

# EMU<sup>+</sup>

## 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 . . .

The **Coronavirus** has been much in the news for several weeks and promises to remain in the news cycle for a while longer. Thus far, most of the reporting has been “hype.” Since one of our EMU missionary families serves in China, and the illness is in the process of spreading to other countries, I thought it would be appropriate to address the Coronavirus and its possible impact on our missionaries, especially in China and the Far East.

The Coronavirus is not new, or an individual virus, but rather a category of viruses that originate in animals. On occasion one of these strains mutates in a way which allows it to be passed to humans. Several years ago, there was the huge SARS virus scare. SARS was a Coronavirus. This category of virus was given the name Corona after the Greek word meaning wreath or garland, thus crown. Under the microscope, this virus has projections on its surface that give it the look of a corona or crown.

This particular strain of the disease first made itself a problem in the Hubei Province of China. If you look at a map of China and find Shanghai on the coast, two provinces to the west of Shanghai in Hubei. This is a very long way from Beijing where the Erkens live. However, because this is the time of the Chinese New Year holiday, millions of Chinese have gone on vacation, many returning to their hometowns or tourist attractions. This has been the perfect

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## 45 YEARS OF MINISTRY IN GUAZUVIRÁ

*by Ken Jensen*

January and February are always hectic months at Camp Emmanuel in Guazuvirá, Uruguay, but especially January when the children’s, adolescents’, and Jovenes’ camps take place. Preparations for these three camps begin during the previous year, culminating in campers and staff from around Uruguay gathering at Camp Emmanuel. In the past, it has not been until later in the year that I was able to present pictures of these three weeks of camp due to a lag-time in receiving the photos from Uruguay. But this year, it seemed more imperative that we present these camps ASAP.

There are two main reasons for this article: the first is that we want everyone who is at all interested in the ministry of Camp Emmanuel to see the campers; the second is to thank those of you who participated in the Camp Sponsorship Fund and to let you see those whom you helped attend camp.

The Sponsorship Fund was a little more involved this year than in the past. When George Jensen passed away in the fall of 2019, the Jensen crew decided that in lieu of flowers, we would suggest that a donation be made to help send campers to Camp Emmanuel in 2020. So, the total donations for this purpose were higher than in previous years.

George Jensen loved camp ministry, be it in Uruguay or the USA. Though the Dabolds, the founders of EMU, had camps in the early years of the mission, it was not until 1975 that EMU owned its own camping facilities. My father greatly enjoyed teaching in the youth, family, and workers’ camps for many years. Sometimes, other preachers were invited to speak at the camps, but Dad was always more than willing to do so. I would say that this was his most enjoyable part of mission ministry. (Well, teaching at the Bible Institute would be a close second!) In looking at

old photos of past camps, it is amazing how many faces from back then still appear in current camp photos – just “more mature” faces now! And so many of our Uruguayan missionaries were saved and/or felt called into the ministry during their time at Camp Emmanuel. Though Mision Evangelica del Uruguay is *not* a camping ministry, the camp ministry is the one ministry that has serviced all our churches since the camp’s inception.

Two-thousand-twenty (2020) marks the 45th anniversary of the founding of Camp Emmanuel. Each week during January, and continuing for the Family Camp and Workers’ Conference in February, a special day has been set aside to commemorate this anniversary. Besides decorations and a cake, several individuals have given their testimonies of how the Lord used Camp Emmanuel in directing their lives. (Possibly, some of these testimonies can be shared with you over the coming months.)

Because of the high cost of travel from the interior of Uruguay to Camp Emmanuel (a round-trip bus ticket costs almost as much as the price of a week at camp), few children and young people from the north come to Camp Emmanuel. In preparing for the 2020 camps, Pedro Donzé, the camp director, wanted to look into renting a bus in Rivera, where our furthest north church is, and bring children to camp. Because

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*Staff training at Camp Emmanuel - January 2020*

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

situation for the virus to spread far and near between humans.

At this writing, the church that the **Erkens** attend in Beijing is closed until further notice, and the seminary attached to the church is not letting their students return to campus. Many airlines have cut back or suspended their service to China. The Erkens were scheduled to fly home to Beijing on February 13.

**Steve and Charity**, with their sons, arrived in Greenville, SC, on January 15 to begin another of their super-short furloughs during the winter school break in China. Their time here has been busy. Charity spoke at Women for Missions at Hampton Park Baptist Church (HPBC) of Greenville on January 21. The next day, they drove to Georgia, then to Florida, back to Georgia, and then Aiken, SC. They visited several folks who support their ministry. In Aiken, **Caroline Floyd**, Charity's sister, administered scholastic testing for the boys. After returning to Greenville (Taylors), the boys will be baptized at HPBC on February 9. There will also be an Erkens reunion that weekend. It was sobering to see how grown-up **Caleb** (15), **Luke** (14), and **Jacob** (12) are. It has been wonderful to have them living with us while they are in Taylors, SC.

The **Kanes** have been in our area since the beginning of December. They are currently living at the HPBC mission house next to the church. Three of their children are attending HP Christian School full-time, and the older three are taking two classes each this semester. The Lord graciously provided for the kids to attend.

Many of you have been praying for **Lydia** - that doctors here would be able to diagnose the cause of her physical difficulties. For the past 2 months, no specialist would see her for one reason or another. Finally, the Kanes received a call from a neurologist who would see her "the next day at 8:30 AM," January 30. Pray this doctor will, with the help of the Kanes' GP doctor here in Greenville, discover a solution for her illness.

In January, the Kanes' youngest child, **Natalia**, developed a knot on the side of her neck that grew worse rather quickly. The GP doctor sent her to a specialist at the hospital. It was determined that this could be the recurrence of an illness Natalia was treated for shortly after she was born in Bangkok, Thailand. Natalia has undergone a few procedures thus far, but the infection seems to not want to go away! (On the last day of January, the two youngest Kanes got their first experience with snow, which was unexpected and not in great quantity, but frozen flakes are frozen flakes!)

**Matt Hancock** and his oldest son **Jonathan** made a short visit to the States to attend the

funeral of Matt's grandfather in Georgia. During their sojourn stateside - January 24-31 - the pair visited Matt's parents in Alabama and siblings in the Greenville, SC, area. We were able to have a lunch with Matt and Jonathan on the Tuesday before they departed. Also at the lunch were Jeff and Joanna Davis and Brian Kane. It was a good time of fellowship.

The **Farmers** are winding down their furlough time. They will fly back to Cambodia on February 6. And last we heard, they already have a buyer for their furlough van.



*Saom Kining church baptismal candidates and two of the Jarai elders*

In **Joshua and Amy Jensen's** last prayer letter, it was a blessing to read about the baptism that took place in the church they attend - Saom Kining church. Fifteen Christians were baptized, and most of them looked to be in their teens or young adults. Once a month, the Jensen family continues to visit a Jarai church that is new to them. Josh is in the process of locating all the Jarai churches in northeastern Cambodia and plotting their coordinates on a map. This has not been done before, so it is basically speculation as to how many Jarai churches are in Cambodia. This information will help as the Cambodian Jarai Bible (or portions thereof) are made available for distribution. On occasion, young people from Saom Kining church accompany the Jensens to these churches via their own motorbikes. Currently, Joshua and the translation team he works with have finished Matthew 1-17.



*The Jensen family with young people from Saom Kining church visiting a Jarai church*

**JD and Kim Crowley** are about to lose their last child from Cambodia. **Ethan** (eldest son) and **Emily Crowley** will move to Greenville, SC, on February 28. This

will place all of the Crowley children and grandkids in the Greenville area, except for Anna Crowley Pruden and her family, who live in Chicago. Ethan and Emily have two children, neither of which they are willing to leave behind in Cambodia! Although it will be great to have another Crowley family in Greenville, this will be difficult for JD and Kim. And at this time, with the Kanes in the States, they don't have any EMU "grandkids" in Ban Lung.

**Tom and Connie Chapman** left Greenville, SC, on January 30 for Virginia, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania for last visits with family before flying back to Antofagasta, Chile, on March 12. Connie has had a cold and the effects thereof for a few weeks now. She feels okay except for a congested cough. Pray that this will pass soon. It has been a busy short furlough for the Chapmans, and it was good to have them in our home for several days. My mother was also blessed with the Chapmans living with her for several days in January.



*The January 2020 MK camp in Peru*

The **Tim Chapman family** returned to Lima, Perú, on the last day of 2019. On January 27-31, the second annual MK camp was held in the foothills of the Andes, about a 90-minute drive northeast from Lima. Tim Chapman and **Buddy Fitzgerald**, a missionary on the eastern side of the Andes in Perú, were the main organizers in Perú, with assistance from **CampsAbroad** and **Matt Collier** from The Wilds. Last year there were 37 campers from all over South America and some countries in Asia and Europe. This year there were 75 campers, almost exclusively from South America, and 25 staff and helpers - including several parents of the MKs. Lord willing, these MK camps will continue to be a huge blessing to the missionary kids and their parents.

**Ted Allston** took a teaching trip to India January 8-27. He was not teaching any of the students from Billy Judson's ministry this time. I hope to have more to share about this opportunity when we get Ted's report - hopefully with some photos!

**Billy Judson** and his father **Jaya Sekhar** were involved with several graduation ceremonies for the Good News Bible College and Seminary schools held in many churches around India. One of those was at the Millennium Methodist Church of Secunderabad on January 6 with 44 graduates. Another was at Sharon Baptist

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## ALONG THE WAY...

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*The 21st graduation class at the Millennium Methodist Church of Secunderabad*

Church of Kavali on January 25, with 11 graduates. These were the 21st and 16th graduation classes for each church, respectively. Also, Billy is currently taking online courses from Shepherds Theological Seminary in Cary, NC. His goal is to eventually earn a Doctor of Ministry degree.



*The 16th graduation class at the Sharon Baptist Church of Kavali*

Work on the building renovation in Koprivnica, Croatia, continues. Since the new roof has been finished, work on the interior of the church can continue even in inclement weather. **Kornel Crnkovic** will be flying to southern California on March 2 to attend The Master's Conference before traveling to Greenville, SC, to spend a few weeks in the eastern USA visiting churches, with the hope of raising new support. He will be staying with the Davises in Greer, and Jeff will be taking Kornel to some churches. Kornel returns home on March 31. He will be in Greenville for the EMU Board Meeting on Saturday, March 21.

**Jeff Davis** flies to Uruguay on February 14 for the Family Camp and Workers' Conference. **Dr. Dave Shumate**, the director of MGM International Mission in Phoenix, AZ, will accompany Jeff from Miami to Uruguay for the first week of camp where Dave is the guest speaker. Dave will also be preaching in two MEU churches in Montevideo and Siloé. Dave spoke at Camp Emmanuel's Family Camp in February 2011. Jeff will be teaching at the Worker's Conference the next week beginning February 24. Jeff returns home on March 1. On March 26 he travels to Cancún, Mexico, with Chris Snowden of Exalt Missionary Video. The intent of this one-and-a-half-week trip is to possibly produce a video of the Nuñezes' ministries in southern Mexico.

**Barb Corey**, a dear friend of the Nuñezes (and Joan and me), visited Cancún, Mexico, January 7-13. Like the Magi, she always goes down bearing gifts for children and adults. She is always a blessing to the

folks there. A week after Barb returned to Greenville, SC, Marco and Gwendolyn flew to San Antonio, TX, to begin the process of moving Marco's younger sister **Angeles** to Cancún. Gwendolyn returned to Cancún by plane, while Marco and Angeles drove a van loaded with Angeles' belongings. The drive took four days, but there were no adverse incidents along the way. Angeles will be living just a few doors down from Marco and Gwendolyn.



*Barb Corey with the children's Sunday school class at the First Fundamental Baptist Church of Cancún*

On the last Sunday of November 2019, **Carlos Olivera**, the pastor of Bethel Church of Pando, had the privilege of baptizing his oldest grandson, **Oseas**. It has been a blessing to see Carlos and Mabel's oldest son, **Edgardo**, and his family become more involved at church and with projects at Camp Emmanuel.



*Pastor Carlos Olivera baptizing his grandson, Oseas, in Pando, Uruguay*

There are two weddings taking place in Uruguay in the next two months that Joan



*Priscila Pereira & Diego Mqv*

and I would love to attend, but we won't because of my continued lousy health. The first wedding is for **Priscila Pereira**, daughter of **Carlos and Graciela Pereira** – MEU missionaries in Tacuarembó, Uruguay. Graciela adopted my parents as her parents in the early 1970s, and she and I have called each other brother and sister ever since. And I have been Uncle Ken to all three of the Pereira children. So, I feel like my eldest Uruguayan niece is getting married on February 20-21. (Two dates since one is for the civil wedding and the second for the church wedding.) Priscila is marrying **Diego Mqv**, whom I don't know. The two met while taking classes at FEBU and have been engaged for two years.



*Marcos Gomez and Noemi Tali Alcian*

The second couple is **Marcos Gomez** and **Noemi Tali Alcian**. They will get married at Camp Emmanuel on March 7. Marcos is the first son of **Gabriel and Rosanna Gomez**, who have been missionaries with MEU for decades. Marcos has been full-time with MEU, working under Pedro Donzé at Camp Emmanuel and the mission office, for a couple of years now. Joan and I have known Priscila and Marcos since they were born, and we love both of these young people.

I cannot even pretend to know about all the work that **Joan and Pam** do in the office, just one door away from my office. I do know it is a lot more work than I get done, though – which probably isn't saying much. Tax statements have been the most recent dead-line items, needing January 31 postmarks. As for me, I still don't sleep much and still wish I'd never had the surgery last July. But that's life for now. Joan and I continue to work jointly on a project that I hope we can announce in February. I think you will find it a blessing.

Thank you for your prayers and support of EMU International. We know your interest is out of love for this ministry and the Lord. †



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### **45 Years Ministering in Guazuvirá** (continued from page 1)

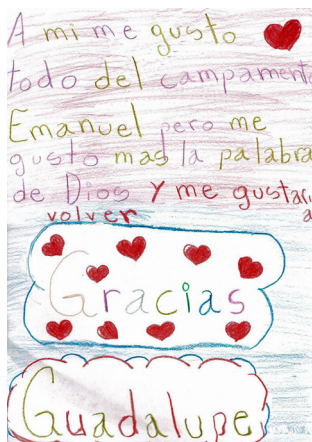
of the good amount of donations for the Sponsorship Fund, this plan was able to be carried out. A lot of arrangements had to be made with the northern churches to make this work, but work it did.

Pedro had the children who received help from the sponsorship fund write thank-you notes for the donations, which would then be shared with those who donated in the USA. As it turned out, they wrote thank-you cards, with colored pencils, and drawings of all sorts. Pedro scanned these to me. So, how to handle this?! I decided the best we can do for now is to present one sample card and then summarize and coalesce the rest of the cards into one message. The translation of the card pictured in this article appears under the photo. The authors of the other cards gave thanks in part for the following aspects of their week at camp: counselors (several by name), nice cabins, good and abundant food (4 meals a day), snack shop, trees, environment, playground, beach, the Word of God, God & I Time, "I came to

camp without Christ and am leaving with Christ as my Savior," the evening services, "pin pom" (ping-pong), the missionary story about Mary Slessor, and the games. Several children made professions of faith that week. And some of these children who live in poverty never get enough to eat at home, so the food was a real treat. The loving counselors, though, make the biggest difference. Many of the cards stated that the camper really wanted to return for future camps.

Thanks to all of you who helped make it possible for these campers to attend a week of camp!

Pray that the messages that were heard by these campers concerning Jesus Christ will remain in their hearts, and that those who became newborn Christians will be strengthened in their faith through sound Christians and churches in their areas. †



*"To me, I liked everything about Camp Emmanuel, but especially the Word of God, and I want to return. Thank you - Guadalupe"*



*Above:  
Adolescent  
camp 2020.*



*Right:  
Adolescents  
sponsored.*



*Above: Children's camp - January 2020.  
Below: Children sponsored at camp.*



*Above: Jovenes Camp - January 2020  
Below: Jovenes sponsored at camp.*



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