

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 . . .

To purposefully spare you any political talk, I am writing before the election, but I am sending the Newsletter so you will receive it after we, hopefully, know who won. So, there is nothing really for me to say on that front. You're welcome!

We received some very sad news earlier in October from **Tim and Ruth Bixby**. Ruth's father unexpectedly passed away on October 19. He had recently been diagnosed with cancer, but the prognosis was that he was not in immediate danger and would undergo treatment. Born in 1951 in Savannah, GA, **Richard "Rick" Pahnke, Sr.** became an airplane mechanic and pilot. It is said that he could fix anything. Rick and his wife, **Judith**, were residents of Wake Forest, NC, and active members of Friendship Baptist Church of Raleigh, NC. One of his greatest passions was missions, and he participated in numerous work teams to foreign countries. He also loved singing in the church choir and playing in the orchestra. His love of music spilled over into his children and grandchildren. Rick and Judith have a son and three daughters, two of whom are married to ministers. They also have thirteen grandchildren.

Having been called about her father's death, Ruth and Tim began calling for plane tickets for Ruth and their youngest son to fly Stateside for the funeral on October 24. The Bixbys were surprised to

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A COVID BLESSING AND OTHER NEWS

by Brian & Lydia Kane, Bible translation in Ban Lung, Cambodia

Inoculation

The last several months have been unique for all of us. Like many of you, we've struggled to figure out our place during all of this, not only with the confines of quarantines and churches meeting virtually, but also Lydia's health limitations. In July, our whole family contracted COVID, mercifully a relatively mild case for each of us, which reminded us that America being a "safe" place is an illusive concept. Christians are only promised safety eschatologically; sickness and death are both our - and the rest of the world's - constant companions. Better to "be courageous" than "be safe." But I'm not being satirical when I say that contracting COVID was a blessing; after having it over and done, we were freed to visit with many of our supporters individually without these health concerns! It was a wonderful gift from God.

Go west

Speaking of visiting supporters, we just recently returned from our family's first ever trip to Oregon. We were able to spend over a week with a group of dear



(l-r) Jackson, Sophia, Julia, **Brian**, Brianna, Mia, **Lydia**, Natalia, & Hugh Kane on Oregon coast

friends and believers who have been heavily invested in reaching the Krung people group. In 2006, Family Church adopted the Krung people and sent scouts to Ratanakiri to find them. They have continued to visit every couple of years in order to maintain contact with their Krung and Brao friends. Along the way, they have also partnered with those of us who ourselves are invested in reaching the Krung and Brao. We have spent many happy hours together with a core group of them in Ban Lung, and we were so happy now to be able to finally meet the rest of the believers there and visit with them

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The Kane Cowgirls - (l-r) Mia with Natalia, & Lydia with Brianna



Sophia & Hugh with their salmon

Matthew In Print

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

Final touches before printing

Ever since the final check on Matthew was completed in early August, the Jarai translation team has been busy getting the text ready for distribution. It's taken longer than we expected, but Matthew is now typeset and printed, as well as being bundled into an app, and we're starting to distribute the books and app church-by-church.

After the consultant finished checking Matthew with our team in early August, we called a few Jarai pastors together and read through the entire book—aloud—over the course of three days. This reading led to several more days of work revising the translation in places that we found problems (mostly awkward or unnatural wording).



Pastors reading through the Matthew script making final editing suggestions

Once the text was thoroughly revised, we printed several drafts to present to the Translation Oversight Committee. They chose the smaller size, blue cover, with double columns. The printing was done at a local copy shop, with a glued binding. We're selling copies for \$1 each, a price decided on by the Translation Oversight Committee.



Saom Kaning church members reading their first printed books of Matthew

Introduction to the Jarai Churches

Last week we picked up the first batch of printed Matthews, and on Thursday, October 22, we called together 20 church members from Saom Kaning village to



(l-r) Becca, Amy, Ezra, Isaiah, Joshua, Clara, & Anna Jensen

give our distribution plan a test run. We spent three hours introducing the book (including how to use cross references, footnotes, and glossary entries) and then reading from chapters 12 and 13. We hope to replicate this program in every village that has a church, but instead of limiting the number to 20, we'll invite anyone interested.



Translator Yat leading the reading of the Gospel of Matthew

The reading time was led by Yat, one of our translators. He also spent time teaching letters of the Khmer-based alphabet that are read differently in Jarai than in Khmer.



Member of the translation team loading the Bible app on phones & computers

While people were reading Matthew inside, two translators were installing the Bible app on people's phones (Ruth, Jonah, and Matthew are currently translated), along with recordings of text and new Scripture-based songs in Jarai.

Challenges

Although the test distribution went well, we are facing significant challenges, and we ask your prayers for them.

First, it's one thing to participate in a 3-hour event, and quite another to commit

yourself to reading a new translation in a new alphabet. People are busy and don't have the habit of reading anything (except maybe a Facebook feed). Further, most people are still unfamiliar with our translation, and reading an unfamiliar translation always brings resistance. We need God's wisdom to know how to lead people to regularly read or listen to God's word themselves - in their families, in small groups, and in church. We have some ideas, but no certainty of success.

Second, scheduling distributions is turning out to be very difficult. We've decided not to do distributions on Sundays because our translators are busy at their own churches on Sunday, but we find that pastors don't want to schedule anything apart from Sunday, especially because in some villages, rice harvesting has begun. We may need to delay distributions until early January or February of next year.

Heading to Phnom Penh

Early in November our family is heading to Phnom Penh where we will await the birth of our sixth child. We'll be staying in the Alliance "Family Home," which is our home-away-from-home whenever we travel to the capital. We expect that after the birth it could take a few weeks to complete the necessary paperwork with the US Embassy and get an appointment to apply for a passport—we've heard that COVID has led to reduced services and longer wait times. We are also uncertain of what will be required to get a visa for the baby from Cambodian immigration.

Pray for Amy as she homeschools 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. †

ALONG THE WAY...

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The summer 2020 Pahnke reunion.
The Bixbys are wearing maroon shirts.

find very inexpensive tickets so that the entire family of seven could travel from Paris to Raleigh. Tim and three of the older kids – Micaiah, Miriam, and Gabriel – returned to France on October 30, while Ruth, Simeon, and Zacharie remain with Judith for a short time longer. In God's providence the Bixby children were out of school for their fall break, so they did not need to miss any school.

Also, in God's providence, the Coles were already scheduled to visit the Bixbys in Sarcelles, so, while the Bixbys were at the funeral, Michael was able to fill the pulpit in Sarcelles. These two EMU families missed fellowshiping with one another as was previously planned.

The Coles are planning to be Stateside early in 2021 to begin their long-postponed furlough. Pray that the COVID crisis in France and the USA will not interfere with their trip or meetings with supporters.

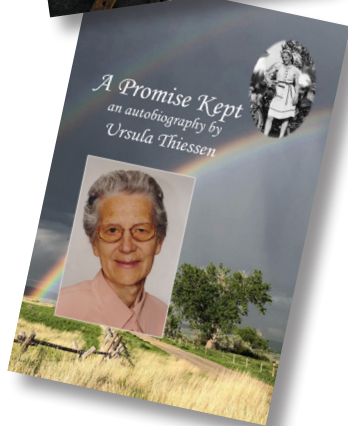
The most recent prayer letter from **Alexis Shoemaker** states that her support level is now just over 70%. She also has heard that Peru might be opening its international airports to flights from the USA in November. However, with COVID increases in both countries, that is far from a done deal. Continue to pray for Alexis as she raises her support to serve with Tim and Cheryl Chapman in Lima.

Please pray for **Matt and Becky Hancock** as Becky continues to have bouts of fatigue. The doctors still have not found a cause. Discouragement can get its foot-in-the-door during times like this,

and that can affect every aspect of life: physical, mental, and spiritual.

Maria Teresa "Chicha" Rodriguez will be arriving in Greenville, SC, November 8. Her visit will be shorter than usual, lasting only two months. In addition to some speaking engagements and visiting with family, Joan and I plan to take her to visit her and our dentist in Greenville, Mississippi, on November 15. This trek with Chicha is sort of a tradition!

Ursula Thiessen, Chicha's former longtime roommate, is recovering from her facial operation and hip pain. The Spanish version of her autobiography is finished. Though printed in Uruguay, Chicha will be bringing several dozen copies of this book to the States so that we can make them available to our readers. The Spanish version contains some material not included in the English version. It is entitled "*Salvada Para Vivir Para El*" (*Saved To Serve Him*). The cost will be \$8, plus postage. Also, we still have a good supply of the English version of Ursula's autobiography "*A Promise Kept*" available on a donation basis. Either or both of these titles would make good Christmas gifts for family or friends - or for yourself!



Thank you for your continued prayers and support of EMU International. The Lord has been faithful in supplying the needs of our missionaries, though as you see in the article "Rick Projects 2020" there is a financial need in order to finish this year's projects at Camp Emmanuel. †

A COVID Blessing & Other News

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in their own homes! We even got to ride horses and go salmon fishing while we were out there!

News from Home



The Krung/Brao Bible school held in the village of Tavang

We've heard some great news from Ratanakiri. The last week of September, the Krung and Brao churches held yet another Bible school. This one was in Tun village, halfway between Tavang in the north of the province (Brao country) and the southern part of the province (Krung country). This village has had a rough church history, so it was great that other believers could join together there and encourage them. From what I have heard, it went very well. As you know, the Krung and Brao have been doing their own Bible schools completely independent of foreign leadership for the last few years. Furthermore, this Bible school had the added attainment/achievement/success of not having a single foreign teacher involved at all. 100% pure indigenous!

Going Home

Lydia's health seems to be improving. Her seizures have been less frequent since the anti-seizure medications were increased. Unless her upcoming December MRI shows tumor growth or there is an uptick in seizure activity, we are still expecting to return to Cambodia in early January. Cambodia still requires a \$2000 health deposit (for all 13 year olds and above) against potential COVID treatments, along with a battery of pre- and post-flight tests, and the requisite unnecessarily-difficult-to-obtain/expensive proofs that said tests have been completed. Nonetheless, several others we know have made it back running the gauntlet without incident. We're optimistic that we will be able to as well. Please pray towards this end.

We look forward to still being able to visit with many of you before we head home. God bless you all as you continue to serve. May we be full of love for each other and courageous in our gospel advance. †

A Perfect Contra to 2020: *The Christmas Fund*

by Ken Jensen

I doubt if many people worldwide would want another year like 2020. Craziness has seeped into every part of our lives – from how we go grocery shopping to how we “do” church. And an exhaustive list would take in the economy, jobs, travel, eating out, visiting shut-ins, medical and health needs – almost everything!

Although not all of our EMU missionaries, churches, camps, Bible schools, and ministries have been affected equally, all of them have been impacted in major ways. Each November, we encourage our Newsletter readers to participate in the Christmas Fund Offering to our EMU missionaries. This would be an excellent year to be a special blessing to those who are serving Christ through mission activities.

As a reminder of how the donations to the Christmas Fund are used, all donations that are designated to a particular EMU missionary, regardless of their field of service, will go to that family. If you regularly support a non-Uruguayan missionary, your Christmas offering will automatically go towards that family, unless you designated the gift elsewhere, e.g. to Uruguayan national missionaries. All other undesignated gifts will be divided among our Uruguayan missionaries in Uruguay.

If you receive this EMU Newsletter as a paper copy, there should be a Christmas envelope inside. For those who receive the Newsletter digitally, you have easy access to giving online.

In this year of weirdness, I know that any additional gift to our missionaries will be an encouragement to their family. Thank you for considering this worthy project. †

Rick Projects 2020

Though Rick Jensen was not able to travel to Uruguay this October to work at Camp Emmanuel, the camp’s director, Pedro Donzé, chose to retain the traditional name of the program since Rick, through consultation and planning, remained a part of it.

During the 1st week of work there were 17 men and women helping paint, clean, build a new pavillion & camp store, renovate the caretaker’s house, and begin creating Cabin Nine. The discovery of structural problems on the caretaker’s house caused funds to run short for finishing all the projects. The house and store should be done by the end of December.

Also, donations for the Rick Project 2020 have lagged from previous years. That and the extra expenses for the caretaker’s house left the budget about \$7,000 short. Finishing Cabin Nine is the main project that has been put on hold until funds become available.



Left: (l-r) Nico Gomez and Pedro Donzé working on the caretaker’s house.

Right: the cooks for the 3 weeks of work at the camp. With masks, I cannot identify all of them!



Below: (l-r) Gabriel & Marcos Gomez with Henry Castro splicing a beam for the pavillion.



(l-r) Henry Castro, Juan Bosca, Nico Gomez, Hector Gomez, Gaby Gomez, Emmanuel Castro, Carlos Silvera, Marcos Gomez, Lucas Bosca, Jonathan Pereira, Fiorela Cabrera, and Benjamin & Roberto Alvez



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