

# EMU<sup>+</sup>

## INTERNATIONAL

Evangelical Mission to the Unreached

Evangelical Mission to Uruguay

PROCLAIMING THE TRIUMPHS OF THE GOSPEL

Volume LXIII

August 2020

Number 8



Ken & Joan Jensen  
Assistant Director

### ALONG THE WAY . . .

On the morning of Saturday, July 7, the board members of EMU International met for the annual board meeting in the conference room at Hampton Park Baptist Church. As a part of that morning's activities, we interviewed **Alexis Shoemaker** as a missionary candidate to Lima, Perú. This August EMU Newsletter includes an article entitled "Transitions" by Alexis in which she briefly lays out the path that led her to minister in Lima and eventually to apply as a missionary to Lima with EMU. Though unable to be with us physically – she was traveling to her parents' house in Pennsylvania - the board was able to FaceTime with Alexis for the required interview. (Her vehicle was parked for the duration of her meeting with us.) Following a time of Q&A, the board approved Miss Shoemaker as a missionary to Lima, Perú. Alexis covers many other particulars about her proposed ministry in her article.

I would also like to present a few other blessings of that board meeting so you can rejoice with us. Our board is made up of the following men and woman: **Drew Conley**, **Jeff Davis** (president), **Steve E.**, **Joan Jensen** (secretary), **Ken Jensen**, **Brad Lapiska** (vice president), **Ken Martin**, **Greg Mazak**, **Rick Miller**, **Nelson Neal** (treasurer), **Steve Ridge**, and **Dan Sallé**. (The two Steves and Martin were unable to make it to the meeting, in person, but they

(continued on page 2)

## TRANSITIONS

by Alexis Shoemaker, missionary candidate to Lima, Perú

*(The following letter was sent by Alexis to her current supporters and prayer partners. Since moving to Greenville, SC, Alexis has been attending Palmetto Baptist Church, where Jeff Davis is a member. Although new to Joan and me, the Davises have known Alexis for several years. After first interviewing Miss Shoemaker at our home office with Jeff, Joan has been working with her concerning Alexis' support goal, budget, and mission procedures.)*

It has been almost a year since I boarded the plane for Lima, Perú, to start my new experience as a missionary. God has grown me a lot through taking me out of my comfort zone and opening new doors to show me His plan for my life. My heart's desire in returning to Lima after my short-term trip in 2018 was to be closely involved with the church plant that I had attended, Iglesia Bautista Gracia. Initially, God opened the door for me to quickly transition to Peru and to help in the church by working for La Molina Christian Schools (LMCS) as an English teacher in the preschool. I soon realized that living 45 minutes from the church made it difficult for me to be involved in ministry at the church. I have also realized that working as a full-time employee of the school takes a lot of my time and strength during the week. I have been praying that God would make my future in Lima clear, and after much prayer, God has opened new doors for me in Lima.

After this school year, which ends in December 2020, I will be ending my time with LMCS in order to have more time to do ministry with the church. I will be transitioning from ministry with LMCS to ministry with Iglesia Bautista Gracia, working in single women's discipleship and children's ministry. I will also be teaming up with Tim and Cheryl Chapman and their mission board, EMU International (<https://emuinternational.org/>). They are a like-minded mission board and under the recommendation of Pastor Tim and my current ministry supervisor, EMU



Alexis Shoemaker

will be a better fit for me to be able to focus on ministry in the church. I will be under the guidance and mentorship of the Chapmans while I am on the field. I will also be moving in with a close friend from LMCS; we will be living in a safe, secure area of Lima that is a 20-minute commute to my church and a lot closer to the people to whom I will be ministering. There is also a possibility of doing English tutoring with children in a one-on-one setting in the city, which will enable me to reach out to unsaved families in my community. My day-to-day ministry will involve daily Spanish classes, discipleship with single women, planning Bible studies, children's classes, and all the little things involved in between. Although I am someone who tends to doubt, worry, and try to take control of my own life, I am consistently amazed when I see the way God has opened doors and has given me such a peace about what to do next and where He wants me.

My biggest need is support. I need to raise \$3,000 of monthly support to be at 100%, and I currently have \$575, which is 19% of my goal. This will initially be for a one-year term, which puts my total need for the year at \$36,000. My goal is to return to Lima in December 2020 or January 2021 and move into the apartment with my new roommate.

(continued on page 4)

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

joined us via the Internet.)

Apart from the mandatory measures we vote on every year, such as board officers, missionary travel reimbursements, and housing allowances, we heard a report from **Steve in Beijing**. He told about the changed ministry situation there since the coronavirus hit China at the end of 2019, which led to the closing of schools, churches, and businesses, and widespread in-house quarantines. As you are probably aware, relations between the USA and China have been rather chilly of late. American citizens living in China were issued a cautionary warning in light of the closing of the Chinese consulate in Houston. However, near the same time, Steve received his one-year visa to teach in Beijing for another year, and **Charity** and the boys were subsequently able to renew their visas for another year. Sons **Caleb** and **Jacob** are finishing up online classes on Adobe that will enable them to help with editing video messages and programs recorded by the Three Self Church they normally attend, which remains closed. The seminary that is with the church remains closed, also.

**Steve Ridge** then gave a review of his and Karen's trip to Uruguay in February 2019, where Steve was the guest speaker at Camp Emmanuel's family camp. It was Steve and Karen's first visit to Uruguay.

The **churches in Uruguay** that are with the fellowship of the mission (MEU) are almost all self-supporting now. I believe there are only two of the base churches that still receive financial help from EMU. The economic situation in Uruguay has been difficult during the COVID closings, and some church members have lost their jobs; however, those churches that were fully supporting their pastors before March, continue to do so.

**Jeff** presented a list of **projects for Camp Emmanuel** that he, **Rick Jensen**, and **Pedro Donzé** have been working on for October 2020. It is not clear if Rick will be able to go to Uruguay in October due to travel restrictions to Uruguay from the USA. (FYI – Rick contracted COVID-19 in July but is doing fine. His biggest complaint during his illness was not being allowed to work full-time every day! That's Rick! Thus far, his wife, Kathy, has not become sick.) I will be writing more later about a change that is taking place at Camp Emmanuel in August or September or October – depending on a number of factors. Our long-time camp caretaker, **Luis Rios**, is retiring in August and will be moving to Atlantida (a coastal city about 20 minutes' drive from camp), close to his second son and his wife. A family from Rivera in northern Uruguay will be moving into the caretaker's house at camp. You have seen **Henry Castro** in the EMU Newsletter over the past five years

as we have reported on the Rick's Team projects at camp. After the moves take place, I will tell you more about Luis and Henry, men we have greatly appreciated over the years.

Sadly, all scheduled camps since the end of the workers' conference in February were canceled. And it seems that the spring (in Uruguay) camps are also being canceled. This has put a strain on the **camp's yearly budget** as many of the camp rentals have been a major source of income. Even with no campers on the campus, many of the expenses of maintaining the property continue. But the Lord has been supplying the needs, thus far.



*Ray & Gerry Hansel*

One of those means the Lord has used has been through the Ray Hansel family and friends. Those of you who have been readers of the Newsletter for decades know that **Ray Hansel** was on our board of directors for ages – 1974 to 2014. He resigned from the board six years ago after suffering a stroke that partially impaired his speech. However, the Jensens' history with the Hansels began years before when my parents and their three children still lived on the back campus of Bob Jones University. We lived in one of the few duplexes. I don't remember the year, but close to 1960, the Hansels moved into the other half of "our house." And the families have been friends ever since. Ray's wife, **Geraldine Pettus**, graduated from BJU in 1957, and she and Ray raised a family while he taught Phys Ed and missions. I do not have a memory of Gerry without a smile on her face and kind words on her lips. She was always one of my favorite ladies. My parents also ministered at camps and in churches directed by and pastored by the Hansels. Over the last few years Gerry began showing signs of Alzheimer's, and this summer she was moved to Shepherd's Care, a nursing home here in Greenville. About three weeks after her move, Mrs. Hansel suffered a massive bleed in her brain and passed into heaven shortly thereafter on July 10. She was a wonderful, godly, faithful woman. EMU is one of two Christian organizations that Ray chose to receive donations in lieu of flowers. Because of Ray and Gerry's heavy involvement with Christian camping and because they had visited Camp Emmanuel

years ago, we felt it appropriate to use donations in her memory to bolster this particular EMU ministry. Thank you Ray (Mr. Hansel), children **Pam** and **Lane**, and family and friends.

Joan and I took my mother to the funeral home for the family visitation for Gerry Hansel on the Friday after her death. On the way home, Joan's phone rang. It was a FaceTime call from **Chicha Rodriguez** and **Ursula Thiessen** in Uruguay. What a blessing that Mom, Joan, and I were together when the call came! Chicha had gone to visit Ursula, who lives with her sister close to the airport. As you recall, Ursula fell while at the workers' conference earlier in the year and fractured her pelvis. In the intervening months, Ursula has been able to begin walking again, though not for long periods at a time. However, recently she developed a sharp pain in her lower back, assuming it is sciatica. Also, a small patchy growth on the side of her face is growing. Though Ursula's doctor knows about both of these conditions, no x-rays or biopsies have been ordered. We are quite concerned for Ursula's health. Pray that the doctor will endeavor to diagnose her maladies and prescribe paths to healing.

Chicha also mentioned another prayer request during our conversation. She has been the primary person in charge of the ministry at the **women's prison** outside of Montevideo. Because of the COVID restrictions, the new regulations prohibit anyone over 65 years old from visiting the inmates. Chicha is slightly over that age. And she has not been able to find anyone to take her place to direct this outreach. If this ministry lapses, it could be almost impossible to reinstate the permission EMU workers have to hold Bible studies at the women's prison.

Twenty-twenty has been a difficult year for many of our single missionary ladies in Uruguay. Besides Ursula, **Marianne Rauter** is still recovering from her fall of many months ago. Her eyes also hinder her being able to help with translation work via the computer. **Alicia Rossi** has a worsening heart condition that required an operation several weeks ago. **Elsa Camacho** is not able to get out any more and could not attend church even if the COVID restrictions were lifted. It is discouraging to be isolated at home.

I would ask that you pray for several of our pastoral families in Uruguay who are involved in building their own houses. One of our desires for the past couple of decades has been that our Uruguay missionaries own their own houses. Because houses are very expensive to purchase outright, several have opted to build their own houses. A number have already completed construction, while others are still in the process of building. This period of pandemic has placed delays and restrictions on their progress. Pray

*(continued on page 3)*



## ALONG THE WAY...

(continued from page 2)

for **Alberto and Carolina Diaz**, who are living in their new house in San Fernando, but they need to finish the interior work.

**Carlos and Mabel Olivera** are still living in the church parsonage, but they are making good progress on their new home in Pando – located between the new houses build by their two sons! **Rubito and Marita Rodriguez** in Treinta y Tres have been working on their new house for at least a couple of years. Each of these families have done most of the manual work themselves. Also, **Gustavo and Alejandra de Oliveira** of Calvary Temple of Montevideo are adding a couple of bedrooms and a bathroom to their tiny house about one-and-a-half blocks from their church.

**Pedro Donzé**, EMU's office administrator in Uruguay, just let us know that the renovations on the **mission house** in Montevideo have finally been completed. The second floor, kitchen, and dining room are ready for use by the male students of FEBU who require lodging during their studies at the Bible college in Montevideo. The main floor living room and basement offices will continue to be used by the EMU Bible Institute and the mission's office staff. Though FEBU is not an official part of EMU, we very much wish to facilitate the college's goal of training men and women for Kingdom work.

**JD Crowley** arrived in Greenville, SC, on July 5 to begin what was to be a one-month furlough. His wife, **Kim**, had arrived here a few days before after being with their daughter's family in Chicago for the birth of grandson, Ivan Weiss Pruden. On July 13, another grandson made his entrance on the stage of life. **Nicolas James Richards** is the first child of **Zack and Jenna (Crowley) Richards**.

In July, **Sue Sutter**, the mother of Amy Jensen in Cambodia, came to the Greenville area to be with her youngest daughter and her husband who just moved here. Joan decided it would be a good time to have another "**mothers of Cambodia missionaries**" luncheon. (Sue had not met most of these other ladies before.) A few days after Nicolas was born, Sue, **Sheryl Kane** (Brian's mom), **Shelia Potts** (Lydia

Kane's mom), **Kim Crowley** (the "field mom" for our Cambodia missionaries), and **Joan** (Josh's mom) gathered at our house for lunch. (Three of the other four moms live out-of-state – one in Alabama and two in Pennsylvania – and were unable to attend.) We appreciate these godly ladies who have freely given their children to serve as missionaries in Cambodia.

**The Crowleys'** first schedule was to fly back to Cambodia separately at the beginning of August – just how the booking worked out. JD changed their tickets so they could travel together because of the new restrictions and regulations the Cambodian government has placed on travelers from the USA. (See the July Newsletter.) JD has again changed the return tickets for departure in September because of coronavirus here in South Carolina. Though JD and Kim are looking forward to being back home in Ban Lung, Cambodia, I would not be surprised if the travel date is delayed again, anticipating a more favorable entry into Cambodia. A blessing here in Greenville is that the Crowleys' retirement/furlough house was completed before they arrived. Their lot backs up to the Hampton Park Baptist Church parking lot, so it is pretty convenient to their home church! Kim's mother, **Jean Martin**, also lives at this address and will live there when the Crowleys return to Cambodia.

**Bonnie Ruth (BR) Farmer** wrote a newsy letter to Joan recently in answer to several questions Joan asked. BR gave a rundown of their monthly schedule, which is quite full and encouraging. In part, **Jeremy** has been teaching in Laotian in the village he visits bi-monthly. This has been a long-awaited breakthrough for Jeremy to teach in this language. The Farmers have also started a neighborhood Bible class in their barrio, which seems to have been well received.

We ask your prayers for **Becky Hancock**. Since the birth of their last child, Becky has experienced a level of fatigue that has greatly hampered her duties as a mother, wife, and helper in the ministry. Thus far no medical remedy has been found for her condition. Such times are a perfect setup for discouragement. Pray for the Hancock family and for a turnaround in Becky's energy level.

**Brian and Lydia Kane** were in Charleston, SC, on July 29 for another MRI and doctor visits to evaluate Lydia's seizures and the tumor on her brainstem. The area of concern has not grown, so, for now, surgery has been removed from her prognosis. Lydia continues to take a common seizure medication, though the dosage is still being adjusted. Overall, she and Brian are encouraged by these findings, though Lydia still has some rough times. The Kanes' plans for returning to Cambodia have been extended to January 2021, enabling their three youngest school age children to attend Hampton Park Christian School for the fall semester.

**The Kanes** had an interesting July, in addition to everything else. Shortly after JD arrived in Greenville, a missionary family from Cambodia that has been on furlough, was passing through Greenville from Alabama to Pennsylvania. So, a gathering was held at the Kanes' abode, with several of the Crowleys invited. Joan and I dropped by later in the evening to see this non-EMU family whom Joan and I had met in Cambodia during our last visit. Anyway, within a week, this family notified the Kanes that members of their family had tested posted for COVID-19 a few days after arriving in PA! Over the next few weeks various members of the Kane family became ill with flu-like symptoms which turned out to be COVID. Only Hugh did not get sick. The symptoms for each of the Kanes were mild with no complications, and at the end of July they are all healthy. Neither the Crowleys nor Joan and I seem to have been affected.

On the subject of COVID patients, you already read above that my brother at the Wilds had the coronavirus in July. **Jeff Davis'** daughter, **Hannah**, was working at the Wilds during the three weeks the camp was functioning. She became sick, too. The Wilds cancelled camps for the rest of the summer, and Hannah returned home to live with her folks. Jeff has had a sporadic cough for several weeks but has not been tested for COVID. Having had to reschedule his trips to Mexico, Perú, and Chile until later in the summer, Jeff has again had to cancel these trips.

**The Bixby family** was able to make it back to the US for a two-month furlough. They flew into JFK on July 2 and stayed with Ruth's sister and family in Pennsylvania. From there, Tim was able to visit several supporting churches. Before returning to France at the end of August, they will be traveling as far west as Texas and east to the Atlantic. They dropped by our office unexpectedly for a short visit while staying with Tim's mom, who lives in Greenville. We hope to all get together in August when they will spend several days traveling out of the missionary house of Cleveland Park Bible Church, their sending church. Joan and I were both amazed at how grown



(l-r) Kim Crowley, Sue Sutter, Shelia Potts, Joan Jensen, & Sheryl Kane

(continued on page 4)

---

Page 4

## **ALONG THE WAY...**

*(continued from page 3)*

up the two oldest Bixby kids are now. If **Micaiah** gets any taller, his name should be changed to André! (Think “Princess Bride”)

**The Coles** have been able to have church gatherings again in Bordeaux, France – with restrictions, of course. The congregation is still small enough not to greatly impede attendance. Although things are getting back to normal in France, we would ask that you continue to pray for Michael and Liz. Though Liz is getting over her long physical bout of illness, it is still a difficult time. Pray for strength and encouragement for this family and especially for Liz. The Coles were able to take a week of vacation in July

in central France along with Krista Colas. This was a helpful break.

One of my summer (and spring, and probably fall) projects in the office is to cull the .jpg photo files of the mission and make sure the pictures are in properly labeled and dated folders. When I began this undertaking there were over 36,000 photos. This endeavor has been fraught with frustration and often mind-numbing scrolling. And though the project has not been as fun as one might imagine, it has been good to be reminded of decades of people and events connected with our missionaries. Little children now married

with children of their own. Brown and black haired missionaries now with noticeable or prominent white on top. Fledgling ministries now mature and propagating. Struggles are brought to mind, but far more blessings return as memories. In this time of turmoil called 2020, it is good to be reminded that God has not forsaken His people and continues to supply our every need. I suspect, if the Lord tarries, hundreds, if not thousands, of more digital blessings will be added to the mission’s photo files. Thank you for your prayers and interest in the ministries of EMU International. †

---

## **Transitions**

*(continued from page 1)*

I realize that this is a short amount of time, but I know that if this is God’s timeline, then He will make it happen. And if I am not able to return in December or January, that will be His perfect will, and I will trust Him. All I can ask is that you prayerfully consider being a part of what God is doing in Lima by joining my support team and giving either monthly or a one-time gift. If you would like to receive my monthly updates by email or receive my updates by joining my Facebook group, please let me know by emailing [alexis.shoemaker95@gmail.com](mailto:alexis.shoemaker95@gmail.com). To give now, visit <https://emuinternational.org/give-now/alexis/>.

I want to leave you with a final illustration that I heard from our director, Jeff Davis, at EMU International. I grew up enjoying archery, and there are two pieces you need to make an effective shot: the bow and the arrow. God has equipped me as an arrow,

and I am ready to fly back to Lima with the gospel. But I still need those who are willing to pick up the bow and send me off. It takes both the arrow and the bow to accomplish missions, and I am excited to see who will join this team to help me do effective gospel ministry in Lima. Thank you for your prayers and consideration as I continue serving in Lima, and I look forward to connecting with you soon!

### **From Tim Chapman, Lima, Perú**

*We got to know Alexis when she came to Peru a couple of years ago with a missions trip from her church in South Carolina, Palmetto Baptist Church. A few months later, she came back to Peru to teach at La Molina Christian School. She immediately got involved in our church and has been as involved and committed as has been possible for her while teaching full-time. We have observed in her a real desire to be in Peru*

*ministering with our church. She senses that God is strongly leading her in this direction. She has served well, and she has really worked at learning Spanish. Her ability in the language has taken some huge steps recently, and she is able to communicate well in Spanish at this point. We are excited to have her come and work alongside our church. There will be opportunities for her to minister with children’s ministries as well as with the young single ladies in our church. She will be able to give herself to increased language study, and a year of strong immersion will really help her in that area. Thank you for considering partnering with her. †*

---

Email: [office@emuinternational.org](mailto:office@emuinternational.org)  
Website: [www.emuinternational.org](http://www.emuinternational.org)  
Phone: (864) 268-9267

---