

75 Years

EMU
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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 . . .

Easter and Christmas are the two major religious celebrations for Christians. (I realize that there are some “Christian religions” that almost have more days celebrating someone or something in a year than there are days in the year; but for the vast majority of you who read this newsletter, you are not in that category.) It has always seemed a bit unfair that Christmas is such a long season, while Easter seems to be confined to no more than a week – unless you observe Lent, which would probably put you in the above quotation mark group. And yet, in reality, we as Christians celebrate Easter 52 times a year as we meet on Resurrection Day to worship together. The First Day of the week is the most widely recognized day of gathering for Christians for the simple reason that Jesus rose from the grave that day. And though I don’t have the patience – or longevity of life – to count them, I would posit that there are actually more songs in our hymnals about Christ’s redemptive work than His incarnation. In the secular realm, there are far more songs about the Christmas season than Easter. So, for Christians, I suppose the balance is just about right. May the Lord grant you the joys and blessings of Easter – all year round!

Among our EMU churches around the world, it is rather a mixed bag as to

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PASTORAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

by Tim Chapman, church planting in Lima, Perú

In 2016, we planted a church in Center City Lima, **Iglesia Bautista Gracia**. From the beginning, our vision was that God would raise up a church-planting church. It became clear to us that for that to happen, we would need to train future pastors.

In 2018, we had the opportunity of hosting a young Peruvian man, **Daniel Anton**, for a two-month internship. At that point, he was preparing for ministry at a Christian university in Mexico, and the internship was in fulfillment of his college requirements. During the two months that we had with Daniel at our church, we saw the advantage of an internship to be able to share a clear philosophy of local church ministry in the life of a future pastor. So, we began to make plans to establish a pastoral intern program that would allow us to invest in future pastors in a more sustainable way.



Daniel & Jessica Anton with new baby

In August of 2019, Daniel married **Jessica Lopez**, a godly Christian girl he met while studying in Mexico. The next month Daniel began a two-year internship program with us. It’s been great to watch how God has used him in the ministry of our church. We’ve seen Daniel develop in his mindset as a pastor, in his ability to shepherd

people, and in his understanding of local church ministry. In January of this year, another young Peruvian man, **Luis Miguel Gonzales**, joined the program as our second pastoral intern. We are already seeing how God is using the program in his life as he looks ahead to future pastoral ministry.



Luis Miguel Gonzales

The Apostle Paul in writing to Timothy said this: “*And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*” (II Tim. 2:2) That verse has been crucial for us in the development of the intern program. It summarizes what we are seeking to accomplish. We want to teach young men what has been imparted to us so that they can be successful in future pastoral ministry.

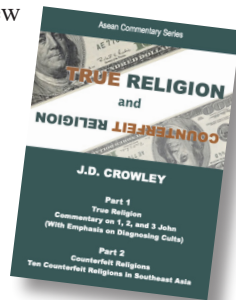
Within the program, the interns have weekly, monthly, and yearly responsibilities. They are required to read 24 books during the two years. These are books that we have chosen for them so that they are reading a variety of theological and church ministry subjects. They have several research and writing projects that they are responsible for as well. On a monthly basis they are responsible for different ministry opportunities that include evangelism, teaching, service, and more. On a weekly

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whether the congregations can meet as a full group for **Easter services**. There are still restrictions in Uruguay and Chile for full attendance, and we hear that churches are shut down again in Perú and France. Cambodian churches have cancelled services for Easter due to the increase of COVID in that country, and China has yet to open many of the registered churches since the beginning of the pandemic. Mexico is open, as is Croatia, with some restrictions. I have not heard from our missionaries in India on this matter. Joan's and my home church will have unrestricted worship on Easter, but I know this is not the case throughout the USA. Almost all of the EMU churches will livestream their services regardless of whether the church doors are open or not. Pray that the Gospel will accomplish its purpose as the Word is preached.

In Cambodia, the Tribal Bible School for March was cancelled because of an uptick in COVID cases. A few of our EMU missionaries were to be a part of those sessions. It is so difficult to know how or when to reschedule these meetings. The Pastors' School is still on hold, too. However, with the lull in the schools, **JD Crowley** has been able to put more work into finishing his new short commentary on **I John** with an emphasis on false teachers and doctrine. A like-minded mission organization in Cambodia has voiced a desire to get this new book into the hands of every pastor in Cambodia. Also, JD assisted in getting the first hardback **Tampuan hymnal** published. And the



Young people at a Tampuan church using the new hymnal for their language

Lubanseak Church in Ban Lung, for which EMU donors contributed \$30k towards expenses, is well underway in building their new auditorium. (This church building will be used as a regular church sanctuary and for the



Progress on the new Lubanseak Church building that will host the Pastors' School

periodic Pastors' School gatherings.) Because Easter services are cancelled in Cambodia, **Josh and Amy Jensen's family** will be spending the weekend with the Crowleys in Ban Lung for worship and celebration.

The house construction by the **Farmers and Brooke Illsley** is progressing well. Brooke's house, which is much smaller and less complicated in design, is nearing completion.



Brooke's house

The **Kanes** are tentatively planning to return to Cambodia in April. However, they still do not have their visas in hand, and there are some other issues in Cambodia that need to be considered, i.e. the Cambodian New Year in April and the current COVID regulations for entering the country. The whole family is anxious to return home to Ban Lung.

Ted Allston finally took the plunge and had his knee replacement surgery. The procedure was not as smooth as anticipated - his knee was in worse shape than expected. The operation was on March 10, and Ted is still in pain. Pray for his soon recovery and for perseverance during physical therapy.

Tom Chapman spent a short time in the ER in a hospital in Antofagasta, Chile, in March as a result of a severe headache and dizziness. He seems to be doing better now. His headaches/eye strain problems have been worse during the last few months, greatly limiting his reading/study time.

Alexis Shoemaker mentioned in a recent prayer letter that Perú is having national elections in April and asked prayer for that event. Perú has

been going through some very difficult political turmoil this past year. And in a later email, Alexis let us know that she has become engaged to a **J. Jesus Arenas**, who attends the Chapmans' church in Lima. (She has already announced this to her supporters.) The wedding will not be until 2022. **Tim Chapman** speaks very highly of this young man, who has been a help in the ministry at Tim's church.

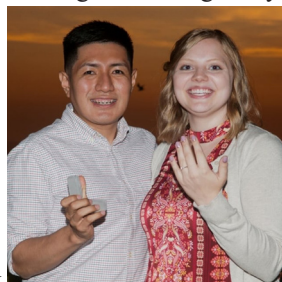
We also learned within the last couple of weeks that **Docila Torres**, one of our widowed pastor's wives in Uruguay, has been diagnosed with colon cancer. Docila is 78 and has been a widow since 2003. She lives in Panda with her widowed daughter, Julia. Pray that the doctors will have wisdom concerning Docila's treatment.

On a brighter note, **Ursula Thiessen** celebrated her 93rd birthday in February with some family and friends. Her health has improved so that she is able to be outside now. It was a blessing that **Chicha Rodriguez**, Ursula's longtime co-worker, roommate, and dear friend, was able to be out of her quarantine after returning to Uruguay in time to attend Ursula's birthday. This I know from experience: with all the German relatives that attended the party, the cakes and other desserts were fabulous! Ursula continues to have a very active ministry as she is connected to many people through her iPad and cell phone, and many folks contact her to ask advice, receive counsel, and ask for prayer. I don't expect Ursula to ever retire! And we all hope not, too.

Another announcement is that the **Erkens** will be arriving in the States from China on June 8. This is not a furlough, and they will not be returning to China. As of now, we do not know what ministry or occupation Steve will have when they move back to Greenville, SC. Although Steve and Charity will probably write something for the Newsletter in coming months, the bottom line as to why they are leaving Beijing is because their former venues for ministry have basically been closed down for the past year, and it seems the political climate will continue indefinitely. Steve and Charity have been ministering in China for 20 years.

In March, the Lord supplied some extra giving for **Camp Emmanuel** in Uruguay. The need was great in that all the summer camps and rental camps have been cancelled for over a year now. But expenses for the upkeep of the campus continue. After Joan informed camp director, **Pedro Donzé**, of the gifts, he wrote back saying what a huge blessing this was. The camp tractor, which is getting rather old, needed a major front-end repair. There was no money for the parts and labor, but in faith Pedro went ahead with the repair since the tractor is so vital to the upkeep of the camp.

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Jesus & Alexis

Camp Emmanuel - Spring & Summer

by Joan Jensen, office administrator of EMU home office
& Pedro Donzé, office & camp administrator in Uruguay

(It is customary at this time of year to present articles in the EMU Newsletter concerning the summer camps in Uruguay. However, since the government of that country cancelled all summer and early fall camps, we would like to present what has been going on at Camp Emmanuel during the past several months. Over the past year, the authorities in Uruguay created a list of new regulations for places such as camps in order for these establishments to "safely" open, whenever the go-ahead was granted. The time and cost of meeting these statutes has been time consuming and expensive. [Think in terms of buying everything at True Value rather than at Home Depot or Lowe's!])

A couples' retreat was scheduled for Easter weekend, but two weeks prior to the event, the powers-that-be cancelled all gatherings of this nature again due to a rise in COVID cases in Uruguay. Very disappointing in light of the months of work to become compliant.

Joan wrote the beginning of this article as a letter to those who have helped with the camp expenses and the Sponsorship Fund for the 2021 summer camps, and she included a thank-you letter from Pedro to the donors. I wanted the rest of you to know what is going on, too. - kj)

I wish I could show you pictures of young people who were able to attend Camp Emmanuel in January 2021, but the government of Uruguay did not give our Camp Director, Pedro Donzé, permission to reopen the camp for campers. But I would still like to share how your donations to the Sponsorship Fund and/or Camp Emmanuel Projects and Maintenance in the last six months have been used.

In order to reopen the camp, Pedro and his staff, plus many of our EMU pastors and church members, started working last June to get the new protocols completed so the camp would be ready by January. The pictures I am including are mainly from the kitchen renovations. That is where the most



expensive renovations were required. But the camp also had to make changes in the cabins, bathrooms, and the Chapel (where the meetings are held) - basically everywhere campers will be on the campsite. And the number of campers will be limited for social distancing.

THANK YOU again for your donation to prepare the camp and enable campers to benefit from the teaching of God's Word and have the camp experience. Camp Emmanuel in Uruguay has been used by God for over 45 years to bring lost souls to Himself and to grow and strengthen believers. If you would like to help with the ongoing budget needs of the camp, especially during this time when there are limited camper fees, you can give by going to the EMU website or mailing a check.

A letter from Pedro to each of you:

We began 2021 with the cancellation of the summer camps because of the continuing government restrictions. We were very disappointed, but we knew that this could happen. Because of His grace and provision (through you!), we had been able to implement all the required changes and upgrades, so we were ready!

I want to thank each of you who gave special gifts to help us with the various projects. And I also want to thank those who donated to our Sponsorship Fund. We have reserved enough funds to help about 15-18 children and teens

when we can open our doors to them again - soon, we hope! There is much gratitude in our hearts towards God and each of you who have been a part of working through this challenge by your giving.

We are also very thankful for the financial gifts that we have received for the budget and maintenance at camp. There is always a lot of work to be done, despite the lack of campers. God has been kind and tender in giving us a calm spirit in the midst of so much uncertainty. He has reminded us through your gifts that He cares for the camp and that He is taking care of our needs.

During this pandemic, when things have changed for all of us, we keep our eyes on our all-powerful God. He is in control, He is our strength, and He upholds us. Our hope is in Him.

Thank you again for your love and generosity. We appreciate your prayers. †



left: A supply of equipment to take the camper/staff temperatures every day



right: New regulation-compliant trashcans for the kitchen & all other facilities were purchased



New stainless steel pans & plastic storage bins were purchased for serving & clean-up



The cooking & washing areas in the kitchen had to be divided with a partial wall & Plexiglass



left & below: Signage & hand sanitizing stations throughout the cabins, dining room, and meeting hall



A food distribution station had to be built in the dining area to separate food preparers from the food servers



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ALONG THE WAY...

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In addition to the tractor expense, I had mentioned in a previous newsletter that **Marcos Gomez** was in need of a new laptop since his died. And what we did not know is that the camp printer had died, too. The special gifts covered all these expenses, too. So grateful.

Please pray that the wedding for **Kornel and Tanja Crnkovic's** second daughter, **Kristina**, will be able to be held on April 9 and that the church will not be restricted in their number of attendees.

Joan and I have been able to have the **Coles** stay with us twice, and we visited their home in Charlotte, NC. The Cole family has already been in several of their supporting churches. Liz has had some good meetings with a doctor here in Greenville concerning the physical problems that she developed during the past year. The physician seems to have a good knowledge of her type of illness. On March 30, the full day that the Coles spent with us, I had one of my funnest days in ages. Michael and Liz are great, but our Cole "grandkids" are really fun – picnic at Falls Park, visit to the zoo, s'mores on the patio with a glowing fire in the chiminea. They have a spring filled with visits to churches, family, and friends. Their return-to-France date is July 22.

Jeff Davis flew to Cancún, Mexico, on March 31 to preach in the Easter services at the church of **Marco and Gwendolyn Nuñez** Friday to Sunday. The following week, the pastors under Marco's direction will be in Cancún where Jeff will be teaching for a few days. (The one attendee exception is **Ciro Alvarado** from Santa Marta who lives a day or more drive away in Chiapas.) Returning to the States on April 9, Jeff will drive to Appalachian Bible College in West Virginia to attend

Pastoral Internship Program

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basis, they join us for our pastoral meetings, and this has become a crucial part of their training as they get involved with us in the discussion of important ministry matters. It also gives us a time to pray with them for the people in the church.

As we work with the pastoral interns, we evaluate them based on three specific criteria. First of all, we want to see that they have the *character* that the Scripture requires for those that desire to be pastors. Secondly, we want to know that they have certain *capacities* necessary to minister as pastors. These include the ability to study and communicate the Word, the ability to work well with people, and more. Thirdly, we want to see evidence of their *calling* to ministry. When it comes to their calling, we rely heavily on the testimony of the congregation and their sense that the young man is called to ministry.

Our church here in Lima is financially committed to the program (around 10% of our church offerings go toward the program). We've also been blessed with several offerings from other churches and individuals. This allows us to give a part-time salary to the interns. They are

the school's mission emphasis days.

A year ago in March 2020, the catch words were "flatten the curve," "no masks required," "short-term closures," and such verbiage. Oh, for the good-old days of March 2020! Pre-COVID-19 society may become as foreign to us as pre-industrial times were to our grandparents. The New Normal offers little consistency and convenience but seems to actually be the new normal as planned by the powers-that-be. Thankfully, the work of building Christ's church-universal transcends

expected to get part-time work outside of the church ministry in order to fully support themselves.

The program exists for the express purpose of training future pastors. However, our desire is that God will use the program over the years to allow us to specifically train church planters who will team together with us to plant other churches. We don't know exactly how that will play out in the future, but we know that God is giving us the opportunity to train men who will be able to shepherd churches in the future.

Please pray that God will continue to give us grace as we invest in the lives of these young men. Pray for Daniel and Luis Miguel that God would continue to grow in them the character and abilities that they need for faithful pastoral ministry.

If God lays on your heart the desire to have a part financially in this program, we would count that a great blessing. The gifts that we have received so far have made it possible to invest in these two men, and your gifts will allow us to continue investing in others in the future. †

men's (and women's) pronouncements. And we thank those of you who continue to have an active interest in and participation with mission outreach through EMU International. †

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