

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 . . .

Hope deferred makes the heart sick: but when the desire comes, it is a tree of life. (Proverb 13:12) I quote this verse so often that I sometimes think it's my "life verse"! September 23 was the beginning of fall. It was also the continuation of temps in South Carolina at or above 90°, humid, and with drought conditions. Unless you are from Phoenix, Arizona, this is not fall weather! The whole idea of fall is not to sweat when you just think about stepping outside. My "hope" is that by the time the November EMU Newsletter needs to be written, that "desire" will be here!

I also thought of this verse after my **mom's** first medical procedure in September. (For those of you who do not know **George and Marilyn Jensen**, they entered what is now EMU International in 1967 and served with this mission until their retirement a few years ago. Many folks across the USA and around the world remember them, and we receive periodic requests concerning their health.) In August, following a routine physical, she was told she needed further testing on her heart, which led to a diagnosis of a problem with a heart valve that needed to be replaced. Through a misunderstanding, she thought when she went in for the first "operation" on September 5 that the doctor was going to replace the valve at that time. Joan seemed to be the only one who knew what was really going on! The procedure for that day was a heart cath in which a camera was inserted through an artery in her

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Camper Sponsorship

It is not my preference to have side-by-side donor "opportunities" in a newsletter, but such is the reality this month! Every year at about this time, we present the Camp Emmanuel Sponsorship Fund to assist campers who would not otherwise be able to attend summer camp and to help with the expenses of camp staff (not salaries or other compensations) so Camp Emmanuel can afford to have staff. Many hundreds of campers and staff have benefitted from the generous donations from our newsletter readers over the years.

The cost for a week of camp is around \$95 per child, be they elementary, adolescent, or Joven. (Joven = 16 years to low 20s) Last year the fee was \$100, but the Uruguayan peso lost value against the US dollar during 2019 so the exchange rate is in favor of the dollar, i.e. more pesos per dollar. The sponsored campers are not all given the same amount as some are able to pay part of the cost, or their church pays for part. However, some do receive a full sponsorship from the States. (Just as a reminder, there are few – if any – Christian camps in the US at which the camper fees fully cover the cost of operating the camp. Additional outside help is needed and appreciated!)

One of the problems we have dealt with for decades is the transportation cost for people from the interior of Uruguay to attend Camp Emmanuel, which is located on the southern coast. Over the years, as EMU sold its vehicles, the interior folks were left to their own devices for transportation to and from camp. The cost of travel has resulted in few interior children and youth attending Camp Emmanuel. One of the purposes of Camp Emmanuel – as our flagship camp – is for children, youth, and families from around Uruguay to fellowship together rather than just regionally.

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Camp Projects

"Rick's Team" to Camp Emmanuel in Uruguay has evolved in an unusual way this year. Thus far, when Rick Jensen flies

out of the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport on October 19, he will be the only American member of the team on the plane. For a host of reasons, those Rick contacted about going to work at Camp Emmanuel with this work team were unable to go. However, there is a small group from a church in Alaska that will arrive in Uruguay a day before Rick lands in Montevideo. The Alaska team is from one of the Steels' supporting churches, and John Mark invited them to Uruguay to help with some projects at the Mission House where the Steels live. This team will be spending their nights at Camp Emmanuel and commuting to Montevideo most days. However, they have volunteered to help at the camp for two days.

As always, camp director Pedro Donzé is building a team from among our Uruguay churches to help complete the proposed projects at Camp Emmanuel. Besides the list below in yellow, there are a host of other camp maintenance projects to be done during the week of Rick's visit, such as painting, grounds work, and general repairs.

We are thankful for the donations that have come in for the projects so far this year. The list in the yellow box on page 4 is a revised list of the projects we would like to see accomplished. The "strike-through" items are already funded. Let me give some brief comments on the remaining "needs." #2 – the kitchen currently has concrete and wooden shelves. Termites and tiny wood-borers have reduced the interior volume of the wood over the years. The government regulations now require stainless steel shelves, but we are "grandfathered in." But what the municipality does not immediately require, the termites and

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Mom with her two favorite sons
leg, giving access to the heart. The surgeon found two main problems: a partial aorta blockage and the weak valve. As Mom came out of the mild anesthetic in the recovery room, Joan and I told her what the doctor had just related to us - that she would need to have two more "procedures" to correct the two maladies. I cannot remember Mom being more downcast than when she heard the news that "her hope was deferred."

The next two procedures took place one and two weeks after this first one – the stent first and a new valve a week later. All three of these hospital visits took all day, with the latter two requiring an overnight stay. My brother and sister-in-law, sister, and Joan and I all worked around Mom's schedule going to and from the hospital and spending the night with her after she went home from the surgeries. She came through these procedures with flying colors – the colors being black and blue marks on her forearms from the IVs! We are very thankful that Marilyn is doing great.

My **father** continues under hospice care at a nursing facility. He seems to eat less and less each week and is rather thin. Other than very rare comments he makes that are cogent, there is little evidence that he is aware of his environment. Most of his time is spent sleeping, even during our visits. Some of you who live in the Greenville area or who visit here have gone to Brookdale to see Dad. We thank you for that. And you especially understand when I say that we who love Dad most desire that he soon be



Agnes is my sister's Great Pyrenees, trained as a therapy dog. Dad loves this huge animal & got a kick out of Agnes coopting his bed.

in his Heavenly Home with a whole mind and no more suffering. We appreciate your prayers.

Hector Gomez, who lives with his wife in Rivera, Uruguay, is supposed to be retired, but when I read his prayer letters, he seems to be as busy in the ministry as ever, though he is no longer the senior pastor of Calvary Temple of Rivera. He and **Graciela** are saving for a mission trip to Equatorial Guinea to help in a church and orphanage for six months beginning in March 2020. This is not an EMU sponsored trip, so I don't know much about it. (As a side note, a couple of months ago, the Gómezes had a



Graciela & Hector Gomez of Rivera

break-in at their house and some or most of their Africa plane ticket money was stolen. Hector and Graciela are undeterred and continue to save. A few of our churches in Uruguay have also given to help with their plans.) However, the Gómezes need our prayers this month especially. On September 23, Hector underwent some special tests on his heart. He has some artery blockages that requires open heart surgery. It is scheduled for October 1 in Montevideo. One complication is that Hector has had diabetes for many years. Before going to Africa in March, Hector (and I think Graciela) are hoping to work at the summer camps at Camp Emmanuel.



*Micaela (D), Nelson (D), Analia (D), Jeferson (B), Fernando (B), Anderson (B), Sharon (D) [D=Diaz; B=Billafan]
All the Diaz girls are married now.*

A hope that was realized in Uruguay was the September **Billafán/Diaz wedding** of two of our missionary kids – to each other! It is always a blessing when our MKs marry godly people. The couple said their vows at a ceremony in the chapel at Camp Emmanuel. (Pastor Pablo Billafán serves in

the pastorate in Rivera, and Pastor Alberto Diaz is in San Fernando.)



The Tacuarembó / Rivera ladies' spring meeting

Several of our churches in Uruguay have a special outreach to ladies in the church and community each spring. The ladies in the church in **Tacuarembó** invited the ladies from the **Rivera** church to join them for this spring's meeting. The church in Tacuarembó continues to be without a full-time pastor. Men in the church cover the preaching, and the other ministries of Sunday school and hospital visitation continue as before. Carlos and Graciela Pereira, who retired from the pastorate many years ago and moved to Tacuarembó, are a real help.

Also, **Camp Bethel** held its spring women's camp in September. As usual, over a dozen ladies from southern Brazil joined the Uruguayans for the several-day retreat.

Pastor **Ovidio Acevedo's** prayer letter from El Cerro, Uruguay, included some encouraging news about the training program that is going on in Emmanuel Church of El Cerro. Ovidio has for many years had a burden to have the opportunity to train someone(s) to take his place as pastor and lead the church. And there have been several ups-and-downs along the way. Currently, Ovidio is teaching a class on homiletics to nine of his church members – six men and three women. He states that in his thirty-one years of pastoring, this is the largest number of men who have at one time expressed a desire to preach.

Several of our Uruguayan missionaries have asked prayer concerning the general **election** that will take place on Sunday, October 27. (Rick Jensen and a team from Alaska will still be in Uruguay, leaving 2-3 days later. There is no anticipation of any violence or unrest due to the election.) Many Christians in Uruguay are discouraged about the recent referendum vote that conservatives lost earlier in the year. The Lord can always send revival, but He has not seen fit to do so yet.

JD and Kim Crowley will be returning home to Cambodia on October 21 following some very busy weeks with meetings up north. We will miss seeing them here in Greenville. Their end-of-September schedule became a bit more complicated with the passing of JD's brother-in-law **Terry Overstreet**. (Terry's wife **Sharon** and I graduated from Bob Jones Academy together in 1971.) The funeral was held on
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ALONG THE WAY...

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Kim Crowley (rt) with daughters (l-r) Jenna, Anna, and Charis.

Funerals often lead to reunions.

September 28 in Blacksburg, Huddleston, and Bedford, Virginia. On Sunday the 29th, JD and Kim had a service in Parkersburg, OH, at Pastor Joey Ward's church. Though Terry was in poor health for years leading up to his death, this is a time of sorrow and rejoicing for the Overstreet family and friends. Remember them in prayer, please.

The Crowleys have missed most of the **monsoon season** in Cambodia, as have the Farmers. But the monsoon didn't miss Cambodia. Earlier this summer I read a National Geographic article lamenting Global Warming and the severe drought and low river levels in Cambodia this rainy season. Within two weeks, pictures of Stung Treng, where the **Farmers** and **Brooke Illsley** live when in Cambodia, were posted on Facebook! The city of Stung Treng is on the Stung Treng River about a mile before the river empties into the Mekong River in northern Cambodia. The Farmers' house is a half block from the river. No word on the condition of the Farmers' house, but it is built on stilts, so the upper floor should be okay. The ground level room could be a different story!



Can you imagine going to your local hospital like this! Stung Treng Referral Hospital

Brooke Illsley returned to the States with the Farmers at the end of May for their furlough. Though the **Farmers** will remain Stateside until February 2020, Brooke is heading back to Cambodia on October 28. Her plan is to live in Phnom Penh for several months while she does some intensive study of the Khmer language in order to enhance and expand her ministry when she returns to Stung Treng. When the Farmers return to Cambodia, Brooke will

again be helping this missionary family of ten.

Josh and Amy Jensen returned to Cambodia the middle of August. After spending a week in the capital, Phnom Penh, they drove home to Oyadao in the northeast of the country. (Oyadao is due east of Ban Lung along the "main highway" that goes to the Vietnam border.) Two weeks later, the second **Jarai language Foundations Bible School** was held. The details of the four-day school were mostly planned by the Jarai pastors in the Oyadao area. Though Josh taught two of the sessions, the rest of the teaching was done by the Jarai leaders. Just over fifty students, including five women, made their way to Oyadao to hear continued teaching on the Creation to Christ series. There seems to be real enthusiasm among the churches to disseminate this material in their churches. Josh said there were seventeen requests for the visual materials used in the sessions. (Shown in the picture of Pastor Chuet.)



Pastor Chuet teaching at the Jarai Foundations Bible School



The Jarai students with their certificates showing they completed the second course of the Jarai Foundations Bible School

In August, **Ted Allston** made another visit to Kenya, this time with his second son, **Ben**. Ben and some other folks in the States have an orphanage outreach in Kenya called "58ten." This trip was an encouragement to Ted, and gave him some extra time with Ben. Ted also did some one-on-one teaching



Ted and Ben Allston in Kenya
It's hard to see but that's a rhino to the left.

with Hussein, a young man in Kenya.

Tom and Connie Chapman are back in Antofagasta, Chile, after being in Monterrey, Mexico, for a few weeks in the summer with family. **Nathan Chapman**, their oldest grandson, married a young lady from Mexico. **Tom, Jr.** and his wife are serving the Lord at the Christian university of UCLA in that city. The families of **Susan Chapman Bixby** and **David Chapman** also minister at UCLA. This was the first wedding of one of Tom and Connie's grandkids.

We do not have further word on the purchase of the new church building in Koprivnica, Croatia. The congregation has a lot of renovations to do before it is usable as a church facility. Starting this month, **Kornel and Tanja Crnković** have both their daughters away at college and living out of the home. Pray that the Lord will protect and guide these two young ladies, and may they be salt and light in their college settings. The two Crnković boys are still attending school locally, so the nest is not empty yet!

September 29 was the Sunday for the dedication of the new church building in Sarcelles, France. The **Bixbys** had a lot of activity getting ready for this event. And with the new baby, it's probably more exhausting – at least for **Ruth**. We are looking forward to updating you in an upcoming newsletter on the special activities.

The **Coles** continue to settle into their new house. There is still a lot of work to do, though the Coles are already living there. In the meantime, the congregation in Pessac, France, continues to look for a larger facility to rent or buy. They have a real need for classrooms and a larger sanctuary. Pray especially for Michael as he leads this flock.

Three and a half years ago, Billy Judson purchased a Samsung printer for the Good News Bible College and Seminary ministry that he and his father have lead for many years. Thousands of church members in churches throughout India have graduated from this program. Billy let us know that the printer is in need of an Imaging and Fuser Unit, which will cost \$462. If you would like to help with this ministry expense, Billy would greatly appreciate it.



Jeff Davis preaching at West Milford Baptist

Jeff Davis was at a few conferences in September including Fellowship of Missions and the Upper Cross Roads Baptist Church mission conference. He also

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Camper Sponsorship

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By renting a bus to ferry children from the interior, we can service our churches in Rivera, Tacuarembó, Las Flores, Tranqueras, and other areas where MEU missionaries visit and hold services. The cost for a bus that would hold forty-eight people would be \$2,900 total. (For a perspective of distance, Rivera is about 315 miles from Montevideo, and, I believe the route would have to go through Montevideo before the final leg to camp. This is a little over six hours one-way. The other cities mentioned are basically along the main road between Rivera and Montevideo. This would add \$60 to the cost for each camper from the interior.

Some of the churches in Uruguay are already saving to help with the bus rental. If you would like to give towards the bus rental, please designate your gift as such. If you prefer to just give towards the camp fee sponsorship of \$95 per camper, that would be extremely helpful as well. Thank you in advance for whatever you are able to do to help make the summer camps at Camp Emmanuel in January and February a success! †



Children who were able to attend camp through the Sponsorship Fund



Camp Projects

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wood-bores are determined to require! #6-7 – Most houses and businesses in Uruguay sport security bars on their windows. About half of our buildings at camp already have security bars, and it is desirous to continue this process, though thankfully, we have yet to have a break-in at camp involving a window as point of entrance. #8 – the climbing wall “holds” have already been donated to the camp. The cost for wood to construct a horizontal climbing wall. #11 – much of the cooking at camp is done on the large grill and expansive iron stove top heated by a wood fire. This area is out-of-doors from the kitchen. It is covered, but has no protection from rain, wind, or cold on two sides. Also, the kitchen staff usually take their meals on this porch. Pedro Donzé and Rick have discussed the modifications that a screened enclosure would require. †

- 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) Remodeling the barbecue area (\$7,860)

Along the Way . . .

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visited one of EMU’s long-time supporting churches, West Milford Baptist Church in West Virginia. It was good to have their new pastor meet personally with someone from EMU. In October he plans to attend BJU’s Global Opportunity Conference, the E3 Conference, Shepherds 360 conference, and Appalachian Bible College conference. He’ll also visit Calvary Community of Alcoa, TN; Grace Baptist of East Flat Rock, NC; and Grace Baptist of Wilmington, NC.

Joan and I plan to take several days out of the office this month in order to complete an EMU project that has not been completed because of everyday office work. We had to do this a few years back when we wrote the EMU Policy Manual. Joan’s second brother and his wife are letting us use their beautiful log cabin in Blue Ridge, GA, for this project. If I don’t give you an update next month, the trip was a failure!

I’m thinking that our missionaries in Cancún, Mexico, Cambodia, and Hyderabad, India, do not have spring, winter, or fall – only monsoon season and dry season. The rest of our EMU missionaries very much look forward to the coming of fall and spring. Regardless of the season, there seems to be little let-up of the busy-ness of our missionaries in evangelizing, preaching, and teaching. Your prayers are continually needed and appreciated. And a special thanks to those of you who let our individual missionaries know you are praying for them. Someday, our hope as Christians will be realized to the fullest. †

Email: office@emuinternational.org
Website: www.emuinternational.org
Phone: (864) 268-9267