

75 Years

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PROCLAIMING THE TRIUMPHS OF THE GOSPEL

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Assistant Director

ALONG THE WAY . . .

There are two accompanying articles concerning **Camp Emmanuel** in Uruguay included in this issue of the EMU Newsletter. Though both deal with the camp in Guazuvirá, I wanted to keep the messages separate. One article deals with camp workdays, two of which have already transpired and the last to be held in August. It is a blessing to see how church members in some of our Uruguay churches have given of their time to help with needed maintenance at the camp. The second announces the Rick Projects 2021 for Camp Emmanuel repair and maintenance, which will require a substantial influx of dollars to initiate and complete. Speaking from experience, if I read about these two event categories in just one article, there is better than a 50-50 chance I would come away with incorrect conclusions. So, for the sake of those on my sub-level of understanding, the workdays and work-weeks are being sundered to emphasize the blessings of one and the financial needs of the other.

The rest of the subjects in this Newsletter are far less apt to be confusing – maybe. There are many updates to tell you about. First, the **Crowleys** are back home in Ban Lung following their two weeks of quarantine in Phnom Penh. Also, **Savannah McPhail**, the GFA missionary who arrived in Cambodia with the Crowleys, is pretty much settled into her new living quarters in the town of Ou Reang Ov, Tbong

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RICK PROJECTS 2021 (SORT OF)

by Ken Jensen, assistant director of EMU

It was fifteen years ago that my brother, Rick Jensen, made his first work trip to Uruguay. During my visit to Camp Emmanuel in Guazuvirá, Uruguay, the preceding February to attend the Workers' Conference and Family Camp, it became abundantly clear that the water system at camp needed a major overhaul. When I returned home in March, I contacted my brother, who works in the maintenance department at the Wilds Christian Camp in Brevard, NC, asking his advice and assistance. He agreed to visit Camp Emmanuel with me in May 2006 to review the problems and possible solutions. Thus began a string of journeys to Uruguay by Rick to oversee a vast host of major and minor projects at Camp Emmanuel. Over the years, these trips, which henceforth included men and women that Rick knew through the Wilds, became known as the Rick Projects Work Team. During that initial ten-day work trip, we were not able to complete the enormous project, so Rick and I, along with a plumber friend from Brevard, returned to the camp in October of that year to finish. At that time, October also became the designated month for these work trips. During each of these almost two-weeks of work at the camp, the majority of workers were men and women

from our churches in Uruguay who gave of their vacation time or simply took time off from their regular jobs to assist the USA work team – including filling our bellies with delicious food!

Another inaugural event that year which had a lasting effect on Camp Emmanuel – and the EMU ministry in Uruguay – was the entry of Pedro and Pati Donzé into the mission. Pedro has been the brains and powerhouse behind the development of the camp since then, and he and Rick have worked hand-in-glove together for fifteen years now.

As was the case with almost everything in the world in 2020, COVID changed, or at least rearranged, the Rick Projects Work Team. The government of Uruguay closed down entry of non-Uruguayans into Uruguay from March 2020 to the end of the year, and that prohibition is continuing through 2021. If you were receiving this EMU Newsletter last year, you know about the number of projects that were accomplished during October 2020 and in the months afterward – all projects previously designed and approved by Pedro and Rick.

However, though Rick was unable to be in Uruguay, the Lord “just so happened” to
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Rick's first work trip to Camp Emmanuel
in May 2006



Rick Jensen & Henry Castro at
Camp Emmanuel in 2019

Camp Emmanuel Work-day Opportunities

by Ken Jensen, assistant director of EMU

In addition to the Rick Projects Work Team this year, the camp leaders decided to institute what they have labelled Camp Work-day Opportunities. These are one-day events when volunteers from our Uruguay churches meet at Camp Emmanuel to accomplish a list of projects that can be accomplished in a day or two. So far this year, two such events have been held: one in May and one in June. The third is scheduled for August.

On the first of these workdays, eighteen people from three of our churches donated their time and effort. The new additions to the pavilion complex received their first coat of sealer; the fire hydrants around the property were cleaned, repainted, and some new ones added; certain buildings received a new coat of paint; and the grounds were cleared of limbs and leaves.

Fewer people showed up for the June workday, but much was accomplished,

including a second coat of stain on the pavilion/ snack shop. Furniture was also assembled for the newly completed Dorm 9. Some new security lighting was added, and the fire hydrants got a second layer of paint. (These metal boxes tend to rust quickly when neglected.)



A young lady painting one of many "fire boxes"

Henry Castro wrote an informative letter about other repair and maintenance activities that he, Pedro Donzé, and Marcos Gomez have accomplished. Several of the dorm gas water heaters needed cleaning, repainting, and new anodes installed. Retention and security valves were also added to the tanks for safety purposes. One of the tanks was so far gone that it will have to be replaced. Henry is hoping to install a water conditioning system to the water



Above: Henry installing the A/C unit for the new Cabin 9.



Left: Henry reinstalling one of the refurbished gas hot water tanks

supply to mitigate the damage caused by the extremely hard (mineral filled) water. It is amazing how fast metal parts in the plumbing system corrode and clog.



Removing the old roof above the bathrooms/lobby of the chapel

The roofs on cabins 7 and 8 were recovered. The old asphalt roofing had to be removed and a new "liquid membrane" material was installed. (This is basically layers of plastic with a thick sealer.) Also, the roofs over the bathrooms in the chapel required stripping and reapplication.

Although the government regulations still prevent weeks

with campers as in bygone days, Pedro came up with another plan that complies with the state rules but allows at least some use of the camp facilities. Individual churches have started holding 2-3 day camps this winter in Uruguay. Gethsemani Church from Montevideo held a youth camp July 2-4, and Siloé Church and Emmanuel Church of El Cerro will be doing the same in August. These churches are well under the max allowable capacity of the camp, and do not require a full staff to be on site.

Pedro and Henry have asked prayer for their wives, too. Henry's wife works in a medical clinic in the city of Pando, about twenty-five miles from Camp Emmanuel. She works twelve-hour shifts each day, and the drive home has been difficult for her at times. Sometimes she is so tired after her shift that she has to stop along the way home to take a nap. There are no rest areas or secure places for her to stop, but falling asleep at the wheel is not a better option! The Castros would very much like for her to acquire work at a closer clinic.

Pedro Donzé informed us that Pati has been experiencing a lot of leg pain as a result of a back operation. She is doing some better, but her sleep has been very much interrupted. Pain and tiredness lead inexorably to discouragement. Pray that she will get relief from the pain and be able to sleep soundly again. †



Marcos Gomez leading the singing at the campfire service for the Gethsemani Church youth group



These two photos show the sealing of the treated lumber of the finished pavilion & kiosk. At right is the original pavilion; at left is the new. The kiosk sells snacks, camp shirts, hats, & other items. Ping-pong tables, foosball tables, & other game tables are set up under the pavilion.

Rick Projects 2021 (sort of)

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arrange for Henry Castro and his family to move to Camp Emmanuel as the new camp caretaker. Rick and Henry have worked together during many of the October work teams, and many times Rick has told me that Henry is one of the most competent handyman he has ever worked with.

Earlier this year, Pedro, Henry, Marcos Gomez, Rick, and Jeff Davis came together on a conference call to hammer out the projects to be accomplished for the 2021 Rick Projects. Though not in on the decision making, I am familiar with what most of these projects involve and would like to give you some insight and/or explanation for their being included on the list. (These are not presented in any order of importance.)

- Replace the kitchen ceiling and exhaust fans - \$2,041 (The government is requiring these improvements.)
- New sidewalks around the perimeters of the cabins - \$8,209 (The cabins do not have gutters, and the terrain is sandy, so



The water storage tanks on the platform that need to be fenced in

runoff needs to be shunted away from the foundations.)

- Repair the floors in the girls' cabins - \$3,840 (This is for 3 of the 4 girls' cabins.)
- Gutters for the chapel - \$1,220
- Security Cameras - \$6,760 (Most of the current cameras are old, and the salty air is hard on them.)
- Fencing around the water tanks - \$910 (About 4 years ago, two very large water storage tanks were installed outside the wellhouse to replace the ancient water tower tank. The tanks are on a large, above-ground concrete platform with connecting pipes underneath. I'm sure it's a fun place to hide or play, but it could be dangerous.)
- Fencing for the front of the camp - \$2,956 (I am not sure what this entails.)
- Maintenance of the children's play area - \$975 (Almost every piece of "equipment" is made of treated lumber. The wear-and-tear from use and weather necessitate yearly repairs and replacements to some extent.)
- Repair of the dining room fireplace - \$2,266 (This fireplace and chimney are on the outside of one of the walls of the dining room. It has never been replaced, and – I am told – smoke can be seen oozing from the cracks in the chimney. The chimney has also begun to slightly lean away from the dining room wall. The fireplace and chimney need to be disassembled, a new foundation laid, and then rebuilt.)
- Remodeling the back porch/open-fire grill area - \$12,054 (The kitchen staff

eat on this porch, grill, heat water and soups, and do a myriad of other things there. The porch is already covered but is completely open to the weather – and flies. It would be wonderful to have this area screened in and improved.)



Concrete/stone tables & benches

- Concrete/stone tables and benches for the camp site - \$268 x 10 – (This kind of table and benches have been purchased at various times for the camp over the years, but not this quantity. This material holds up very well in the salty, sandy environment, and they last for many decades. The table and benches sets have always been a centerpiece for camper fellowship and Bible study.)

I mentioned above that the Rick Projects are usually undertaken in October. HOWEVER, this year it was decided to begin the work in September. So, there is not a lot of lead-time to raise funds. Pedro and the camp oversight committee will have to prioritize these projects as monies are made available. A team of Uruguayan workers is already being assembled to accomplish as many of these tasks as are funded.

Thank you for considering what part you can have in these worthy projects. †

ALONG THE WAY...

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Kmum Province, a bike ride away from the **Hancocks'** house. She is in Cambodia to help this family of seven primarily with homeschooling and assisting Becky Hancock with the children. Savannah's schedule, Tuesday to Saturday, is to be at the Hancocks' house from 8AM to 6PM. Homeschooling started for the three eldest children in July. For those of you who enjoy reading a well written missionary letter, I highly recommend Savannah's e-prayer letter by contacting her at smcphail@gfamissions.org.

Josh and Amy Jensen's family traveled to Phnom Penh for family business and to see the Crowleys at the Christian & Missionary Alliance (CMA) guest house. Unfortunately, an expat missionary arrived at the guest house who had tested positive for COVID and was not allowed to check in at the official quarantine hotel. Instead, the family was accepted at the CMA guest house and given a full floor to seclude themselves. The Crowleys left the capital immediately, fearing the guests at the CMA house would

be quarantined indefinitely. The Jensens remained at the guest house, as they needed to get other business done. Thankfully, the government basically ignored the guest house. However, when the Jensens returned home to Oyadao in the northeast, they self-quarantined for two weeks in their house. This separation and the government's continued mandates against meeting in large groups has delayed the community checking of the translation of the Book of Genesis.

You may remember that EMU was helping with some of the cost of building a church in Ban Lung that would also house the **Pastors' School**, started by **JD Crowley**. JD sent some photos and gave an update on the construction. COVID restrictions have greatly impeded the building's progress, but it is basically "in the dry."

Also, news from the **Bixbys** in Sarcelles, France, is that a final agreement for purchase of the **Bible Baptist Church** building was signed with the owners. This is all part of the legal steps for buying a building. The congregation now has the funds, which includes some small loans, to

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Above: Work continues on the Labansiek Church in Ban Lung, where the Pastors' School will be housed.

Below: The main builder (far left) & members of the building committee on the 2nd floor sanctuary level.



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be able to pay for the sanctuary. The final closing will be at the end of this year. This has been a very long and often frustrating process, so this milestone is a blessing.

The Bixby family visited the Pessac church in Bordeaux, where the Coles minister, for ten days in July. Besides renewing friendships, Tim preached and did some teaching at the church. The family is now back home in Sarcelles, north of Paris. Ruth's mother was able to travel to France to spend a few weeks with the Bixby family at the end of July and into August.

A newsy prayer letter from **Alexis Shoemaker** in Lima, Perú, informed us of the happening in Perú on July 28. The runoff elections for president of the country in June was won by a far left-wing candidate, who will be inaugurated on the 28th. That same date happens to also be the 200th anniversary of the independence of Perú. There will be fireworks – hopefully only peaceful ones! In spite of many continuing COVID regulations, small groups at the church in Lima are able to meet, and several people have been added to the body of believers in recent months. Alexis continues her ministries among children, teens, and ladies, as well as teaching an English class to draw in unchurched people.

Tim and Cheryl Chapman's family is in the States from Lima, Perú. Their base of operation is in Midland, MI, where their sending church and Cheryl's mother are located. The Tim Chapmans plan to be in the Greenville, SC, area later in August to bring their oldest daughter, Lauren, to Bob Jones University for enrollment in her first semester of college. Joan and I are scheduled to be with this dear family on the day after they arrive in Greenville. It will be good to see them again! Also, Tim's folks,

Tom and Connie Chapman, are planning to drive down from Pennsylvania, where they are spending part of their furlough with their youngest daughter, Karen, and her family. We don't yet have a date to have them over, but we trust our schedules allow our getting together. Tim's family returns to Perú on September 9; because of COVID, we do not have a return date for Tom and Connie to Antofagasta, Chile.

Billy Judson informed us that the **360 Church Leaders Conference** in India will be held August 25-28. Because of COVID lockdowns across India, the conference will be held virtually. Over the last many months, Billy received 23 half-hour Bible teaching sessions from nine Christian leaders in the USA. These sessions were translated into Talugu and Hindi, along with transcripts in all three languages. Hopefully, a report on the conference can be presented in the next EMU Newsletter.

At the end of August, **Ted Allston** will resume his overseas travels. He plans to be in Kenya for a Bible conference August 27 to September 18. There will be other Americans traveling with them. Ted's knee is doing much better, though still not back to full range of use. Pray for continued healing.

Tim Chevalier, who was with EMU for a while but had to resign for health reasons, was able to finally receive a much-needed operation for an old shoulder injury. The surgeon said that the problems with the right shoulder were about as bad as it gets! Tim has many months of recovery and rehab before him. We are not sure when he will be able to return to work. Some men at our church, Hampton Park Baptist Church, are holding a **Tri-For-Tim marathon** on the last Saturday of July. This triathlon is being held to raise money for Tim's post-op

expenses. The goal is to raise \$20,000 as a result of their 2.4 mile swim, 112 mile bike ride, and 26.2 mile run marathon. As of this writing a few days before the attempt, just over \$18,000 has been pledged. Although Tim and Lynnette are no longer with EMU, we love this faithful couple and pray that this amazing goal will be reached.

Jeff Davis is currently on a trip to Alaska, July 22 to August 3, where he has been speaking at various churches and speaking at the regional Fundamental Baptist Fellowship. We hope to have a report of his travels in the next newsletter. (You can see photos of Jeff's trip posted on his Facebook page.)

As an FYI, **Steve Erkens** is now working a full-time job in Greenville, SC, and the family hopes to be able to move into their new townhouse on August 11. All five are adjusting well to being back in the States. (And our first grandchild now has his learner's permit!)

Thank you for reading this far – assuming you didn't just read the first paragraph and skip to the last! We very much appreciate your interest in and support of the various ministries of EMU International. COVID continues to restrict gatherings in many places, but the Word of God continues to be preached and taught through various means. Thank you for your prayers! †

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