

75 Years

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Evangelical Mission to Uruguay

PROCLAIMING THE TRIUMPHS OF THE GOSPEL

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Ken & Joan Jensen  
Assistant Director

### ALONG THE WAY . . .

It's not often that the calendar date for the change of season and the actual weather correspond on the same day, but that is what happened in South Carolina as fall arrived on September 22 this year. A cold front - those of you in northern climes would call it a "less warm front" - swept through the state rendering perfect temps and humidity for fall in the southeast.

Unlike the weather, this EMU Newsletter contains some material that took place during the summer months which we just didn't have room to include in previous issues that I want to share with you now.

In the article by **Tim and Ruth Bixby**, they mention an item of news that we had not yet announced in this monthly paper, but which we and some of you have been aware of for several months. The subject has to do with the Coles moving back to the States. In late spring of 2021, **Michael and Liz Cole** let the EMU leadership and office, and their sending church pastors and elders, know that they had decided to leave France for good and relocate in the USA. Liz's continuing health difficulties were one of the major factors in this decision.

Because the Coles were helping the church in Pessac (Bordeaux) where they also own a house, it has been necessary for them to return to France to tie-up loose ends and sell their house. Michael flew back to Bordeaux at the end of August, and three men

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## SUMMER ACTIVITIES IN CROATIA

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

### Summer Youth Camp at the sea

Our annual Summer Youth Camp took place July 23-31. The theme of the camp was James 2:26, "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." Our Pastors preached from the epistle of James, and the Lord used them to present clear and understandable messages. There were about 140 campers, and a good number of them came from non-Christian homes with no church background. Some had never held a Bible in their hands. The Lord provided Bibles for them, and it was encouraging to see the joy and gratitude in their eyes. Praise the Lord!



Youth summer camp in Croatia

The week was filled with sound Bible teaching, followed by group discussions, evenings of worship, and afternoons of competition and fun games - which included quizzes, times at the beach, making new friends, enjoying fellowship, and eating delicious food.

Besides preaching, Kornel had the opportunity to counsel several campers, and God used him as a vessel to encourage a teenager to give her life to the Lord. He was also able to witness to an elderly man who had a fruit stand right outside



Kornel preaching

our camp site. For years now, we have been his faithful customers. Last year, Kornel gave him some Christian books. This year the man told Kornel he had read them all. Kornel was able to spend time talking with him and sharing the Gospel with him. At the end, Kornel gave him a Bible as a gift. Please pray for the salvation of this man.



Tanja (left) and her daughter, Kristina, cooking another meal for the campers

Tanja has been in charge of planning, purchasing, and cooking the food for the campers for several years now. The past few years she had the help of a professional cook - a brother in Christ - who did most of the cooking. Unfortunately, he couldn't attend this year. Praise God for the many helping hands in the kitchen who prepared many delicious meals.

During the week, our Pastor Nathanael organized a one-day event - the distribution of Christian literature to homes in the city of Šibenik to encourage a small local church in the city and to evangelize the local people. Our group consisted of over 40 volunteers from 12 different churches working together. Praise the Lord!

Each year we rent a camp site for our special Youth Summer Camp. Each year we have problems with other campers in the area around us who complain about

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# The Promise-of-Purchase Agreement

by Tim & Ruth Bixby, church planters in Sarcelles, France

## Family news

We are grateful that our oldest son, Micaiah, has successfully graduated from French high school and has begun his next round of studies! He is presently enrolled in a two-year industrial maintenance engineering program at the University of Paris 8. He makes about a 1.5-hour commute by bus from home, each way. It is his desire to work through the process of obtaining his French nationality during this two-year period and then move to the States for further studies. Please pray for him as well as his younger siblings. Miriam has now begun 11th grade. After a year of homeschooling, Zacharie has started 7th grade in the same school as his sister. Gabriel is in 4th grade at our neighborhood school just one block away. As Simeon is only two years old, we have one more year before we will be legally bound to make some schooling choice for him.

## Church building news

After several delays and too many twists and turns to relate here, we were able to sign the promise-of-purchase agreement on July 21! This was a very exciting step for us because it finalizes all the negotiations. We are hoping that the closing will take place at the end of November, just before our rental contract ends on December 1. The Lord's timing is perfect! It is amazing that we have enough money in our bank account to make the purchase! At the beginning of this year, we had less than 1/3 of the money needed! We are so grateful to God and to all those who have donated generously to this project. About 1/4 of the money was given in the form of short-term loans. Although that financial pressure remains, the gracious provision of God to this point gives us confidence as we look to the future.

## Trip to Pessac

Our good friends and former coworkers, Michael and Liz Cole, are in the process of moving back to the USA. Though we are sad to see them leave France, we know that this is God's best for them. In July, we were able to spend about two weeks down near Bordeaux (7 hours south of us) to help fill in at the Baptist church in Pessac where they have served for the last three years. I was there when my parents founded the church 30 years ago, and then our family spent our first four years working alongside my parents in the church when we moved to France 12 years ago. It was a joy to reconnect with friends we hadn't seen in several years and revive old memories. I taught a weekend workshop/seminar with a

few of the men to help them better prepare Bible studies and sermons. I also enjoyed the privilege of preaching for them on two consecutive Sundays. Our final evening was spent with a nominally Muslim family that we have known since our first year in France. Ruth was also able to meet with another Muslim lady with whom she forged a friendship more than 10 years ago. Please pray that these relationships will not be in vain for the good of their souls.

## Visits from the States

This summer we were blessed to have the visits of both of our mothers, one right after the other. We enjoyed some special moments making memories. For Ruth's mom, it marked a milestone, being her first time to travel here without Ruth's dad who went to heaven last fall. And it was good for my mom to be able to be in France again as she had been wanting to return for a long time, having had to postpone her trip twice due to the pandemic.

## Government oversight of religious activity

As you know, the clash of irreconcilable ideologies within the same nation-states is leading this world's governments toward unprecedented and more repressive legislation. France has finally passed a new law (which we have written about in our previous updates) providing more government oversight of religious organizations. This law relates specifically to the finances of religious organizations, but also to the content of their teachings. Just this year the Minister of the Interior (who oversees regulations regarding religious groups) asked two different mosques to break all ties with their imams because of statements they had made revealing their misogyny. Their theological and methodological errors acknowledged, it seems that what provoked the government's heavy-handed intervention was the very fact that one of them exhorted women to modesty and the other to submission. As a legal specialist representing the Roman Catholic bishops of France stated in an article about this situation, intervention like this puts the simple reading of certain biblical texts in danger of being censored. It is this same law that will put new restrictions on homeschooling, not making it outright illegal, but requiring prior authorization (rather

than a simple declaration, as before) that will only be given if specific needs are demonstrated in the child. The details are yet forthcoming. †



A fellowship time at the Bixbys' house

## ALONG THE WAY...

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from their sending church arrived shortly thereafter, to finish some needed work on the house. Liz and the kids joined Michael on September 23. Although the church in Pessac knew about their resignation decision earlier in this past summer, the Coles wanted to spend time with these folks they have ministered to over the past three years. The entire Cole family will return to Charlotte, NC, on October 26, 2021.

The Coles' financial supporters have already been apprised of their plans. Michael will continue to help the French congregation at least through the end of this year. An article by Michael and Liz, we trust, will be forthcoming in the latter part of this year.

As of today, Michael does not have another job lined up in the States. The Coles are currently living in Charlotte, NC, close to Michael's parents, and attending a supporting church. Their four children are enrolled at the Christian school where Michael's parents taught for many years.

Please pray for direction, comfort, and strength for the Coles during these difficult days. And pray for the church in Pessac as they transition to national leadership.

The **Tim Chapman family** - minus Lauren, who is attending BJU - are back in Lima, Peru, as of September 9. Tim's email to the office was very encouraging as the church in Lima actually continued to grow during their absence. They are currently running about 150. COVID restrictions still hamper the congregation, but the Lord is blessing.

**Tom and Connie Chapman** left the USA in September, too, but their destination was Monterrey, Mexico, where three of their children and their families live and minister at a Bible college. They hope to be able to return to Antofagasta, Chile, at the end of October or beginning of November. Much will depend on Chile's restrictions for those arriving. When Tom and Connie were with us in September, Tom let us know that a local Greenville, SC, doctor may have properly diagnosed one of Tom's long-term physical problems. We are all encouraged as the fix was not too difficult.

Work on the **Rick Projects at Camp Emmanuel** in Uruguay continue, and donations continue to come into the mission office to help with the costs. Last month's Newsletter showed five of the original projects fully funded. This month, we can add to that list the gutters for the Chapel, the fencing for the camp entrance, and part of the cost for security cameras. **Pedro Donz ,** the camp director, has been sending us weekly pictures of the work accomplished, and it is truly amazing! I hope to share some of those photos with you in the next Newsletter.

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# Every Local Church a College Classroom

by Jeff Davis, Director of EMU International  
and Billy Judson, Missionary to India



*The production team in Hyderabad, India, who helped make the 360 Conference possible*

Wednesday, August 25, at 5:00 PM India Standard Time (7:30 AM EST), the cameras were rolling and students from all over India logged into the first Good News 360 Virtual Church Leaders Conference. Over the next four days, a crew of over twenty-five willing servants worked together to host 1,136 registered participants in our first attempt at a virtual conference. Four-and-a-half years earlier, we had sponsored the first Good News 360 Conference with about 550 participants. The global pandemic presented an incredible challenge for us as we had to postpone this year's conference several times. We eventually decided to host the conference virtually. As you can imagine, the logistics of pulling off a production like this even without the COVID restrictions were daunting, but God surrounded us with skilled volunteers, and He provided us a location, the proper equipment, technological experts, and the necessary funds. We are grateful for the servant leadership of our Board of Directors in India and all their hard work in helping to organize this event. Our goal



*Billy Judson*

was to provide a 360-degree circle of fellowship to equip and connect Bible students, pastors, and church leaders in a transformative program for planting and developing local churches.

As each participant logged into the meeting via Zoom, YouTube, WhatsApp, or Facebook, they had the choice of hearing the broadcast in English, Hindi, or Telugu. God blessed us with some

amazing translators. **Dr. G. Jaya Sekhar**, Billy's father, opened the first meeting and established the theme for the entire conference, "Every Local Church a College Classroom." The need for theological education in India is great. Ninety percent of rural pastors have little or no theological training. Good News Bible College and Seminary was founded in 1999. Currently, they have 57 teaching sites in nine states of India with 16,806 graduates. The program is one to five years, two hours each evening Monday through Saturday, 240 hours in a year. They have thirty textbooks that they use. It is also financially sustained through each local church.

India, with 1.38 billion people, is second in world population behind China which has 1.44 billion. India is projected to have the largest population in the world within the next fifteen years. According to Operation World, India, by far, is the most unreached country in the world. One-third of the world's unreached people groups are from one country - India. Four hundred million people in India have never heard the name, Jesus. Constitutionally, there are 22 official languages in India, but there are over 1,600 other languages with no Scriptures.

In addition to the national Indian workers, we enlisted nine speakers from the United States who promoted the theme of "Every Local Church a College Classroom," through four different focuses: Discipleship, Stewardship, Shepherding, and Church.

- **Ted Allston** – Missionary to the 10-40 Window with EMU International
- **Jimmy Carter** – Pastor of Community Life at Shepherd's Church and Director of Shepherd's Institute
- **JD Crowley** – Missionary to Cambodia with EMU International
- **Jeff Davis** – EMU International, Director

- **Bill Hill** – Equipping Nationals Worldwide, Director
- **Kevin Oberlin** – Bob Jones University, Dean of the School of Religion
- **Bruce MacInnes** – Pastor of Goldston Baptist Church and Board Chairman of Lee Christian Academy
- **Al Potter** – Pastor of Leadership Development for the Shepherd's Church and Shepherd's Theological Seminary
- **Vincent Sawyer** – Pastor of Victory Baptist Church and founder of Macedonian Call Ministries

Each participant in the conference was



*The nine American pastors and teachers who taught for the video conference*

given access to the complete digital library of theological textbooks written by Pastor Vincent Sawyer and translated into the Indian languages.

Plans are already underway for next year's conference which Lord willing will be held in September 2022.

We would appreciate your prayers for God's provision for (1) an online learning management system, (2) technological resources including cameras, PA sound systems, and upgraded computers, and (3) additional office space.

Billy is tentatively planning a trip to the USA in 2022 to promote the opportunity we have of participating in this amazing ministry that God is blessing in India. Billy and Jeff would love to visit your church and share our vision. For more information contact [jeff@emuinternational.org](mailto:jeff@emuinternational.org). †

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*The group of young people who participated in tract distribution while at camp*

### **Summer Activities in Croatia**

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the noise we make and just because we are believers. The need for our own camp site is growing. If we had our own camp site, we could hold more camps throughout the summer. Please pray for wisdom and guidance for our leaders as they talk and plan for this special need. Many questions need to be answered: Where? When? The needed finances!

### **Baptismal service**

On Sunday, August 29, three young men publicly confessed through baptism that Jesus Christ is their Lord and Savior. Please pray with us for Marko (our son), Nathan (son of Pastor Nathanael), and David. Pastor Nathanael studied with them in preparation for their baptisms. They had to write down and share their testimonies during one of our Sunday services. Marko and Nathan come from families with two generations of Christians. Their grandfathers and fathers are pastors. Yet, that doesn't mean that they



*(l-r) Marko, Nathan, & David*

have special privileges with the Lord. Both realized they were born sinners, in need of a Savior. David is from a broken home and a traditional Roman Catholic background.

### **Our church members**

We ask you to pray for one of our church members, Zoli. Zoli is a roofer and was overseeing the reroofing of another church member's house last month when he fell from the roof, breaking 4 vertebrae and 3 ribs. He was taken to a hospital in Zagreb where he underwent surgery. He is at home and recovering, but he is still in pain, making it difficult to sit, walk, or even lie down for very long. He will be out of work for months. Pray for provision for this family and healing for Zoli. We would also like you to pray with us for the salvation of his wife, Sara.

Antonija is one of our church members who is a Professor of Biology. She struggled with the first pages of the Bible after she attended a seminar several years ago on the topic "Creation vs. Evolution," taught by Dr. Heinz Lycklama, a nuclear physicist from Washington State. She was very angry after the seminar and was ready to write a letter of disagreement to Dr. Lycklama. Yet, before sending the letter, she decided to study God's Word and seek to find the truth. It was her findings, which she shared with our church last month, that the Lord used to lead her to understand creation, and in the end, she agreed with Dr. Lycklama that God created the earth just as He says in His Word. †

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On Sunday, September 26, **Joshua Jensen** held his first ever baptismal service. Josh's main ministry is translating the Bible into the Jarai language, but he and **Amy** also have had a long ministry among some of their Khmer neighbors. **Davi**, a neighbor lady, professed Christ as Lord and Savior some time ago. She and her young son and some other relatives attend the Sunday meetings at the Jensens' home. She desired to be baptized. Along with Davi, two of our grandchildren were also baptized in the blow-up children's swimming pool - their oldest son **Isaiah** and second daughter **Anna**. Besides some neighbors who attended the ceremony, **JD and Kim Crowley** drove from Ban Lung to take part in the service. The Jarai church in Oyadao has a good number of members, but there is no Khmer church in this small town.



*(l-r) Davi, Anna, Amy, Isaiah, Joshua*

Thank you for your continuing support of EMU through prayer and giving! †

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