

EMU

INTERNATIONAL

Evangelical Mission to the Unreached

Evangelical Mission to Uruguay

PROCLAIMING THE TRIUMPHS OF THE GOSPEL

Volume LXII

June 2019

Number 6



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Assistant Director*

ALONG THE WAY . . .

In the process of contemplating the subjects for this column, the word “break” seemed to keep coming up. For the fun-of-it, I referenced my dictionary program and was stunned by the diversity of this word! I don’t recall ever looking up a word with so many verb and noun uses – though surely some words have more. If a new student of English just learned the various ways “break” is used, they would have a fourth of the language comprehended! I’ll only use a fraction of those definitions here, but they will cover extremes from the joyful, to the painful, to the wicked.

Summer break was always my favorite time of year during the years of my formal education, and it continues to be for millions of students around the world. Parents have mixed emotions about the 3 summer months and their kids being out of school. Several of our EMU missionaries arrived stateside earlier this year – a few at the near cusp of May & June. We seek to plan gatherings of as many of these furloughed friends as possible. Over the past several years, the **EMU Board meeting** has taken place during the summer break and will again this year. On Saturday morning, **June 22**, we will be gathering for our annual meeting. Then for lunch a picnic will be held with as many of our missionaries who can attend, along with our Board members and their wives. Jeff Davis has also invited the parents of the missionaries. I don’t have a list of those attending, but I plan to give an update in the July EMU Newsletter.

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PASTORS SCHOOL - A PREVIEW

by JD Crowley, missionary in Ban Lung, Cambodia

It’s hard to remember when I’ve been more nervous about a Pastors School session. This Monday, May 13, the missionary community of Ratanakiri Province will begin teaching Hermeneutics I to a group of 70-plus pastors, future pastors, Bible teachers, and Bible translators. Hermeneutics is a complicated discipline and can’t be boiled down to just a few points. Even those programs that tout a 3-step hermeneutical process (like ours), add 3 or 4 sub-steps under each step (also like ours!), and the whole process is at least 10 steps.

Remember that most of our students are self-educated. Because of the remoteness of this province, and the attitude of the majority population toward the minority—not to mention the upheaval of the Khmer Rouge period when nearly all the teachers were killed—most of our students have received, at most, a third-grade education. (A handful have graduated from high school and two from college.)

This means that we can’t just use an off-the-shelf hermeneutics method, but we must create and adapt our own. So, recently I wrote a 100-page syllabus in Khmer called “*Text/Meaning/Application—Reading and Understanding the Word of God in the Presence of God*,” which tries, perhaps unsuccessfully, to simplify a complicated task. On the other hand, the students have seen us model healthy hermeneutics for almost 25 years now, and many of them have internalized “the method” that they’ve

observed in our teaching. Plus they all have the Holy Spirit of God living in them, guiding them to carefully observe God’s **text** in order to ascertain God’s **meaning**, so that they can **apply** God’s Word to themselves and their churches.

We will use the book of Ruth as our main practice text. The students prepared for this session by reading Ruth 10 to 20 times. Normally each session is 30 hours of teaching, but this time it will be just 15 hours, reserving the other 15 for practice and workshops. The week will culminate with each student preaching a 10-minute sermon on Ruth to his table-mates in his mother-tongue, with the listeners evaluating the sermon using a form we developed.

During the week we’ll learn about how to **observe** a text by asking good questions, the importance of **context**, how to identify the **genre** of the text and why that matters, how to use study tools to find out about the **history** and **cultural context** of a text, and how the text fits into the **salvation storyline** of the Bible (something they’re already pretty good at because of our 25-year emphasis on Creation to Christ).

Whew! And all that is just under the first major heading, “Text!” Under “Meaning,” we’ll learn how to write an “original meaning sentence” for a text and how to discern what the present-day meaning is (if it is somewhat different from the ancient meaning). Finally, under “Application” we’ll learn to ask how the text leads us to (1) know and love God more, (2) change and renew our thinking, and (3) change our actions (these three points are based on Romans 12:1-2).

If all this sounds like drinking water from a fire hydrant, you’ll understand why we’re nervous about this session. But with God all things are possible. The Holy Spirit can do anything He wants to do, whenever He wants to do it. Please pray.

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JD (right) teaching a workshop class

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However, another missionary family picnic developed very early in June. Joan and I have always attempted to meet with each of the EMU missionary families when they are on furlough, and sometimes it is very difficult to do so because of pre-scheduled services and travels by the missionaries. Joan has always been the one to arrange these interviews and meals. (She's amazing!) The **Farmer family** arrived in the USA from Cambodia on May 29, the day before the **Crowleys** reached Greenville, SC, to begin their 5-month furlough.

Jeremy and Bonnie Ruth Farmer have opted to make their home base Nashville, TN, where their sending church is located. Their school-age children will be attending a local Christian school during the Fall semester. Upon reaching the US, the Farmers were able to acquire a full-size van to accommodate their family-of-ten. They were also able to find housing that will meet their needs. Anyway, their location greatly limits our possibility of meeting with them, and they will not be in our area for the Board meeting. Joan was able to plan an afternoon with this family during the 1st week of June. The plan was to have them at our house for the afternoon to talk about their family and mission work, followed by a picnic at the Hampton Park Baptist Church pavilion for a pizza supper. **Josh and Amy Jensens'** family was to be in town, too, so they were invited. (Joan rightly felt that the pavilion and playground would be a great place for the 12 children to play – the 13th child doesn't walk yet.) Then we learned that **JD, Kim, and Nathaniel Crowley** would be in town, so they were invited. Three more. Kim asked if **Anna Crowley Pruden** could come as she had once helped the Farmers in Cambodia several years ago, and she was in town from Chicago to visit her parents and siblings. Not only was Anna in town, but her husband **Adam** and 2 children were here, too. Four more.

Jeremy's parents and Bonnie Ruth's mother were included. Three more. **Brooke Ilsley**, who teaches the Farmer children was in town staying with her parents and brother. Four more – Brooke's family came after supper. Joan thought my mom would like to attend, too – which she did! One more. **Charis Crowley Johansen** even showed up after supper to be with the Cambodia-crowd! It really was a wonderful time of fellowship with "extended family" – and the pizza wasn't too bad either.

*The Cambodia-team-connection picnic mob*

Joan and I were blessed to have **Jeremy, Bonnie Ruth**, and their children in our home for a few hours that afternoon. Because they have usually lived outside of the Greenville area while on furlough, and because of their location of service in Cambodia, we don't know their kids as well as we would like. So, this was a special treat. I can say with all honesty that their children are a lot of fun, have great senses of humor, and are well behaved.

Brooke Ilsley dropped by our office unexpectedly a few days before the picnic just to chat with Joan. She looks great and well rested already. Later this month she will take a road trip along the California coast with a girlfriend of hers who lives on the West Coast. She is looking forward to returning to Cambodia after her furlough. Pray for Brooke as she needs to raise additional support to live on her own when she returns.

Another Cambodia team member family that is stateside is the Hancock crew. As mentioned in the last Newsletter, **Becky Hancock** returned to her folks' house in Pennsylvania with her children in April to await the birth of their 5th child. **Matt** stayed in Ban Lung, Cambodia, until the last day of the Pastors School, and then he immediately flew to PA on May 18. Unfortunately (or fortunately, depending on your perspective of such things!), Matt arrived 3 days after the birth of **Ethan Andrew Hancock**. Ethan entered society weighing 6 pounds 7 ounces, and 20 inches "tall." We appreciate Matt staying in Cambodia to help with the teaching and training of the national pastors and church leaders, but we are sorry that he missed this momentous family event. We will not get to see them during this US trip to have the baby.

*The Hancock family with their new son*

The **Kane family** is the only Cambodia-team unit still in Cambodia! It is not optimal to have only one family out of five there alone, but it's just the way everyone's schedules worked out. You will find an article by Brian in this newsletter.

Obviously, the big event in Ratanakiri Province, Cambodia, was another session of the **Pastors School**, May 13-17. As with Brian, there is an article in this newsletter by JD concerning looking forward to the May

session. Both submissions by these men give an interesting insight into what the School is dealing with and the blessing thereof.

There were five missing persons from our early June picnic, and four of them will not be able to attend the June 22 gathering. On May 15, four of my dear Uruguayan friends arrived in Upstate SC. **Pedro & Pati Donzé** and **Carlos & Beatriz Silvera** were met by **Jeff Davis** at the GSP Airport to begin their 5-week visit

*(ft) Carlos & Beatriz, (bk) Pati & Pedro
Happy to finally be on their USA adventure*

to America. Jeff is the host for taking them around the USA. The July EMU Newsletter should have a report from Jeff or Pedro about their activities during their stay. They all 5 were at The Wilds for the staff training week and the first full week of camp, during which we had the picnic with the Cambodian team. Jeff assembled a very busy schedule for all 5 weeks. I do wish our Uruguayans could have met more of our American missionaries, but they had a LOT of ground to cover in a short time. I'm looking forward to next month's article!

Most people equate summer break with family vacation. Sadly, I don't think my kids do. But since they have all moved out, we have tried to schedule more summer family vacations with whichever of our kids and their families are able to go with us. We had a blessed time in May with **Josh's family** and **Caroline's family** (minus David, who was on call at the hospital). We rented a house for a week at a place we had never been – **Elijah's Harbor**, just outside of Greenville, TN. It was a beautiful setting with comfortable accommodations. As an extra bonus, **Brad and Peg Lapiska** – longtime friends and EMU Board member – stayed with us overnight on their way home to Delaware after visiting Brad's dad in

Cookeville, TN. By Saturday mid-day, everyone except Joan and I were headed to their homes. It just so happened to be Joan's and my 45th anniversary (June 1). Sadly, I actually slept most of the day, but I did wake up long enough for Joan and me to

*Peg & Brad with
Caroline, Bella, & Carson
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have a lovely dinner at the Harbor's mansion and a beautiful evening sitting alone by the pool as the sun set. I made an amazingly wise decision 46 years ago when I asked Joan to marry me! (I wish I could say she made a wise decision when she accepted.)

Another use of "break" has to do with bones. At the picnic, as things were winding down and dusk ensued, little 7-year old **Salem Farmer** fell off the monkey bars and injured her arm. The pain had not subsided two days later, so Jeremy and Bonnie Ruth took her to a medical center for an x-ray. Salem's left forearm was broken. The bone was set and stabilized. Not a fun way to start furlough!

In letters from Uruguay, there are two other females with EMU suffering from breaks. I have mentioned before about the bad fall that **Marianne Rauter** had which broke at least one of her upper vertebrae. She is still in pain from the injury, and the doctor has greatly limited her ministry activities, which is more painful to Marianne than the break itself!

In another letter, we learned that **Graciela Pereira** fell and hurt her arm. (Graciela is my age, but don't tell her I told you so!) As is common in Uruguay, it takes forever to receive all the treatment you need. She fell in May but won't see the doctor for a diagnosis until July. Her left arm is in a sling and is



Graciela Pereira with daughter Priscilla

giving her considerable pain. Please pray for Salem, Marianne, and Graciela to heal quickly.

The last use of "break" I will mention – maybe - has taken place in Uruguay over the last several weeks. This has to do with break-ins. In the last newsletter, I told you about the break-in and theft of evangelist **Juan Gonzalez's** vehicle, which has yet to be recovered. One of our MEU missionary widows, **Docila Torres**, lives with her widowed school-teacher daughter in the city of Pando. One day in May, as her daughter **Julia** was preparing to leave for school, she moved her car out of the garage and then went back into the house to retrieve another item. When she went back outside, her car was gone! Then there was the recent photo on Facebook that showed the busted-out window on the **Espinels'** mini-van. Nothing was stolen as no items had been left in the van. But there is the expense and time involved in repairing the window. In a letter from **Pastor Carlos Olivera**, a bit scarier break-in was related. Carlos and his wife **Mabel** were having a Bible study with a new man at their house, which is over the church. Mabel heard a noise in the back of the house as though someone was there. Carlos, Mabel, and their friend

remained quiet in the front of the house until the sound of the intruder ceased. They called the police. On inspection of the back rooms, several items had been stolen. Thankfully, a few hours later the thief was caught with the Oliveras' belongings, and their possessions were returned. Break-ins have become an epidemic in Uruguay, mainly because of the drug culture that expanded when marijuana was made legal. The perpetrators are often high on drugs and very dangerous. Pray for the safety of God's people in Uruguay and that there will be a major change in the government policies that will reverse this culture of crime.



The students in Malindi, Kenya

Ted Allston returned home in one piece from his most recent trip to Africa. He arrived in Kenya on May 17, where he taught up to 77 students for several days in the city of Malindi, just outside of Mombasa. He then traveled to Busia, Uganda, for a 2nd week to teach a group of 17 pastors the subject of hermeneutics. Ted returned home on June 5. We're looking forward to hearing his report soon.

Billy Judson had a busy May as he traveled to several of the churches that host the Good News Bible College and Seminary. On May 14, he and his father drove to Eluru District (8-hour ride) for their 16th graduation the



The graduation class in Eluru, India
Billy (2nd from left front)

next day. Out of 9 graduates, 4 of them have dedicated themselves to full-time ministry. On May 17, they continued on to Guntur District (2-hour ride) for their 2nd convocation. There another 9 students had completed the requisite study program. Seven of these graduates were dedicated to church ministry. On May 18, Billy and his dad drove to Chirala Town (another 2-hour ride) for the 17th graduation at this church. There were 25 students who graduated and 19 were dedicated to soul winning and church planting ministry. And these are just a few of the locations where the GNBCS is being taught. Continue to pray for Billy, Saritha, and their 2 daughters in Hyderabad, India.

The **Erkens** received a visit from **Joel and Dawn Gearhart** in early June. Joel is the youth and missions pastor at Hampton Park Baptist Church, the Erkens' sending church. The couple was able to visit in Steve's and Charity's classrooms at the university and their



Joel & Dawn speaking at the English Corner. Charity standing at right

church. Of course, there was time for walking through the Forbidden City and over the Great Wall, and no doubt some other excursions. Our HPBC staff pastors are planning to visit more of their missionaries on their fields each year. The Gearharts also graciously delivered a 50 lb box of items for the Erkens, taken as one of their allowable check-on pieces. It's always like Christmas when this happens! We are looking forward to hearing Joel and Dawn's account of their trip!

The **Coles** have found a house in Bordeaux, France, that they really like, and they are attempting to secure a loan for the purchase. As explained before, this process is complicated and much more difficult than in the USA. Pray for success in this endeavor. Also, the **Crnkovics**, in Koprivnica, Croatia, let us know of a large piece of property with the shell of a building on it that looks perfect for a church. This new prospect is within their price-range. Pray that there will be a "break-through" in the paperwork process so these folks can acquire the needed structures.

It's time I take a break in relaying the latest breaking news from EMU. (I know! A little too lame even for me!) Please keep our missionaries in your prayers as many are traveling on furlough while the rest remain on their field of calling. In 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18, the Apostle Paul admonishes the Thessalonians to "pray without ceasing." Can that mean we should be praying at every waking moment? You might be able to, but I certainly can't, nor can anyone I know! At least in part, I believe Paul is instructing this church not to break-off from prayer in your life. I have done that many times in my spiritual walk, where I was faithful in prayer concerning certain things and then, for various reasons, I broke-off praying either for that particular prayer request or even from prayer altogether. In light of this interpretation and application, we ask you to pray without ceasing for the EMU & MEU missionaries and their ministries. If everyone who ever began praying for EMU International continued to do so, there would be an army of prayer warriors numbering in the 10s if not 100s of thousands. But our lives change, new things become more important, we meet new people, visit new places, and the subjects of our prayers change accordingly – usually. We don't take your interest in and prayers for EMU for granted, nor do we view your prayers as superfluous. Thank you! And God bless each of you! †

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Pastors School - A Review

by Brian Kane, missionary in Ban Lung, Cambodia

Just two weeks ago, we finished the latest session of the Ratanakiri Pastors School. I really looked forward to this session. Our primary focus was on properly interpreting the Bible and doing so, specifically, in preparation to preach and teach. One change for this session was that we significantly increased the number of workshops, trying to give each of the students the time to immediately put into practice what they were learning. Consequently, this required extra people to help facilitate each of the various groups, to help them digest and begin implementing the material. We had an amazing turn out of other missionary expats both from our province and other provinces, without which this session would likely have been a failure.

The workshops revealed that while it is certainly wonderful to listen to a sermon that helps you understand the message of the book and its place in the larger Gospel story, doing it yourself is another story. Recently, our family purchased a pull-up bar for our family to use, and several of my kids are still beginning - straining and tugging just to make one pull-up. In this session of the Pastors School, many of these men began the straining and tugging necessary to prepare messages that interpret the Bible faithful to its larger story. It really was an exciting, albeit exhausting, week. JD Crowley, who prepared our curriculum, found himself needing to adapt the course even mid-stream to fit these men's speed. It really has been incredible to work with such passionate and talented co-workers. Please stop and pray for each of these pastors and church leaders as they struggle to lead and feed each of their churches. Remember that most of them have little to no formal training/schooling, and almost to a man do so as a bi-vocational pastor.

We also have an exciting new milestone in the Krung Bible translation process. We now have the completed portions of the **Krung Bible**

translation for both **iPhone and Android app!** I remember when I bought my first iPhone 4. Everyone here was awed over its touchscreen. I actually felt very guilty for owning such a flashy phone. Now my iPhone 5s is a laughable relic compared to even what some Krung kids own. Smartphones have taken the world by storm, and Cambodia with it. For a couple of years now, the Khmer translation has been available on smartphones, so the demand for the Krung Bible as an app has also steadily increased. I routinely have people asking me if I can put the Krung Bible on their phone as well, and now it can be!

I introduced it to several of the men at the Pastors School for testing and will be uploading it to the respective app stores in the next week or so. When I do, I'll send out a link so that you...well I'm not sure what you'll do with it. Maybe you'd like to download it on your phone and use it as a reminder to praise God for His love for the nations, that His words are for everyone. Also, you could slap it next to your Facebook or Instagram and it'd remind you to pray for the Krung as often as you read your social news.

Thank you also for continuing to pray for **Lydia's health**. Her situation is in many ways unchanged, so she returned to the Philippines last week (May 18-25) for follow up examinations and more testing. Most of the follow-up was positive, but there are some issues with her thyroid that the doctors would like to follow-up with again in 3 months. So, she'll be heading back in August. In the meantime, please pray that she'll be able to find the right balance of rest and work that will keep her symptoms from flaring up, and please pray that the doctors will discover whatever they need to. In addition, as many of you very well know, all physical trials become spiritual ones and more significantly so as they drag on. Please pray that our trust in God will continue to grow deeper and stronger through this. †

Pastors School - A Preview

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Firm Foundations teaching to Vietnamese church leaders in Phnom Penh this April was quite miraculous. The main church leader, who was obviously negative to the whole idea of Creation-to-Christ teaching and evangelism, was totally on board by the end of the week. Astonishing! Again, God can do anything He wants to do, whenever He wants to do it. Thank you for praying.

At the recent dedication of the new **Radio Ministry Studio** next to the EMU office, a villager gave a testimony about his unsaved neighbors who not only listen to the hour-and-a-half broadcast every night, but they also stream it through their huge boom box for everyone else in the village to hear! Let that sink in.

In 2 weeks **Nathaniel** will leave his boyhood home to go to college. The three of us will spend the summer in Greenville, SC, and, Lord willing, Kim and I will return to Cambodia in October—bereft of our children for the first time, but excited about this last chapter of our lives. Pray for Nathaniel. †



Brian Kane teaching one of the classes

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