

# EMU<sup>†</sup>

## INTERNATIONAL

*Evangelical Mission to the Unreached*

*Evangelical Mission to Uruguay*

PROCLAIMING THE TRIUMPHS OF THE GOSPEL

Volume LXII

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Number 3



*Ken & Joan Jensen  
Assistant Director*

### ALONG THE WAY . . .

*Alzheimer's* is an insidious disease. It is like watching an arsonist invade a huge library and begin burning the books. And no one can stop the pyromaniac. Eventually, all the volumes lie in ashes. Any new tomes that enter the doors of the library are immediately torched as well. There is no past; there is no future; and the present is confusing and frightening. All that remains is the shell of an edifice, standing as a monument to what was once a treasure-trove of knowledge and wisdom – a bulwark of love, guidance, and sweet fellowship.

Many years ago, my **dad and I** were discussing the travesty of Alzheimer's and dementia that were encroaching into the lives of people we had known for decades. Dad looked me in the eye and said, "If I ever start to lose my mind, please drive me to the mountains and take me on a long hike into the wilderness – and leave me there." Not many years ago, I told Dad that it was time for the hike, but by then he had no idea what I was talking about. Most of you reading this column know my parents, **George and Marilyn Jensen**. And though they have not been active missionaries with EMU for several years, they are a vital part of the mission's history. I let you know several years ago that Dad has Alzheimer's disease. Since then, he and Mom have lived at home, with Mom doing all the driving. In mid-February, it became abundantly evident that Mom could no longer care

*(continued on page 2)*

## JANUARY/FEBRUARY AT CAMP EMMANUEL

*by Ken Jensen*

Last year, I didn't get the January Camp Emmanuel pictures in the EMU Newsletter until December! I'm trying to make amends here. These are the group youth camp photos and pictures of those who were helped by the Sponsorship Fund. Although the camp staff is not presented separately for each week, they were included in the receipt of Sponsorship Funds to cover part of their camp expenses. We so much appreciate those who gave to this Fund. And, we so much appreciate the huge amount of work it took for Pedro Donzé to organize these camps. †



*Above & Right:  
Jovenes  
attending  
camp via the  
Sponsorship  
Fund*



*Left:  
Jovenes Camp*



*Adolescent Camp at Camp Emmanuel*



*Adolescents who were able to attend  
camp through the Sponsorship Fund*



*Children's Camp at Camp Emmanuel  
Counselors in back row*



*Children who were able to attend camp  
through the Sponsorship Fund*



## ALONG THE WAY...

(continued from page 1)

for him at home. So, on February 20, Dad took a labored hike from the parking lot to the **Memory Care section at Brookdale Senior Living Center on Pelham Road in Greenville**. I wish I could say that he has been a happy-camper, though after a couple of weeks, he seems to no longer be trying to escape. Mom has adjusted well to living alone for now, and the pressure of caring for Dad has ceased. My sister, **Cindy**, and **Joan** have been indispensable in this process. If you have been praying for George and Marilyn, please continue to do so, considering their new stations in life.



*Dad & Agnes at the Memory Care Center  
This is my sister's Great Pyrenees. Agnes is trained to bring comfort in hospitals, nursing homes, and retirement homes.  
My father LOVES this dog!*

The week before George Jensen entered the Memory Care Unit, **seven other Jensens** arrived in New York from Ratanakiri, **Cambodia**, to begin their furlough. Cambodia has two main seasons: hot & dry and hot & wet. Long Island, NY, is a little more diverse, as **Josh, Amy, and their five children** learned during their stay with friends and Amy's brother and his family. Though you cannot see the Jensen faces very well in this picture, it does emphasize the contrast between where they came from and where they landed.



*Cambodian Eskimos Isaiah, Becca, Josh, Anna, Amy, & Clara Jensen - baby Ezra was indoors*

**The Jensens** spent the first two weeks of their furlough "up north," mainly with **Amy's family in York, PA, and Long Island**, where both her dad and brother pastor churches. Before arriving in Greenville, SC, on March 4, they visited friends and supporters in **Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky**. They will be in Greenville until March 7 when they leave for a service in **Macon, GA**, and then begin making their way to **Texas** to see supporting friends. In April, they have meetings in churches in **South & North Carolina, and Pennsylvania**. I'll hold off the rest of their schedule until later. Josh and Amy have a lot of family members in the southeast, and we are all looking forward to being with them – especially our five Cambodian grandkids!

Although Joan and I are excited about the arrival of our grandkids, **Jeff and Joanna Davis** were every bit as excited to greet their very **first grandchild**. **Daxton "Dax" Allen Davis** was born to **Caleb and Jamie** on February 6. His stats were, 8 lbs. 10 oz., and 22 inches.



*First-time grandparents  
Joanna & Jeff with baby Dax*

Two weeks after Dax was born, **Jeff** left for **Uruguay** along with **Steve and Karen Ridge** from Colorado Springs, CO. All three taught at the **Workers' Conference** (Feb. 25-27) and the **Family Camp** (Mar. 4-9), with



*Karen & Steve Ridge on the beach 1 km. from Camp Emmanuel*

a side trip to the interior to visit churches in **Vergara and Treinta y Tres**. I will say little about Jeff's and the Ridges' trip in this newsletter and let Jeff give a report in the April newsletter. (If you would like a preview, Karen and Jeff have been posting pictures on **Facebook**.)

On March 11, the Monday after Family Camp, **FEBU and the EMU Bible Institute** will begin their first semester. EMU missionary **Matias Espinel** is the **director** of FEBU. He had a busy summer in Uruguay teaching at the camp of another mission group and helping at Camp Emmanuel, filling-in for **John Mark Steel** who had to return to the States due to his father-in-law's death in January. Pray that many new students will enroll in both the Bible college and Bible Institute.

**The Steels** are returning to Uruguay on March 9. **John Mark and Deborah** will be teaching at both of the Bible schools this semester. As mentioned in last month's newsletter, John Mark is the new **director** of the EMU Bible Institute. Before returning to Montevideo, John Mark will have finished his last block class for his doctorate from **Bob Jones University**. All he has to do now is write his dissertation! (Surely a simple task for such an intelligent man!)

While the **Steels** were in Greenville in February, **Joan and I** had the family at our house for lunch and a part of the afternoon. We were, also, keeping our two **Floyd grandchildren** for the week and thought it would be great for the kids to get to know each other. At lunch, even though the four kids sat at one end of the table, they barely spoke a word to one another. (Maybe because the grown-ups yacked so much!) After the meal,



*Joan & me with (l-r) Daniel James, Elizabeth, Carson, and Bella*

**Bella Floyd** asked if the other three kids wanted to go to the backyard. **Bella, Carson, Elizabeth, and Daniel James** disappeared for the rest of the afternoon. As the Steels were leaving later that day, you would have thought the kids were saying goodbye to best friends! It was so special for Joan and me to have four children in the house who all called us grandma and grandpa. We love our MKs

(continued on page 3)



## ALONG THE WAY . . .

(continued from page 2)

so much. Some call us aunt and uncle, and some grandma and grandpa. And a few MKs address us as Mr. and Mrs. Jensen, which is fine – but we're not putting them in our will!

**Bill Hill**, with ENW, will fly to **Uruguay** the last week of March to hold a seminar. Bill has been to Uruguay many times to teach in our churches. **Rosanna Gomez**, wife of the pastor of **Gethsemani Church** in Montevideo, has been translating Bill's notes into Spanish to be put into booklet form for the attendees. As of the beginning of March, Rosanna had already translated 100 pages of notes and had another 75 pages to go! The Gómezes' oldest son, **Marcos**, who is a new employee of MEU helping **Pedro Donzé** in the office and at Camp Emmanuel, is dating a young lady (**Tali**) who attends Gethsemani Church. She speaks English and is helping Rosanna with the translating.

**Ted Allston** will travel to **Hyderabad, India**, to teach for just over two weeks – March 7-25. He will be with EMU missionary **Billy Judson**.

The **Tim Chapman** family began a five-month furlough on February 26. I'm not sure when we will see them down south here. While they were still *way* down



*Tim Chapman reffing a game at the first annual missionary kid retreat for South America*

south, in **Lima, Perú**, Tim participated in a jointly sponsored **camp for missionary kids** – February 5-8. **CampsAbroad**, a ministry of **The Wilds** camp of North Carolina, was one of the organizers. **Matt Collier**, the director of CampsAbroad,



*Matt Collier teaching an evening class at the SA MK retreat in Lima, Perú*

has helped **Tim Chapman** with camps in the past. Between 35 and 40 MK teens attended the camp, which the sponsors hope will become an annual event.



*Jeremy Farmer baptizing son Judson in the Mekong River*

In February, **Jeremy Farmer** had the privilege of baptizing his oldest son, **Judson**. **Bonnie Ruth** wrote on a Facebook post, "My brother, my son." What a marvelous statement! Also, I neglected to mention in the December newsletter that **Brooke Illsley's** parents visited her in Stung Treng, Cambodia, in November. Her dad was sick for much of his time in Cambodia, but the family enjoyed being together and seeing where Brooke ministers with the Farmer children.



*Marco in a sling but no cast*

**Marco and Gwendolyn Nuñez** spent some time in a hospital in **Cancún, Mexico**, in February. Marco slipped in their bathroom, fell, and broke his **humerus** (upper arm bone). This happened on a Saturday, and on Sunday Marco was operated on. The surgeon inserted a titanium rod reaching the full length of the **humerus**. Unfortunately, he was alone in the house when the accident occurred and was unable to reach Gwendolyn, who was driving. He was in a lot of pain for a long time before a couple of the men who work in the ministry at the Cancún church arrived to help Marco and get him to the hospital. Marco is doing fine now, though there is still some pain in his arm.

February was not all bad for **Marco**. A man in the church, who has been helping with maintenance for some time, told Marco that he felt called of the Lord to be trained by Marco – and his wife and daughters by Gwendolyn. He would like to eventually return to the town of his birth in the Mexican state of **Chiapas**, several hours drive from where **Pastor Ciro Alvarado** ministers. Pray for **Daniel and Marisol**, and their daughters, **Yamileth and Daniela**, as they become prepared to start a new church in Chiapas.



*Daniel and Marisol with daughters, Yamileth and Daniela*

In the February newsletter, there were some pictures of the construction work on the new church facility in **Sarcelles, France**. An enormous amount of work was completed by the **USA and French teams** in January. The church has a **rent-to-buy** agreement with the owner of this 5,000 square foot building. The first three years of rent have already been paid.



*The USA team who worked on the Sarcelles church renovation*



*The Sarcelles church members who worked on the church renovation and clean-up*  
(continued on page 4)



Page 4



*The first service in the new auditorium of the Sarcelles Baptist Church*

## **ALONG THE WAY...**

*(continued from page 3)*

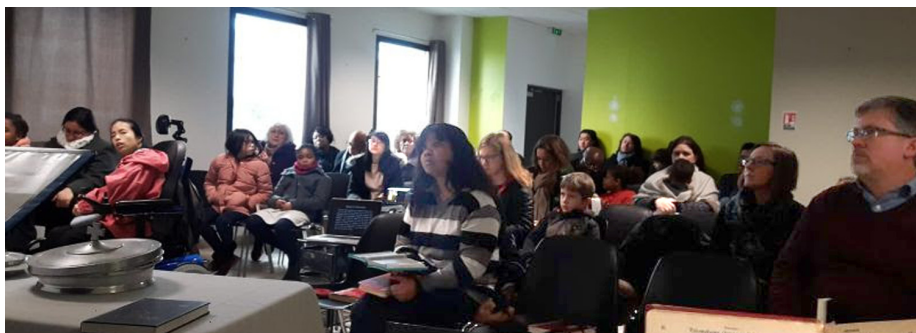
**HOWEVER**, at the end of three years a payment of **600,000 Euros** will be due in order to purchase the facility. With all the work that has gone into renovations to create a beautiful sanctuary, classrooms, and kitchen, the congregation in Sarcelles – and friends of this ministry – are very motivated to pay the remainder owed. Whatever any of you can do to help would be greatly appreciated. Also, please pray for the safety of this building. It has been fire-bombed twice since the **Bixbys** and the congregation first planned to purchase this building. Although insurance pays for the repairs, it is a horrendous inconvenience, and a waste of time and money.

When the **Coles** returned to **Bordeaux, France**, after their brief visit to **North and South Carolina** in December, their home loan requests were refused – eventually by three banks. The loan officers said that because the Coles receive their salary from the USA and not France, the bank will not loan them money for a house. (Other missionaries have received loans from some of these same banks in other areas in France!) The owner of the house where the Coles currently live wants to sell the house, and the Coles will soon need to move. Please pray for wisdom and success in finding a new residence.

The church which **Michael Cole** pastors in **Pessac** found rental space in which

to hold services. For 350 Euros per month, the church can use two rooms which can seat about 60 people each, and it includes bathroom facilities. The congregation currently consists of about 53 people, so there is not much room for growth. But it is convenient for now, and they have space for children's and adult classes in separate rooms. Pray that this congregation will soon find a permanent solution for their church needs.

Over the past 43 years that I have been a missionary in the home office of EMU, and even many years before beginning this vocation when I worked with my folks maintaining the database, addressing, bundling, and mailing the monthly EMU Newsletter, I have seen unnumbered folks who once had a professed and demonstrated interest in this mission work, but their interest waned – almost like when an Alzheimer's patient's memory fades. There are a host of reasons for diminished concern by these one-time friends of EMU. The same has happened to me with some other organizations I once favored. Like dementia, it just happens and there is not much that can be done about it, except to attempt to remain in contact via electronic and printed correspondence, as well as personal visits. As for personal contact, if you would like to meet with one of our missionaries or representatives in order to refresh your relationship with EMU, please let us know. We will do what we can to have someone get in touch with you. We are, however, very blessed to have you, our newsletter recipients, who pray for our missionaries, and the many of you who also support the missionaries financially. Thank you for your love and interest in EMU International. †



*Newly rented room for the Pessac Baptist Church*

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