

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 . . .

September is a much-anticipated month by many the world over. North of the equator it marks the meteorological autumn on the first day of the month and the autumnal equinox on September 22 (for 2020) on the astronomical calendar. South of the equator this translates to the beginning of spring. Both of these seasons are much looked forward to each year. Personally, September begins my favorite time of year. Although the craziness of 2020 will no doubt continue for a few more months, at least we can anticipate the change in weather that God affords us each season. It's a good time to remember that nothing in creation can or ever will spin out of His control.

Camp Emmanuel in Uruguay continues to be closed to campers and will remain so through December of this year, unless there is some dramatic change in government regulations. However, there is much activity planned at the camp in this spring season. First, I need to correct something I wrote in the last Newsletter when I announced that **Luis and Adriana Rios**, the caretakers at Camp Emmanuel for many years, would be moving to a house close to their second son. At the time, we were under the impression that this was correct; however, as it turns out, they are moving to a rental house this month in Guazuvirá, the coastal village where the camp is located. So, they will remain in the area, but the caretaker house at camp will be freed-up for renovations

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A NEW TOOL - FINISHED SANCTUARY

by Kornel & Tanja Crnkovic, church planting in Koprivnica, Croatia

As we live our lives in these unusual times, let us remember that the Lord is in control. We can testify of His faithfulness as He leads and guides us each day. His mercy towards us is new every day. He blesses us with many blessings in ways we cannot understand nor explain. And we praise Him and give Him all the glory for everything He is accomplishing in our lives and the ministries He has entrusted to us.

Continued Progress on the New Church Building

We thank God for the continued progress on our new church building. As soon as the COVID-19 restrictions were lifted, we started our regular Friday and Sunday services in our new building. We didn't mind the dust and the unplastered brick walls. We were happy to be together again in fellowship in one place and not on a zoom conference call. The men continued to work hard on the church facade and the inside of the auditorium. The goal was to get the auditorium somewhat ready



*Above: Main entrance to the new church
Below: First floor meeting hall*



for the wedding of two of our church members, Daniel and Kristina. After we had electricity in the lower level of the church building and the cooling/heating system was installed, more work was done in the auditorium. Also, the bathrooms had to be tiled, and the sinks, toilets, and the doors installed. The work did not stop until it was ready for the wedding on June 27. We praise God for the diligent and skillful hands He used to accomplish an amazing job.

Wedding

Daniel and Kristina re-scheduled their May wedding for June 27. One-hundred-eighty guests witnessed the joining of this young couple into holy matrimony.



Daniel & Kristina

Daniel comes from the nearby town of Čakovec. He was saved in his teenage years. He is a Bible School graduate who came to our church a couple of years ago. Kristina was raised in a Roman Catholic family together with her three older brothers and a younger sister. At a young age, she attended the children's VBS camp and started attending the church services. She got saved and was baptized four years ago. All her immediate family came to the wedding, as well as several of her unsaved extended family members and friends. Kristina and Daniel are church planting together with a missionary family in the nearby town of Bjelovar (a 40-minute drive from Koprivnica). Our church helps with this ministry.

Baptism

July 12, 2020, is a date Goran will never forget. It was the day he had eagerly awaited since he surrendered his life to the

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Coronavirus Spike in Lima

by Tim & Cheryl Chapman, church planting in Lima, Perú



Tim & Cheryl Chapman

Covid-19 Situation (as of August 2020)

Perú as a country is currently in the top ten in the world for both confirmed cases of the coronavirus and total deaths related to the virus. Perú is in the top five in the world for deaths per population. The hospital system here is under much pressure. We are told that there are not enough beds available for all those who need care. The price of oxygen is very high since the supply is severely limited.

The country stayed in lockdown for two-and-a-half months until the end of May. Since early June, many people have gone back to work, even though many others continue to work from home. The public schools are not in session and will continue distance education until the end of the year. Churches, theaters, and all large gatherings are prohibited. The borders are almost completely closed to personal travel, and travel within the country is very limited.

In our church, there are three different families that have been directly affected by the Covid-19 virus. Willy Quincho's father and mother, friends of ours who attend Gethsemane Baptist Church in Lima where we worked for many years, have the virus. They are both in their seventies, and they need your prayers right now. Pray also for a young lady in our church named Keren who just let us know that her brother has the virus, and she is showing symptoms as well. Another young couple with two kids all had the virus and are doing fine, but the wife's father is struggling with it now.

Church Ministry

As a church, we continue to meet online, mostly via Zoom. At this point, we have small group gatherings on Monday nights. On Thursday nights, we teach a class. (We began a new series of classes in mid-August.) For Sundays, we prepare a video that includes music, Bible reading, prayer, and the sermon. We are considering shifting to a Zoom meeting for church on Sundays so that we can have a virtual gathering on the Lord's Day.

It has been hard not to be able to meet as a church, and it will probably go on this way at least until the end of the year, unless there



Tim & Lauren Chapman recording a portion of the church's online service

is a significant change in the crisis here in Perú. At this point, we have not sensed any targeted discrimination against churches. The restrictions continue to apply generally to all types of large gatherings. As we've considered the reality of the Pandemic here in Lima, we believe it's still wise to refrain from seeking to gather as a church physically. But we know we can't go on indefinitely as a church without gathering. We are praying that the Lord will give us wisdom concerning this issue as we seek to do what's right within the context of the crisis here.

Family

Our children started back to school the second week of August. Lauren, who is beginning her senior year, will be having a few classes on site at the small missionary school our kids attend. Micah and Abby will be doing classes via Zoom. Thank you for your prayers for our family as we navigate these unusual times. †



Lauren, Abigail, & Micah Chapman

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before **Henry Castro** and his family move into the house. (Part of those costs are included in the list of camp renovations and repairs below.) The Castros hope to be able to set up residence in October.

Customarily, we announce the needs and costs of the "**Rick's Work Team**" projects to be accomplished at Camp Emmanuel each October. Because of travel restrictions, Rick will not be taking a team to Uruguay this year. However, there is still a list of projects that need to be accomplished. Henry, whom I refer to as the Uruguayan Rick, will be working with **Pedro Donzé**, the camp director, to accomplish these projects, along with volunteers from several of our Uruguay churches. The projects are:

New roof for the caretaker's house - \$4,340

New roof and ceiling for the camp kitchen - \$3,494 (Last year the roof of the dining room was replaced.)

Convert the current kiosko into a cabin room for workers or speakers - \$7,680 (The kiosko is where snacks, mementos, and basic toiletry items can be purchased.)

Construct a new wooden kiosko by the pavilion - \$2,300

Expand the pavilion to make room for more games under a roofed area - \$4,789

Upgrade camp facilities to meet the new government requirements - \$710

Because Pedro Donzé had to cancel all the camps from March through December, there is a projected **deficit** of \$8,352 for 2020. So, we would like to raise this amount, too.

Currently, plans are going forward to hold camps again beginning in January 2021. Pedro is already assembling a team of summer staff and will begin their training in the months ahead. To that end, we are also announcing the **Sponsorship Fund** for Camp Emmanuel 2021. I hope to have firm costs per camper and worker to present in the October Newsletter.

The Bixby family, which had been Stateside since July 2, arrived back in Paris, France, on Thursday, August 27. I will not attempt to review the schedule they kept over the last almost two months; hopefully, they will write a report to their supporters that I can share with you. It was good to fellowship with them twice while they were in the Greenville, SC, area. The Sunday night before they started their flights back to Europe, they received notice of new regulations for entering France. This included negative COVID-19 tests for those over 11 years old. They scrambled to get the tests, and all of them received negative results - except Micaiah, whose test came back as "inconclusive." So the test had to be rerun. The Bixbys first flight left Charlotte, NC, at around 1:20 PM, and they still

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didn't have Micaiah's results at check-in. The airline allowed the Bixbys to take their flight from Charlotte to Dallas, where their Paris leg embarked. Thankfully, while on the tarmac in Charlotte, just before take-off, the Bixbys received the results from their testing service stating that Micaiah was negative for Covid! Ruth wrote Joan shortly after arriving home in Sarcelles saying that the puddle flight was almost empty so everyone in their family could spread out. And there were no problems at customs and no quarantine!

JD and Kim Crowley return to Cambodia on September 8. In previous Newsletter articles, we informed you of Cambodia's expensive reentry policies. Thankfully, the arrival deposit has been reduced from \$3,000 to \$2,000 and only for passengers 14 years old and above. (This will greatly help the Kanes when they return to Cambodia in early 2021.) It has been a joy to have the Crowleys in the Greenville area again. They have had some quality time with their kids' families here and in Chicago. JD will be preaching the Sunday morning sermon at **Hampton Park Baptist Church** on September 6.

Lydia Kane has had more good days over the past month. She and **Brian** return to Charleston, SC, in September for another evaluation. Three of the Kane children are enrolled at HP Christian School full-time this semester, and the older three are each taking a couple of classes at HP, though basically homeschooled. The whole family has had COVID-19 this summer, but they are all well now.

I mentioned the physical pain that **Ursula Thiessen** was suffering last month. We just received a facetime call from **Chicha Rodriguez**, Ursula's dear friend, letting us know that Ursula is feeling much better and is finally scheduled to start getting the medical treatment she needs in Montevideo, Uruguay.

The Nuñezes in Cancún, Mexico, were finally able to host another gathering of their pastors from around southern Mexico. These reunions are a time of Bible study, discussion, and sweet fellowship. Marco and Gwendolyn seem to be doing fine.

Well, my space for this column ran out before my list of subjects did. Probably just as well! The Lord continues to supply the needs of our missionaries. The camp ministry in Uruguay is an exception, though no one is going hungry. Things are just real tight at Camp Emmanuel right now. We do covet your prayers and continued interest in the various ministries of EMU International. Thank you! †

Translation Progress

by Josh & Amy Jensen, Bible translation in Oyadao, Cambodia



Joshua Jensen in background (left) & Andrew, the translation consultant, checking the Gospel of Matthew with the Jarai, four of whom helped with the translation.

Matthew Progress

Since our last update, Josh and the translation team met all their goals for translating the book of Matthew. In July, the committee of church leaders finished checking through the remaining chapters of the book. The team spent June and July adding footnotes and cross-references. Last week an outside consultant met with the team to check the last 14 chapters of Matthew.

So now the entire book of Matthew has been consultant checked and is in the final stages of revising. Please pray for the team as they work through the final edits and prepare the book to be printed.

The team has already begun to draft chapters of Genesis. Josh's co-worker is in the States for a year, and Josh has many extra responsibilities as he supervises all five team members (his normal 2 full-timers, and his co-worker's 3 part-timers).

Praise the Lord for the completion of the final check on the book of Matthew. Pray for the team as they work through the final changes and finishing tasks before printing.

Please pray for Josh as he supervises the team's finishing of Matthew and as they begin full-time work on Genesis.

Changes with COVID-19

As of the end of last week, Cambodia's COVID-19 count had risen to 246. Most of these are imported cases coming in by airplane. There is talk of Cambodian schools being allowed to open soon. We have seen no evidence of that in our province and suspect that it will be a while before schools in our region can open. Due to COVID-19, church meetings and other religious gatherings in Cambodia continue to be restricted to groups of 10 or fewer. Most Jarai Christians continue to meet in small groups in homes.

We continue to have our Khmer Bible study every Sunday evening. We've been able to keep the group to under 10 people. We have to wait until the religious meeting restriction is lifted before we can begin our

neighborhood Bible Club again – there's no way we can keep the number to 10 or less. Amy continues to meet with our neighbor, Davi, to read the Bible once a week. Please pray that God will bring another Khmer believer into Davi's life to encourage her and that God would call at least one of her family members to follow Jesus.

Last month the Jarai ladies' leaders from Saom Kaning village asked to start meeting with Amy again twice a month to prepare lessons from the book of Matthew. Because regular church meetings are still not permitted, the ladies meet Sunday afternoons.



Amy Jensen (left) with four of the Jarai ladies' leaders from Saom Kaning

Please pray that soon churches will be allowed to meet again at full capacity. Pray that the Jarai believers will not grow weary during this time of meeting in small groups and that they will be diligent to encourage one another in the Gospel.

Please pray for our Sunday night Khmer Bible study: that God's Word would change the people who attend.

Student Progress & Addition

Our children finished their school year on July 1st. We had a special graduation ceremony to celebrate their accomplishments and allow them to perform for us. It was a fun evening for us all. We've started the new school year with Becca in 5th grade, Isaiah in 3rd grade, and Anna & Clara in 1st grade.

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A New Tool

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(l-r) Pastor Nathanael, Goran, & Pastor Kornel at baptism

Lord last summer. It was a beautiful sunny Sunday when Goran publicly professed Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior through baptism. It was an unusual day. The baptismal service was held in our new church building, but the actual baptism took place at our usual spot at the nearby river. We met at the church for the first part of the service – worship and message – then we drove to the river (about 20 minutes) for the baptism. Then we drove back to the church for prayer and the Lord's Supper. Please pray for Goran and his wife, Natalija, along with their son, David, and daughter, Emily, to be faithful witnesses to their unsaved parents (grandparents) and extended family members.

Summer Youth Camp at the Sea

We were not sure if holding a camp this summer would be possible. After much prayer, it was decided that the Youth Camp would be held July 26 – August 1. Our pastors made the decision to restrict the number to 120 campers (last year we had 168 campers). In a couple of days, the number was reached, and we had to turn down several applications. Unfortunately, the number of COVID-19 infected people



Teens & workers at the youth camp in Croatia

went up in Croatia, so the number of campers went down to 105, since some of the parents were concerned for their children's health, and some who had planned to come from Serbia were not allowed to cross the border. We focused our studies on the life of Jonah. During the week, the Lord touched the hearts of four teenage girls who surrendered their lives to the Lord. Please pray for the seed of God's Word that was sown in the hearts of the campers who still don't know Christ as their personal Savior. May the Lord touch their lives. We would also like for you to pray for David, a 19-year-old young man from Koprivnica who started coming to our church about a month ago. He attended the Youth Camp as well. He has had many questions about God and his Word.

Thank you for being our faithful co-laborers in Christ through your faithful prayers and support! We pray for you regularly and know the Lord will complete His work which He began in your life. †

Translation Progress

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We are happy to share with you that we're expecting **Jensen Child #6** during the second half of November. Due to COVID-19 international travel restrictions, we plan to go to Phnom Penh to deliver our newest addition.

Please pray for Becca, Isaiah, Anna, Clara, and Ezra to grow in their knowledge of the Lord. Please pray God would give them growing faith and that each would find joy in doing the work God has given him/her to do at his/her age.

Please pray for Amy as she home schools 3 grades, watches Ezra, prepares lessons to teach the ladies' leaders, and meets with our neighbor once a week to read through the book of Mark. †

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