

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 . . .

An oversight in last month's mailing of the EMU Newsletter, which contained the **Christmas Fund** announcement, resulted in the **Christmas Fund** envelope not being included in the mailing. (Just prior to Thanksgiving, only one Uruguay Christmas gift was received in our office. So, maybe the special envelopes actually help!) If you do not receive the paper copy of the Newsletter or you prefer to give electronically to the **Christmas Fund** offering, this can be accomplished through the EMU website:

www.emuinternational.org

or by clicking on the "GIVE" link included in the MailChimp format.

JD Crowley has been making good progress toward recovery from his stroke suffered at the end of October in Cambodia. Continue to pray for him and Kim.

The Kanes arrive in Greenville, SC, on December 4 to begin an eight-month furlough. Brian's younger brother and Dad found a vehicle for them that will hold all the Brian Kane family - 7 children, 2 adults, and then some!

Tom and Connie Chapman begin a 3-month furlough during which they will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with family in eastern North Carolina and then with friends and family in Taylors, SC, at the end of December.

May the Lord grant you a blessed Christmas and New Year! †

"THE WALLS CAME TUMBLING DOWN"

by Jeff Davis, director of EMU

It was a cold and dreary morning in Croatia when I found myself working alongside a group of Christian brothers who I will not soon forget. Our task for the morning was to knock down a wall in the twenty-five-year-old, newly purchased church building in order to provide for a wider auditorium. This would necessitate providing support for the second floor, then knocking down the wall, and finally adding a massive support beam. After working on a section, removing one brick at a time, we had a large section of the wall down and a small section standing. One of the men had cleared the top section and called two others over to help. The three leaned against the bricks and with one unified push we began to sing, "... and the walls came tumbling down."



Jeff & Kornel dismantling a wall at the new church building

As the red dust from the bricks filled the air, I could not help but think back to thirty years earlier. It was November 9, 1989, when one of the most powerful symbols of the Cold War, the Berlin Wall, came tumbling down. In talking with my Croatian brothers about the opportunities for gospel advance, they said that the most significant moment for their country was when the Berlin Wall fell. At the time, Croatia was a part of Yugoslavia, consisting of six republics, five nations, four languages, three religions, two alphabets, and one political party - the Communist party. Josip Broz Tito was described as the glue that



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

held it all together. Within a year of the Berlin Wall coming down, Yugoslavia began to crumble, and throughout the next decade, several small countries sprang into existence - Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia, Macedonia, Serbia, Kosovo, and Montenegro. This area is known as the Balkan region of Europe.

Croatia is a land of breathtaking beauty. The small country, roughly the same size as West Virginia, stretches from the Mediterranean coast to the eastern Alps. It has seen its fair share of fighting. In the last century, Croatia experienced five major wars. During the most recent war in Croatia, Kornel's village was surrounded by Serbs, and Kornel became a part of the Croatian army defending his city. He was wounded by a mine during the siege and discharged from the army.

My journey began on Wednesday, November 13, with a long flight through the night to Amsterdam, Netherlands, and then to Zagreb, Croatia, arriving around 3:30 p.m. After breezing through customs, I was greeted by Kornel and his two sons, Marko (15) and Natanael (11), also known as Nani, like the Portuguese soccer player. After a quick stop at McDonald's, a special request by the boys, we made our way from the capital city to their town of Koprivnica (pronounced: kōpri:ynitsa). Tanja greeted us at the door when we arrived and offered us soup for supper, but of course, after the Big Tasty, none of us were hungry. I opened my

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A Brief Pictorial Review of the Camp Emmanuel Projects in October

On Saturday, October 19, Rick Jensen left home for yet another yearly trip to Uruguay to help with projects at Camp Emmanuel. He was unable to recruit a work team from among those he has taken to Uruguay in the past. So, our concern was how many of the projects could be accomplished. Unexpectedly, every one of the primary projects that were mentioned in the EMU Newsletters in previous months became fully funded before Rick left the States!

Camp Director, Pedro Donzé, gathered as many men and women from the MEU churches as were able to work, even a day, at the camp. Also, eleven church members from Hamilton Acres Baptist Church in Fairbanks, Alaska, which supports the Steels, arrived at the camp the day before Rick and left a day after Rick returned home. The Alaska team dedicated four full days of work at the camp. Though neither Rick nor Pedro had previous acquaintance

with anyone from the Alaska team, Rick and Pedro attest to their hard work and productivity while working at the camp.

Two of the listed projects were not completed: stainless steel shelves and cabinets in the kitchen, and enclosing the kitchen patio. The shelves and cabinets should be delivered soon for installation. The patio work has been started, but I do not know the schedule towards completion. †



Edgardo (l) & Henry breaking up old sidewalks at the women's cabins



Pouring the floor for one of the women's cabins



Edgardo (screeding), Henry, & Pedro



Because the concrete truck arrived 5 hours late, Edgardo (above) and Henry worked all night finishing the sidewalks and floors. Rick said these 2 men finished at 6:30 AM!



Pedro Donzé assigning jobs to the first group of Uruguayan workers
(seated l-r) Gabriel Gomez, Henry Castro, Edgardo Olivera
(standing l-r) Nico Gomez, Marcos Gomez, Juan Gonzalez, Pedro de Pando, & Maxi Donzé



Alaska team plus Nico & Valeria Gomez
(back l-r) Will Endres, Dustin Case, Daniel Posey, Brian Graham [Gr], Nico, Valeria, & Ruth (Daniel's sister)
(front l-r) Rileigh Faultner, Julianna [Gr], Annelisa [Gr], Josslyn [Gr], Bradley [Gr], & Kristina [Gr]



The old 3rd floor water tank was converted into extra storage. A large hole was cut in the ceiling of the 2nd floor with stairs added. Rick & Marcos added the tin roof.



Electrician Yonatan Pereira installing new digital projector & screen in the chapel



Kitchen staff for first week (l-r) Valeria Gomez, Yusara Acevedo, Graciela (Valeria's mom)



Roberto Alvez (l) & Henry testing one of three HVAC units in the cafeteria



Rick & Pedro on the new horizontal climbing wall



One of the nightly, multi-deck UNO marathons at camp

The Walls Came Tumbling Down (continued from page 1)

suitcase to reveal seventy-two Reese's Cups and a huge bag of semi-sweet chocolate chips, which I brought at the request of the Crnković children.

As I unpacked, Tanja had to take one of the kids to music class. Goran, a new believer who was saved at the summer camp, came over to meet with Kornel for discipleship.



Kornel Crnkovic & Goran

He is excited about his new life in Christ and wants to get baptized as soon as possible. I did my best to stay awake until about 9:00 p.m., when I finally succumbed to Mr. Sandman.

Friday, while the kids were in school, Kornel and Tanja and I had to go to town to register my visit with the local police. They then showed me around their town of Koprivnica, population 31,000. Like much of Europe, it is a place filled with history. The earliest documents first mention Koprivnica in 1272. It is positioned on what was the border of the Habsburg and Ottoman Empires. The 20th Century saw the town grow significantly with the founding of the Podravka food company, one of the leading Croatian companies doing business worldwide. They are known for their Vegeta spice, which Tanja made sure I had to take home to my wife Joanna.

For lunch, I was introduced to some of their smoked meats. While Tanja reheated the soup from the night before,



Kornel began to carve the meat. Each year they have a "killing of the pig" when they butcher pigs and then divide the meat. They described to me the techniques of curing smoked pork loin, bacon, ribs, and sausage. The meat is cured in a mix of salt and other spices before being hung and cold smoked with hardwoods. After being smoked, the meat continues to dry for 4-8 weeks. The meat we enjoyed that day had been smoked by Kiki, a man in their church who came to know Christ through Kornel's ministry.

Later that afternoon, Marko, Kornel, and I dropped Nani off at music class, and we drove to their baptism site. It was about a fifteen-minute drive outside of town. When we parked the car next to the pavilion beside the river, my cell phone signaled, "Welcome

to Hungary." The river separates Croatia from Hungary. The current was moving rapidly, and the temperature was still cool. I asked Kornel about Goran. He said even though it will be very cold, he really wants to be baptized soon. It was an exciting time for me as Kornel told me about the many new Christians who have been recently saved. He told me about Valentina, a lady whose family prayed for her for sixteen years who has now come to know Christ. In previous newsletters, we requested prayer for Luka, a believer who died three years ago of colon cancer. Since his death, many of his family members have been saved. Most recently, Luka's wife's brother Ivan, a 21-year-old student, came to know Christ. Kornel's church is an exception to many of the Christian churches in Croatia as it is full of life and full of new Christians. I would get to experience some of that excitement later that evening.



Time of singing & fellowship after the Friday evening youth service

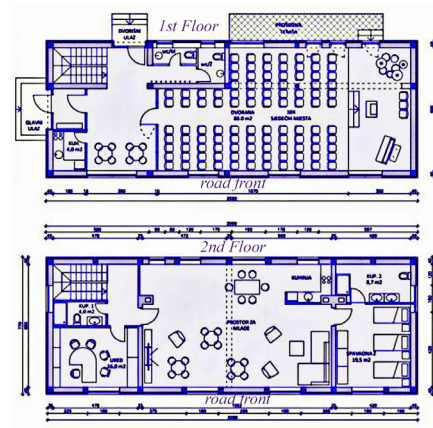
We had a Friday night service where one of the new church-planting missionaries, Kurt Bekins, spoke. Following the service, the teens hung around for a time of fellowship. We sang several songs, and then I shared my testimony. Everyone was listening intently. They wanted me to suggest the final song to be sung. I told them about my trip to India and the story behind the song, "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus." I challenged the young people to commit to putting Christ first in their lives. They then sang with much passion. Even though I could not understand their language, I was moved with the pathos in their voices as several of them prayed. We arrived home that evening after midnight.



Roof repair on the backside of the new building. The roof will be traditional clay tiles.

Saturday was the workday on the new church building. We left at 8:00 a.m. and returned around 5:00 p.m. The new building is a blessing to their church. Under the leadership of Kornel and his brother-in-law Nathanael Špičak, the church has outgrown their current building. Their new building is a 25-year-old brick building that needs a lot of work. They have an ambitious goal of hosting a wedding in the new church around

Easter time. In the days ahead, they are hoping to finish installing a new roof. They are also adding the new support beam. The men and women of the church are coming together. Like Nehemiah, I told them it appeared to me that God's good hand is upon them. And, like the families in Israel, the church people have a mind to work.



Blue prints for the new building

Later that evening the Crnković daughters came home for the weekend to celebrate Andrea's twenty-first birthday. I would like to think that they also wanted to meet me. Probably, they heard about the Reese's. Andrea is a sophomore in college about three hours away. She is studying music pedagogy. Kristina is a freshman at a college two hours away. She is studying to be a kindergarten teacher. Tanja made chili for a houseful of people who came to celebrate Andrea's birthday and to watch the Croatian national team play soccer.

Sunday was a great day as the church was packed. I preached on the Compassion of Jesus in Matthew 9. As I commented on the plentiful harvest, I talked about growing tomatoes and how a good harvest takes work. I also commented on how much I love tomatoes. Immediately following the service, one of the men who had helped lead the work team the day before went to the market to buy tomatoes to have with our lunch. His name is Mlatin. God is working in his heart, but he still hasn't come to know Christ as his Savior. Would you please pray with me for Mlatin? I have posted a photo of him with the tomatoes on my Facebook



The Crnkovics' co-workers Elizabet (Tanja's sister) & Nathanael Spicak
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The Walls Came Tumbling Down *(continued from page 3)*

page along with other photos from the trip.

Monday evening was a highlight of my time in Croatia as we met with four other missionary leaders to talk about ministry and pray for Croatia. I prayed, "Lord, thirty years ago we saw something unthinkable happen when the Berlin Wall came down. Please, knock down walls and do a work that only You can get credit for here in Croatia." The most optimistic estimates tell us that less than 0.5% of the population are born again Christians (10,000 among a population of 4.5 million). But the harvest is still plentiful, and much gospel seed is being sown. Who would have imagined the Berlin Wall coming down?

In my remaining time in Croatia, I traveled with Kornel a couple of hours away to the town of Krapina where I shared the ministry of EMU International with the students and faculty of the Theological Bible Academy, the school where Kornel received his degree. Tanja's father, Miško Horvatek, serves in Administration and teaches. I had the privilege of discussing missions with Kris Brackett, Assistant Dean, over coffee. We then joined Tanja's parents, Miško and Mira, for breakfast at their lovely home overlooking the city.



Mira & Miško Horvatek with Jeff Davis in Krapina, Croatia



Kiki & Renata Madenc with Jeff

On Wednesday evening, Kiki, who I mentioned earlier, wanted us to visit his house. He wanted to show me his farm. He also wanted to share with me the last of his smoked meats and show me how they are made. His wife Renata came to Christ first in the family, and in time, Kiki later was saved. Her father worked with us at the church and is unsaved. Please pray with us for Martin's salvation.



The adult members of the Baptist Church of Virovitica

My final night in Croatia, we drove about an hour away to Virovitica where we met with a small group of people, four men and four women, who are revitalizing a small Baptist church. I had the privilege of sharing EMU's ministry with this group, and then we prayed together. Just about a year ago it didn't look like the church was going to survive, but God is breathing new life into

this church, and they are close to calling their new pastor, Mario, who is scheduled to be ordained on December 15.

As I left Croatia, I left a big part of my heart with the people. My heart is also burdened for Kornel's parents. His mother is a believer and has a few health problems. His father is unsaved. Please pray that God will break down the wall of unbelief. The church in Croatia definitely needs our prayers and would certainly benefit from the financial investment of God's people. Many parts of the country are still suffering from the devastating effects of war. Most evangelical congregations are small, and supporting their own pastors and paying for their own buildings seems an impossibility. Please pray for Kornel as he leads the church through preaching and teaching. Pray for the discipleship of the many new believers. Pray for the strengthening of family relationships. Pray for the unsaved spouses of some of their church members. Pray for the work to be completed on their new building. Pray that God will continue to break down walls of opposition and the gospel would advance through the ministry of my precious new friends.

Kornel is planning to visit the USA in March in order to connect with his current supporters and new churches, and to look for much-needed additional support. If you are interested in hosting him or would like more information, please contact us in our office at (864) 268-9267 or office@emuinternational.org. You can also make a donation at <https://emuinternational.org/give-now/kornel-tanja/>. †

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