

# 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 . . .

In the April 2018 EMU Newsletter, cloaked in the “Along the Way” article, was an announcement telling of the Home Going of **Rev. Gene Jeffers**, the father of **Joanna Jeffers Davis**, wife of EMU director, **Jeff Davis**. One year, one month, and four days later, Joanna’s mother passed away. The obituary, in part, read as follows: “**Barbara Brodie Jeffers**,

80, of Terre Haute, wife of the late Rev. Gene Alan Jeffers, went home to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Monday, April 15, 2019, at the Zephyr Haven Rehab Center in Zephyr Hills, FL. . . Born on March 20, 1939, in Terre Haute, she was the daughter of Paul and Agnes Brodie. Barbara attended Gerstmeyer High School. She was also a graduate of Indiana State University with both Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in education. . . As a pastor’s wife, she devoted her life to sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ, particularly with children through Good News Clubs and teaching Kindergarten until age 70. She was a member of Forest Park Baptist Church.” Her funeral was held in Terre Haute, IN, as was her husband’s. Though Barbara’s health had been declining for some time, and her death was not unexpected, it is a sad time

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*Barbara Jeffers*

## COCHABAMBA!

*by Ovidio Acevedo, pastor of Emmanuel Church of El Cerro, Uruguay*

It is a special blessing for me to greet you and share information about our ministry and the opportunity I had to go to Bolivia for a conference with Bill Hill. I helped him with the teaching in the city of Cochabamba. It was a great experience. There was a regular group of about 15 people, and sometimes other pastors joined us. The students told us that the teaching was very useful and that sometimes the material was completely new to them. There were three speakers. I had the advantage of not needing a translator, so everyone could understand me well, which facilitated my teaching and made it easier.

It was a great surprise to get to go sightseeing when we had some free time. Cochabamba is a city completely surrounded by mountains, and the view is spectacular; there is nothing like it in my country. We made it up one mountain that has a replica of Brazil’s Christ the Redeemer statue. We could see the whole city from up there. It was a beautiful sight.

The people from the church were very kind, and I was able to preach four times in addition to the conference. The church congregations were eager listeners and were very thankful. The young people had a very happy disposition to serve, and the pastors were nationals, and some of them quite young. It seems they have great potential for young pastors to replace the older ones when they retire. Of course, some things were very different from Uruguay. The churches are taught by missionary pastor Kevin White. He helps in three churches with the teaching, and these churches are part of a mission organization. He is a young man from the USA who has a beautiful family and has garnered a good testimony in the community. It was good for me to see these ministries in a different culture. Sometimes it was not easy to understand why they do certain things, but I think it would be the same if they came to our churches in our culture.

We visited a nunnery with a very dark history, especially because the girls that



*The Bible Conference group in Cochabamba.  
Bill Hill (front left), Ovidio (2nd-row right)*

used to lived there had been taken there by their own parents when they were just 12 years old. The girls were supposed to stay there until their deaths, with no contact whatsoever with the outside world. Among other things, they had to make a vow of silence, which consisted of talking only during a time of fellowship for 15 minutes per day. Their lives were full of prohibitions and religious demands, while their parents earned social, political, and religious prestige, and supposedly even the right to heaven, because they gave up their daughters. What a lie from the devil! This practice was abolished in 1950. The remaining residents are elderly now, the oldest being 96, I believe. They are no longer under the vow of silence, and they can get out into the community. I tried to talk about it with the tour guide, but he was indifferent to the reality of hell and the eternal condemnation for the person who does not have Christ as his Savior. The ladies there had their Bibles and their books, but they did not have Jesus as their only righteousness; they only had religion!

Here in Montevideo, Uruguay, there is a group of seven brothers and two sisters taking the Bible Institute classes this first semester. I am teaching homiletics. I have the hope that, in the future, one of these men will take on the responsibility of the church I currently pastor. May God give me a man or group of men that will take my place. We pray to the God of the harvest to send servants into His field! †

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

for this close family. Pray that the Lord will comfort the Jeffers and Davises at this time.

In the April 2019 Donor Letter (sent to those who financially support EMU), I told that my father, **George Jensen**, has been placed under hospice care at a local nursing home. On March 14, the personnel at the memory care facility where he was living found him on the floor by his bed early one morning. Unable to stand, he was taken to St. Francis Hospital for x-rays and evaluation. No broken bones were found, but Dad refused to stand after that. When he was returned to Brookdale, he was placed in the skilled care wing of that facility. After two weeks of observation and physical therapy, a hospice representative met with my mother (**Marilyn**), **Rick & Kathy**, **Cindy**, and **Joan & me** to talk about Dad's situation. Though Dad is not in a coma, or bed ridden, it was decided, due to other factors, that he should go under hospice care in the skilled care section of Brookdale. After over a month, he still does not walk, and he has yet to regain much of an appetite. He's known as the banana and juice man! If any of you are in the Greenville area and would like to visit George Jensen, go to Brookdale on Pelham Road (about a block past Morning Side Baptist Church), and drive down the left side of the facility to the Nursing Care section. The staff and many of the patients know Dad (too well!) and can direct you to him. George won't know you, but he enjoys the visits!

We are reminded often of life's winter, as those we love grow old and die. But life's spring is continually present as well. On April 9, **Ruth Bixby** gave birth to **Simeon Robert** in Paris, France. Simeon weighed 9 pounds, 7 ounces (no length given). Due to low oxygen levels in Simeon's blood, he was placed in NICU for several days and put on oxygen. On April 14 he was taken off the bottled oxygen and went home on the 16th to his joyous family. **Bonnie Bixby**, Tim's mother, arrived in Sarcelles before the baby was born in part for the purpose of helping the family while Ruth



*Bonnie Bixby (rt) with Tim's family in Sarcelles, France*

recovered and the family started adjusting to the new scheduling changes of who-takes-who-where, shopping, cooking, etc. Bonnie lived in France for several decades with her husband as missionaries, so she was the perfect choice to help with driving, shopping, and all things French. We are all so glad Bonnie was able to assist this new family of seven!

I assume that most of you know about the fire that gutted the **Notre Dame cathedral** in Paris. **Tim Bixby** was asked to write an article for the BJU Seminary Viewpoint page. The title is "*Our Lady of Paris: Self-Worship Through the Ages*," and it is an excellent missive! The text is longer than will fit well in this EMU Newsletter; however it can be accessed at <https://seminary.bju.edu/viewpoint/our-lady-of-paris-self-worship-through-the-ages/>.

**Michael and Liz Cole** are continuing to pursue the purchase of a house in Bordeaux, France. They found a house that will meet their needs, and they are working on the financing. The highest hurdle to surmount is getting approval for a loan as a non-French-citizen from a French bank. The Coles hope to find out later in May if they can get approved. In April, the family drove 9 hours north to Algrange to teach at a Bible institute, where Michael has taught several times in the past. May 24-26, Michael will be teaching a course about the Christian family at the Pessac church.

Another EMU MK should be making his/her appearance around May 22. **Becky Hancock** returned to her parents' home in Pennsylvania from O-Ring-O, Cambodia, on April 16 to await the birth of their 5th child. All of the Hancock children traveled with Becky, and thankfully, so did **Rebekah Bradford**, who went to Cambodia with the Hancocks in January to help with the children as **Matt and Becky** found a house, bought a vehicle, needed household items, etc., and moved into their new residence on March 15. The Lord greatly blessed the Hancocks in finding all the needed items to set up their home in O-Ring-O. (This is the phonetic rendering of this Cambodian city.) Matt will be coming to Pennsylvania on May 18, the day after the **Pastors' School** ends – May 13-17. As always, a lot of work goes into planning for and studying for these all-day classes. I believe **JD Crowley**, **Jeremy Farmer**, **Brian Kane**, and **Matt Hancock** will be teaching, along with other missionaries and nationals.

**Joshua Jensen** will not be teaching at the Pastors' School as the Josh Jensen family is still in the States visiting their individual and church supporters. Joan and I have been blessed to have them at our house a few times between their long trips around the country. Their home base is at the Hampton Park Baptist Church mission house. (It's more suited to a family of 7 than our two upstairs bedrooms, though we miss having them stay with us! We were able to have

a good gathering of Jensens, Martins, Floyds, and Micklers for Easter lunch. Josh and Amy's family will be returning to Greenville, SC, around May 16, after an absence of over three weeks.

**JD, Kim, and Nathaniel Crowley** will be in Greenville, SC, from Ban Lung, Cambodia, beginning May 29 and leaving in October. I don't yet know their schedule while in the States. However, part of their time will be taken up with getting Nate settled as a freshman student at Bob Jones University in August. Wow! Their "baby" will be starting college! Life for JD and Kim after their return to Cambodia will be quite different as empty-nesters.

I doubt if **Jeremy and Bonnie Ruth Farmer** can even conceive of the idea of no-kids-in-the-home. They will be flying back to the States on May 30 with all eight of their children. Their furlough will extend to February 2020. The Farmers plan to make their home base just outside of Nashville, TN, where their sending church is located. The school age children will begin attending a school there in August. Pray for the Farmers as the house they had hoped to use became unavailable. So, they are in need of housing, but they are not sure whether to rent, which is very expensive in that area, or buy a house, which could be rented out when they return to Cambodia, but available for their housing while on furlough. Brooke Illsley is returning to the States at the same time, but she will be staying with her parents in Greenville, SC.



*The Farmer family & Brooke at the "proto-church" in Pum Tmai village, Cambodia. Chan-tii is in the blue "pajama" outfit.*

**Chan-tii** turned to Christ in February through a non-EMU ministry at a clinic. Since then, she has been attending the "proto-church" in **Pum Tmai village**, where the **Farmers** have their Sunday service with a handful of Christian ladies. Chan-tii says she has believed in Jesus "with her heart and with all of her liver." On Easter Sunday, Jeremy baptized this tribal woman - the first national he has baptized in Cambodia. Pray for this little group of believers as the Farmers will be away from them for eight months.

**Tim and Cheryl Chapman** and their 3 children have been on a 5-month furlough since February. We have yet to see them as their time has been spent visiting supporters and friends in MI, NC, MD, DE, PA, OH,

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## Dual Reports

*It is not often that I can use a heading in the EMU Newsletter like this. The following articles are from father/son missionaries in Uruguay. Gaby Gomez has been a faithful missionary and friend in Uruguay for the past 32 years. It has been thrilling to see his oldest son following very much in the footsteps his father trod. Gethsemani Church in Montevideo is now supporting Gaby full-time - the 2<sup>nd</sup> pastor of a conservative church to ever be supported thus in Uruguay! Our chief concern is now raising support for Marcos Gomez so that he can continue assisting his uncle, Pedro Donz , with Camp Emmanuel and the EMU office work in Uruguay. Please consider taking on a portion of his support - about \$1,000 per month.*

*by Gaby Gomez, pastor of Gethsemani Church in Montevideo*

As always, it was a blessing to have the opportunity to enjoy the Church leadership training conference, led by Bill Hill. Thank God, I felt well this year so I could attend all the classes. (Last year I had a debilitating shoulder problem.) Rosanna couldn't go with me because of her job as a secretary, but she was greatly blessed as she helped translate Bill's notes before he arrived.

Our church ladies made a delicious meal for the husbands for the couples' night at church. It was good to see the enthusiasm of some new couples who joined us. This Friday we will have another meeting, and another new couple has indicated they will attend. They are Christians from another church, but they have been looking for a church that is more biblical in its doctrine. They started visiting with us at the beginning of March, and they have been attending regularly.



*Teens & adults at the dock with Ship Logos Hope*

Our teenagers and Sunday School teachers planned a whole day's visit to the Ship Logos Hope. We started the adventure at 9:30 a.m. and were on the ship until lunch. It was a good opportunity to buy Bibles and some other things at a good price. After that, we had a picnic near the beach. The weather was fantastic. We finished the day at church with the youth meeting.

This year I was invited to preach for the family camp retreat at Las Flores, a small village in northern Uruguay. I left home at midnight on Sunday in good health, but I arrived at camp in the morning not feeling well. It was just a cold and throat pain, and thank God, I was able to preach all week. It was a real blessing to share the Word with those lovely brethren. It was also encouraging to hear a man – Willman – say that he had been praying for my health for the past year, and he asked the Lord to be able to see me again. He was giving thanks to the Lord because He answered his prayers. Willman's words made me think about our prayers. So many times we ask and ask, and then when the answer comes (and God always answers!), we forget to acknowledge Him and give thanks.

We have had to make some changes in our Sunday School to better teach the children according to their ages. We have a new class for young teenagers (11- 13 years). My son, Marcos, and wife, Rosanna, are the teachers. This is a new ministry for Marcos. Pray for him as he studies and that he will do a good job. Marcos' knee surgery was successful, and he is walking normally again. But he gained a lot of extra weight while waiting for the surgery and during the recovery.

One of the members of our church told me about an opportunity to visit a Nursing Home once a week to preach the Word of God. The owner of the establishment is not a believer, but she wants Christian groups to visit. We are now praying and considering whether or not we can faithfully commit to this new ministry. †



*Family Camp in Las Flores. Gaby is just behind the "big guy" (his nephew) sitting on the grass at right*

*by Marcos Gomez, assistant at Camp Emmanuel & Uruguay office*

I am thankful to the Lord for all of you, for your love toward our ministry, our country, and above all your love toward God's work. Surely it has been a very good month, and the Lord has allowed us to serve Him through the many activities at Camp Emanuel, the mission's office, and in our church. As always, we had new challenges, but the Lord enabled us to overcome each of them. We keep being amazed at how the Lord empowers us to carry out tasks we never imagined we could do.



*Marcos in the camp kitchen*



*Men & women at Bill Hill's block classes*

In addition to the family camp and workers' conference that I wrote about in my previous letter, we had the church leadership conference with Bill Hill last week. It was a great time of learning truths that we can later teach to our church families. We had a few problems with the water heaters in the cabins during Bill's conference. We tried to resolve the problem, but it was a bigger job than we anticipated. A professional technician helped us and then taught us how to do the regular maintenance.

We are going to meet with several churches on May 6 to assess the just-finished camp season. We want to hear from the different age groups that participated (kids, teens, youth, and families). We will also start working towards the upcoming camp activities. The first thing we need to prepare for is the winter camp. We are going to teach about the life of Joseph. We would appreciate your prayers for this.

By the grace of God, we are making progress in the MEU office. In the last few weeks we have worked with some important paperwork for the churches. Please pray for the Lord to work in this so that it will accomplish its purpose. We have had construction related problems at the office in Montevideo, which

results in flooding the floor every time it rains. We eventually had to move the office upstairs to the first floor of the mission house.

I met with the architect several times to consider the options for fixing the problem. Pray with us that we will find a definite solution to this situation and for provision for the expense.

At Gethsemani Church we have recently reorganized our Sunday School. My mother (Rosanna Gomez) and I will be leading the younger teens. I will be teaching, and Mom will be my assistant. It is a new challenge for me, but I am excited about it. Please pray that I will be an instrument in the hands of God. †

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and WI. Pray that their time in the States will be profitable. During Tim's absence from Grace Baptist Church of Lima, Perú, Ruben Villar has been the acting pastor. Pray for Ruben and his wife as they lead this young flock of Christians.

One of the most anticipated visitors in May for me is the arrival of **Pedro & Pati Donzé** and **Carlos & Beatriz Alberti** from Uruguay. Pedro is our office administrator for EMU in Uruguay and the director of Camp Emmanuel in Guazuvirá. Beatriz is the secretary of Camp Emmanuel, and her husband has donated untold hours of labor – often painting (his vocation) – at the camp. I do love these four people very much, not just for their ministry but also for their decades of friendship. Beatriz does not receive any pay for her camp work, which is extensive.

**Jeff Davis** will be their host to take them to various churches, The Wilds, and to visit individual friends of EMU. And while in Greenville County, the troupe will be staying at the Davises' house. One of the primary goals of the quartet is to attend The Wilds staff training weeks. This has been Pedro's dream for many years! We would ask that you especially pray for Pati (spelled Pati, Paty, Patty, Patti) who has had severe health problems over the years. Our greatest concern is that she will hold up well with all the travel and foods. The group arrives in Greenville on May 15 and depart for home on June 18.

One other request concerning a Uruguayan family: **Evangelist Juan Gonzalez** was asked by **Pastor Gaby Gomez** to pick up some medicine for one of the older church members at a hospital pharmacy. While Juan was in the pharmacy, someone stole his car! As of this writing the vehicle has yet to be

recovered. Juan's car is an important tool in his ministry, and he does not have insurance to cover its replacement. Pray for the funds needed or another blessed outcome!



*Ted teaching a class in Hyderabad, India*

**Ted Allston** had a successful trip teaching and traveling in India March 7-25. His next trip will be a return visit to Kenya on May 17 to teach a group he was with before, followed by a week in Uganda. He will get home on June 5.



*Ted Allston with Billy & Saritha Judson and their two daughters*

In the last EMU Newsletter, I mentioned that **Marco Nuñez's** broken arm was not healing properly. Another x-ray revealed there was a problem with two major tendons

in his shoulder. On the last Monday of April, he had surgery to repair the damage. He should now be able to regain the range of mobility he had before his fall, and everything should heal correctly now. We are so thankful the problem could be resolved. Continue to pray for his recovery, and for **Gwendolyn** who has to wait on him!

Although the unofficial "official" start of summer begins on the last Monday in May (Memorial Day), we have already had some very warm days here in the southeast. And I look at weather maps at least once a day, so I know that some folks reading this have been hit with fresh blankets of snow as May begins. The contrasts in our weather conditions remind me of the differences among the many people who make up the missionaries with EMU and the much larger group of individuals and churches that support EMU International. Some are in the spring and summer of life, while others of us are in the fall and winter. The represented vocations and backgrounds of this represented pool adds immensely to the diversity. And yet we are one in at least the aspect of wanting to see God's Kingdom grow in part through the ministries of EMU International. Thank you for your prayers and financial support. †

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