

# EMU<sup>+</sup>

## INTERNATIONAL

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Evangelical Mission to Uruguay

PROCLAIMING THE TRIUMPHS OF THE GOSPEL

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Assistant Director

### ALONG THE WAY . . .

*To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.*  
(Ecclesiastes 3:1)

**Tanja Crnković** uses this verse to begin her letter that is included in this month's EMU Newsletter. In reviewing the subjects I want to include in this column, this verse seems a perfect opening here, too. You are all probably somewhat familiar with Solomon's list of contrasts from verses 2-8. Though not as well delineated as in Tanja's article, I trust you will find the following information fodder for prayer and rejoicing.

A short time after **Tim and Cheryl Chapman** and their children returned home to Lima, Perú, after their furlough, Cheryl's father, **Carl Monroe**, passed away in Midland, MI. Though not in stellar health during their furlough, Carl's death was a surprise so soon after the Chapmans' leaving the States. The Chapmans immediately flew back to Michigan for the August 12 funeral at Calvary Baptist Church of Midland. Cheryl remained with her mother for the month to help sort things out, while Tim and the kids returned to Lima where the children's second semester classes had started. (South of the equator, August is still winter.) Though I don't remember having met Carl Monroe more than once, over the years I have heard many people speak of his love for his family and God's Kingdom on earth. He leaves behind a wonderful legacy. He is greatly missed

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## FOR EVERY PURPOSE UNDER HEAVEN

by Kornel & **Tanja Crnković**, ministering in Koprivnica, Croatia

King Solomon tells us, *To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.* (Ecclesiastes 3:1) Our lives and our world are not controlled by an impersonal god, but by a gracious God Who works out all things according to the purpose of His will (Eph 1:11), and we can rest knowing that nothing takes Him by surprise or throws Him off course. In our last letter, we asked you to pray with us for some specific requests. We want to share with you how the Lord in His time answered and worked in the various ministries as a result of your prayers.

**A time to embrace:** Our baptismal service was held on July 7 at 2 p.m. at the Drava River. The forecast was for a cloudy and rainy day. But the Lord gave us sunshine for the actual baptismal. Then He blessed us with showers of rain, along with our showers of blessings. We praise God for **Valentina**, a young mother of two girls who got saved last winter and is going through a divorce, and for **Ivan**, Petra's brother. Both boldly testified that Jesus is their Lord and Savior. We pray for them as they continue in their daily walks with their Savior – for a steadfast faith and an ongoing growth in their knowledge of the Lord. Pray for Valentina as she faces a difficult time –

her unsaved husband filed for a divorce before Valentina was saved. Pray for their two little girls, **Lilly** (age 7) and **Rea** (age 5). They go to see their dad every other weekend. Their dad is trying to get custody. The girls love coming to church and Sunday school. Ivan is a quiet and humble young man. He is in his junior year at college. Last year, his mother, **Drazenka**, was baptized. We praise God for saving Ivan and his mother. This was an answer to Luka's prayers (**Luka** was Petra's husband who died three years ago). One question that bothers Drazenka is, "Why did Luka have to die so we would make the effort to come to church? But we accept it as God's sovereign and perfect plan."

### **A time to build up and a time to laugh:**

This year's **summer youth camp** took place July 19-27 at the same camp site as the last few years, in the town of Poveljana on the island of Pag. Each year we are faced with new challenges, but at the same time we experience new blessings and encouragements from the Lord. This year's challenges were, "How do we accommodate 168 people? Do we have enough tents? Is the kitchen adequate to cook meals for such a large group? Do

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(l-r) Kristina, Andrea, Tanja, Ivan, Valentina, Natanael, Kornel, & Marko

## A Time for Every Purpose

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Summer youth camp in Croatia

we have enough finances to pay for all the expenses?" Today we can say the Lord is faithful, and He provided for our every need. The 12 messages preached during the week were from Matthew 5-7, the Sermon on the Mount. The campers divided into teams and competed in different areas – but the main emphasis is always on God's Word and the memorization of Bible verses. This year, the young people memorized 1,986 Bible verses. Some of them memorized all three chapters of Matthew 5, 6, and 7. There were several unsaved campers. Every day they heard a clear gospel message preached. Please pray for their salvation. The two unsaved husbands of two of our church members, Goran, Natalija's husband, and Mladen, Zvezdana's husband, came to camp again this year. Goran has been coming faithfully to church for the past year. He has been struggling with his sins, and the Lord has been working in his heart. He battled with the Lord and at the end of the week, he surrendered – he confessed his sins to the Lord and accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior. Praise God for the miracle of salvation in Goran's life. Please continue to pray for Mladen. He, too, is struggling. The Lord is speaking to his heart – pray for his salvation!

**A time to die and a time to mourn:** Two of our church members have lost their fathers in the past couple of months. **Natalia's** father died of a heart attack, and **Antonia's** father died three weeks ago due to several health issues. Both ladies are from non-believing families. Their families are traditional Roman Catholics. Pray for them as they witness to their mothers and their unsaved family members.

### **A time to build: A new church building?**

In our last letter we shared some pictures of a potential church building. As of today, the legal issues haven't been resolved. The owner wasn't able to fulfill his obligations to us by June 1<sup>st</sup> as promised. In the meantime, we have found another possible building. As you can see in the pictures, it needs a lot of work, primarily finishing! We are in the process of negotiating with the owner. The price is right and the possibilities are great. Thank you for your faithful prayers and for the gifts you have already given towards this project. Please continue to pray for wisdom



Above: Roadside view of the property

Below left: The first floor

Below right: The second floor



that we will make the right decision. Our current landlord has been gracious and is allowing us to stay a little longer.

*(kj - A short time after the Crnković's letter arrived, Tanja wrote to confirm that the property had been purchased for 55,000 Euros from their church savings. And the congregation has another €55k for much needed renovations. Replacing the damaged roof will cost at least 20,000 Euros. The Crnković's let it be known that they would be interested in building team(s) from the USA to assist in transforming this structure into a functional church building.)*

**A time to dance (rejoice):** **Andrea**, our oldest daughter, will finish her freshman year in September at the Music Academy of Osijek. She has a couple more exams left. She will start her sophomore year in October.

**Kristina**, our second daughter, was accepted into the College of Education in a town called Petrinja (south of our capital city Zagreb). She wants to be a preschool teacher. It is about 2 hours by car from our home. There is no student dormitory, so we need to find a place for her to rent. There is a good Baptist church in town pastored by Natanael's (our co-pastor) brother. We praise God for opening this new door for Kristina. Pray for her as she enters this new path in her life.

**Marko**, our oldest son, is starting high school in the fall. At the same time, he will continue his music school education. He will be going to two different schools.

**Tanja** has successfully passed all of her classes and has earned her accreditation!!

Please continue to pray for the situation at her school. It is still uncertain if she will be able to continue to work there.

### **A time to heal and a time to build up:**

Our family is presently (end of July) on vacation for a few days. We are resting and recharging our batteries for the next ministry which will start August 1<sup>st</sup> – distribution of Christian literature. Last Sunday, as a family, we were able to visit the Baptist Church in Sibenik – their pastor died a month ago. We used to visit this church during our ministry in Split. They are without a pastor, so our family was invited to come and serve through music and preaching from God's Word.

### **A time to die, mourn, weep, and love:**

While in the south of Croatia, we plan to visit the town of Split as well as attend two funerals. The Lord chose to call home a faithful servant – the wife of a pastor from Split who we have ministered with at the children's camps. The second funeral is for one of our former church members, an elderly lady who we came to love as one of our own grandmothers. We want to be an encouragement to the family members of both ladies.

In closing, we would like you to please pray with us for the upcoming events:

- > the beginning of a new school year
- > Tanja's job at school
- > decisions concerning the Church building
- > the wedding of our church members **Katarina and Neven** on September 6th

Thank you for faithfully uplifting us in prayer and for your support. †

## ALONG THE WAY . . .

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by family, friends, and the folks at Calvary Baptist (who are also his friends!). Pray especially for the Monroe family.

Although not with EMU for very long, **Susan Watkins** served through EMU at a teaching hospital in China until about two years ago. After leaving China, she moved back to Greenville, SC, where her mother, sister, and aunt live. In early August, **Anne Watkins** was found to have advanced cancer. Just over two weeks later she passed away. Her funeral was at Hampton Park Baptist Church on August 29. Our pastor's wife, **Mary Ellen Conley**, is Anne's sister. Anne was also the daughter of **Dr. and Mrs. Otis Holmes** of BJU. Pray for Susan and her family.

I do not know of any of our missionary families who are "infanticipating" at this time, but a letter from our Camp Emmanuel caretaker in Uruguay let us know that **Luis Rios** will be adding two more grandchildren to his family tree. And the parents are active members of Calvary Temple of Montevideo.

Also in Uruguay, two of our missionary families will celebrate two weddings for the same two children – September 6 for the civil ceremony and September 14 for the church wedding. **Analia Diaz** and **Jeferson**



(l-r) Jeferson, Pablo, Christina, Frederic, and Anderson Billaflan

**Billaflan** are getting married. **Alberto Diaz** pastors Emmanuel Church of San Fernando, and **Pablo Billaflan** is the pastor of Calvary Temple of Rivera. Having known this couple all of their lives, it's a real blessing to see this union.

While visiting in the States in June, **Paty Donzé's** health was amazingly good. Not long after returning to Uruguay, however, she began having severe back (shoulder) pain. The doctors are still trying to decide on the prognosis and treatment. **Pedro**, in addition to driving his wife to hospital visits in Montevideo – about 45 minutes from their house – is catching up on his work in the office and at Camp Emmanuel. Thankfully, **Marcos Gomez** was able to keep some of this work current. One major project has been in the planning for almost a year – the flooding basement/office at the mission house in Montevideo. It seems the major work has been completed and paid for. Pedro is looking forward to having the office moved from the first-floor "salon" to the basement again. I just learned, too, that Calvary Temple of Montevideo, just

two doors down from the mission house, was also having water problems in their basement, which are now fixed – and paid for!

A letter from **Chicha Rodriguez** in Uruguay was filled with interesting news. She has been visiting the **women's prison** in southern Uruguay for decades, holding Bible classes and witnessing to inmates and jailors. Recently, well, let me quote from Chicha's report:

*"We began in May doing new paperwork to continue our ministry at the women's prison. According to prison authorities, they are now demanding a new registration for the religious groups that visit the prison. For many years, only EMU had a ministry of sharing the Gospel to the inmates. Recently more and more groups have started visiting the jail, all with different teachings and doctrines. After 6 weeks of praying, waiting, and calling, finally today, they gave us permission. This coming Friday, we will make our visit. Pray that God will continue helping us to sow the Truth, and that Truth will prevail over falsehood and deception."*

*"Meanwhile, a journalist called our EMU office in Montevideo. She was doing a report on the jail and wanted to learn about our work in the women's prison. We had a telephone interview. She had many questions. For instance: what religious group are we, why do we go, how long have we done it, if we are paid to do it, what effect or results have been achieved, what do we say to the inmates, etc. Great questions to explain the Gospel. When she finished with all her questions, she asked me if I had any questions for her... I told her, 'Yes, I have a question.' And that gave me the opportunity to speak to her personally about her soul!"*

Chicha's schedule has also been dotted with speaking and attending **ladies' retreats**. In August, she taught at a ladies' retreat at a camp with Centros Biblicos in Paysandú in northern Uruguay. Then on August 18-19, she travelled to Buenos Aires, Argentina, to speak at a retreat for another mission organization. Chicha's sister-in-law, **Sandra**, was the co-teacher to about sixty women. September 18-21 a spring retreat will be held at Camp Bethel in northeastern Uruguay, which Chicha will help with. One of our former MEU missionaries, **Zulema Kowalczyk Lopez**, will be the teacher. October 16-19 will be the spring ladies' retreat at Camp Emmanuel in the south. A missionary lady from another board will be the speaker.

A winter semester break camp was held at **Camp Emmanuel** at which **Nicolas Gomez** taught on Joseph. **John Mark Steel** and another friend of MEU taught on Christian music. Thirty-six young people attended this very cold half-week of camp. They even had sleet one day. And there is no cabin heat! A very good group of men also attended the men's winter retreat at Camp Emmanuel.



Men's winter retreat at Camp Emmanuel

We ask you to continue to pray for **Marianne Rauter**, one of our missionaries in Montevideo. She is still having difficulty as a result of a fall she had earlier this year. Also, she used to be our main Spanish/English translator for Uruguay correspondence. Her eyes have deteriorated to the point that she cannot continue this ministry. In addition, **Chicha Rodriguez** mentioned "in passing" that she (Chicha) fell in May and needed seven stitches! She says she is fine.

Last year I mentioned in an "Along the Way" that one of our part-time young ladies left her job because of continuing sin in her life. I would be remiss not to let you know that she wrote a letter to her church confessing and forsaking her sin. The Steels are working closely with her. We greatly rejoice in this! Pray for **Vanessa** as she seeks to follow the Lord once again.

The **Republic of Uruguay** has had a socialist/communist national government for many election cycles. And long before that, the capital city of Montevideo had leaders from this same party. Though religious freedom continues, taxes are high, and unions run the country. In the last several years, marijuana, same-sex marriage, "gender-identity," abortion, and many other "progressive" policies have been adopted – with the majority blessing of the voting populous. I've not held out hope that the country will ever turn around – until recently. I've been encouraged by two amazing things that have taken place, which I never expected. The first is stated in the above paragraph. The second is that it snowed in Uruguay. That rarely happens! One of our missionaries in Uruguay posted a video on Facebook of this phenomenon. In my 50-year experience with Uruguay, I believe this is the first time for a good snow since 1960. Our missionaries in Uruguay do ask that you pray for the October national elections.

Moving has been a major minor theme for EMU missionaries lately. On August 15, **Josh and Amy Jensen** kidnapped five of our grandkids and returned to Cambodia! It was wonderful to have their family in and out of the Greenville area for a few months. Their flight to Phnom Penh was generally uneventful. After taking care of shopping and business in the capital, they drove first to Ban Lung and then on to **Oyadao**. If you can imagine an un-air-conditioned house closed up (more or less) for months during monsoon season, that is what the Jensens

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## ALONG THE WAY...

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returned to. Josh has started back to work with his translation team, and Amy has started home schooling again.



(l-r) Ezra, Amy, Becca, Anna, Clara, Isaiah, & Josh Jensen with passports ready to go!

When the **Crowleys** return to Ban Lung in October, they will begin a new period in their lives as empty nesters. **Nathaniel** begins classes at Bob Jones University this month. However, during JD and Kim's furlough, they did add another grandchild as **Taylor and Emmie Crowley** had their first child, **Marcus**, on July 24 here in Greenville.

**Jeremy and Bonnie Ruth Farmer** had their crew in Greenville again in late August. During their stay of just a few days, they had a drop-in at a local park for family, friends, and fellowship. **Jeremy Farmer** and **Brooke Illsley** presented their ministries at their home church of Heritage Bible that Sunday. On Wednesday, Jeremy and some friends helped Jeremy's parents load up a moving truck. **Durwood and Carol Farmer** have moved to be closer to their daughters in Pennsylvania. Joan will miss them as she and Carol have become special friends since Jeremy and his family came with EMU in 2009.

The **Coles** have moved into their **new house** in the Bordeaux, France, area. Many folks helped with cleaning, electrical

work, painting, cabinets, plumbing, etc. to get the house ready. This new location is a short walk from the kids' school, and the payments for the home loan are less than their previous rental house – not to mention a lower electric bill. There are still some major renovations to be done to add another room and bathroom. This has been an exhausting time for the Coles, but they are so grateful to have their own house now. **Krista Colas** traveled from Saint Denis in the north to Bordeaux to help the Coles for a week of help.

The **Bixbys** are not moving, but the **Baptist Church of Sarcelles**, France, will be **dedicating the new church building** at the end of September. The Bixbys have USA family visiting them in preparation for the dedication this month. After a busy summer and before school starts in September for the kids, their family took a few days' vacation north to Holland, a country filled with religious history. (I'm still not used to seeing **Simeon** in the family photos!)



(l-r) Tim, Micaiah, Ruth, Simeon, Miriam, Gabriel, Zacharie Bixby in Holland

There is a time to write and a time to stop writing, and the time has come for the latter. September is a transition month as summer ends and fall begins. Change is one thing we can count on in life. But thankfully our God is unchanging in His love for us and His purpose to build His Church. May we remain faithful to our One unchangeable. †

## Funds needed for Rick's Work Team at Camp Emmanuel in October

- 1) Repair the bathroom partitions (\$890)
- 2) New stainless steel shelves for the kitchen (\$6,100)
- 3) Convert the old water tank into a storage area for games and supplies (\$575)
- 4) Concrete work on the sidewalks for Cabins 1 – 4 (\$2,915)
- 5) Concrete work on the floors in the cabins (\$848)
- 6) Security bars for cabins 7 and 8, and for the Dining Room (\$1,860)
- 7) Painting the security bars (\$585)
- 8) Improvements to the game area, including a climbing wall (\$2,615)
- 9) Maintenance of current game structures (\$630)
- 10) Installation of new screen and projector in the chapel (\$830)
- 11) Installation of air conditioning in Dining Room and Chapel (\$5,845)

**Total: \$23,693**

He also would love to see us tackle two big projects:

- 1) Two new cabins constructed from shipping containers (\$23,915)
- 2) Remodeling the barbecue area (\$7,860)

**Big Projects Total: \$31,775 †**

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