes beyond whatever he is asked to do.



Sorry, but I don't have the names of these three young people. (Rubito at far right)

In December I traveled to Treinta y Tres to preach at baptisms on Saturday and Sunday

at our MEU sister church, and God greatly blessed His Word. While we were in the northeastern part of Uruguay, we took three days of vacation to rest and visit my in-laws in Melo. However, the vacation was marred as I got sick with a stomach ache.



(l-r) Sonia, Luz, Maria Teresa, Pastor Rodriguez, & Roberto

In 2018, I gave the Lord, Bethel Church, and MEU all my energy, and I am truly grateful for everything that we have been blessed with in return. We also gave a lot of time to the mission's camp ministries. I am now trying to balance priorities for 2019. I would like to have more time this year to reach the city of Rocha, and I would really like for the Lord to allow me to plant a church in that city.

Mabel and I are so grateful for the opportunity of being a part of MEU for yet another year. We love and appreciate our fellow brothers and sisters in the Mission. †

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the severity of her injuries until a few days ago. Pain medications have not relieved her suffering, and she is only somewhat comfortable lying down - a position this German-Uruguayan finds intolerable. Please pray for her full recovery soon.

And on the subject of injured missionaries, pray for healing for **Marco Nuñez**. On Friday, February 1, Marco fell in the bathroom and broke his arm, requiring an operation on Sunday to set the bones. That's all we know for now.

Another infirmed EMU missionary is **Lydia Kane**, who was mentioned in recent months concerning her maladies and trips to Malaysia and the Philippines for treatment. Two weeks ago her vertigo returned, as well as some other symptoms. Brian and Lydia have decided that Lydia will return to Manila for further evaluation and treatment. A date was not set at this writing, but it should be in February.

It will be impossible to cover all the missionaries I have news about in the

remaining lines, so I will hit the "travel" highlights, at least - beginning with the end of February and working towards the first of this year.

The Tim Chapman family will begin a 5-month furlough when they return stateside on February 16. They will visit as many of their supporting churches and families as possible during those months. Pray for **Ruben Villar**, who will be pastoring



One of the 4 people recently baptized by Tim Chapman at Grace Baptist Church of Lima

Grace Baptist Church of Lima during the Chapmans' absence.

February 5-8, a Missionary Kid retreat was held in Lima with MKs from three countries. **Matt Collier**, from CampsAbroad, was a primary organizer with Tim and **Matt Jones**, a missionary in Thailand, who took one of his sons with him. Last I heard, there were 34 young people registered for this Lima retreat.

In November, Grace Baptist of Lima accepted 12 new members into the church, and the month before, 4 converts were baptized in a local swimming pool.

On February 22, **Jeff Davis**, and **Steve and Karen Ridge** from Colorado Springs, CO, will leave the States for Uruguay where they will be participating in the Workers' Conference - February 25-28 - and the Family Camp - March 4-8. They will also be visiting several of our MEU churches on weekends. The trio returns home on the last day of Family Camp. Steve will be teaching in the mornings at the Family Camp and 3 times a day at the Workers' Conference. Jeff will be preaching in the evening services at

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White and Stripes

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



Chicha's first big snow - Greenville, SC, area. It doesn't snow in Uruguay, though it does get below freezing in the winter.

I truly enjoyed the extended vacation with my family and friends in Greenville, SC. I arrived the last day of October and returned to Uruguay in mid-January. I really liked getting to watch the snowfall in December. It was my first-time seeing snow covered roofs, streets, cars, and trees in person. Many trees fell throughout the city, including at the house where I stayed. Two very tall pines (I learned that they have

shallow roots) fell at the entrance of the neighbor's driveway, breaking part of the fence between the two houses.

A surprising opportunity I had was visiting a small jail in Georgia, near the Alabama border. Interestingly, the person in charge of the prison ministry was saved while he was incarcerated years ago. He has a real burden to take the Gospel message to the inmates. As I have a similar ministry in my country, I was invited to join them during this jail visit. When we got there, we divided into several groups, visiting 2 pods each. A pod is a large holding area with about 30 inmates. A person in my group (who had also been a prisoner years ago) shared his testimony.

After that, each one of us sat at a table with 3 prisoners. We gave them sheets with Bible verses printed on them, verses like John 3:16, Romans 3:23, etc. After reading aloud with them, we asked them what they understood. This time of discussion gave us the opportunity to explain the meaning of



Chicha at a Georgia prison teaching the Gospel to several inmates

the Word. We stayed there for four hours, and over a hundred inmates heard the Gospel.

For me it was fascinating to see how prisons are set up and run in the USA. There are many differences between the prisons in Uruguay and the States, including the building structures, inmates' clothing, and cell doors. But the spiritual needs are the same. They need hope. They need to know about Jesus, the Mighty God, who can rescue them and make them spiritually free. Several showed interest in receiving Christ as their personal Savior. The results are in His hands.†

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Family Camp. As director, Jeff will also be interviewing all of our national missionaries and heading up the MEU board meetings.

The Children's, Adolescents', and Jovenes' Camps took place in January. I will present photos and an update on those camps in the March EMU Newsletter. *(Hope, hope!)*

Josh and Amy Jensen begin a 6-month furlough, flying out of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on February 12. They will first be in York, PA, with Amy's parents as a base, while visiting churches and friends in the northeast. They will "move" into our church's missionary house in Greenville, SC, on March 4, but will stay for only a few days before heading to Texas and Georgia to visit supporters and friends. They return to Greenville in April, and, with the missionary house as a base, visit friends and supporters in the southeast. I'll give you more of their schedule in coming months.

John Mark and Deborah Steel had a busy summer in Uruguay planned, but all that changed with the death of Deborah's father in Florida on January 11. I first met missionary **Don Garwood** in Uruguay in 1973 when the Garwoods had just moved to that little country to plant churches. Deborah was 3 years old. Don and his first and second wives were and are good friends of the Jensens and all our Uruguay missionaries since then. Deborah's "little" brother, **Daniel**, and his family, who live in Uruguay, also traveled to Florida, as did **Esther Garwood-Torres** and her family, who live in Greenville, SC.



*(l-r) Esther, Deborah, Don, & Daniel
(Photo taken in January 2014 in Uruguay)*

The Steels arrived in Jacksonville, Florida, for a memorial service for Don on January 21, and then came to Greenville, SC, for the burial service. The Steels return to Uruguay on March 9, the weekend before FEBU and the MEU Bible Institute begin on March 11. One major change for John Mark is that he has accepted the position of director of the Bible Institute, in addition to teaching at FEBU. He will surely need our prayers.

The Hancocks returned to Cambodia on January 22, along with a temporary helper,



Matt & Becky with kids and Rebekah in a Tuk Tuk in Phnom Penh traffic

Rebekah. This young lady volunteered to travel with the Hancocks to Cambodia and help with the children as Matt and Becky find a new house and get settled in the city of **Ou Reang Oy**, where they hope to plant a new church. The Hancocks purchased a new-used SUV in Phnom Penh that seats eight. This sweet family have their work cut out for them as they set up housekeeping in a new city among people they do not know. JD Crowley has been helping during these days since the Hancocks' return. Permission from the city "chiefs" was required before the Hancocks could live in Ou Reang Oy. (Matt pronounces this city as "O-Ring-O.")



(l-r) Jim, Ursula, Marianne & Elizabeth Rauter, and Pam

(There is not a photo of Mary's family with Jim and Pam. I blame Jim for this failure!)

Some of you old-timers remember **Jim and Pam Kintigh**, who were missionaries with EMU in Uruguay for 17 years (including deputation). Since resigning from EMU at the end of 1996, other than a brief trip to Uruguay a couple of months later to organize our office computers in Uruguay, the Kintighs had not been back to Uruguay, where the youngest of their three daughters was born. **Mary**, the second born, wanted
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her husband, **Cory**, and four children to visit Uruguay and see where she grew up. That trip took place in November 2018. The family and our Uruguayan missionaries had a blast reuniting after a 21 year absence!

Major travel took place in January as ten volunteers flew to Paris, France, to help renovate the new **Sarcelles church building**. The fire/smoke damage - mentioned in the last EMU Newsletter - has basically been cleaned up by the company hired by the insurance company. However, the USA team worked on putting up walls, partitions, installing a kitchen, construction of a sectional platform, and preparing the bathrooms.



(above) Discussion of how to best construct a sectional platform

(below) The finished product, except for the carpet to cover the platform



(above) Installing a new wall
(below) The first Sunday noon church meal in the new building



The makeup of the team was: Tim's cousin **Jon Bixby**, his teenage son **Caleb**, and **Adam** - another teenager from their Colorado church; **Steve Bixby** (Jon's dad & Tim's Uncle), **Mike Smith** and **Johnny** (Jon's oldest son) who work together at the Wilds; Wilds staffers **Stephanie Smith**, **Bethany Ross**, & **Colton** (the Smith's future son-in-law); and **Dave Wilbur**, a carpenter who attends Cleveland Park Bible Church. Three of these men are professional builders.

Next month I will include pictures of the finished product and the building dedication service. **Tim and Ruth Bixby**, and **Krista Colas** are thrilled to have this new facility!

Last month, I announced the birth of **Keren Judson**, **Billy and Saritha's** second daughter, who was born on December 4, but



Saritha & Billy Judson with daughters Bernice & baby Keren

I wasn't able to include the newest family photo. So, here it is. Saritha has recovered from her C-section, and the family is doing fine. Billy recently traveled to Delhi, India, to visit churches interested in starting a **Good News Bible College**.

Here in South Carolina, we are experiencing a period of unusually mild winter weather, but we know that winter "ain't" over yet! Regardless of your climate, we appreciate your warm friendship towards our EMU International missionaries. Though you often hear (read) us say that we appreciate your prayers and financial support, it is not a trite statement. We are very well aware that "we are all in this together," and that "we" includes you. May our Lord and Savior bless you for laboring with us in this endeavor of world missions. †

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