

# EMU<sup>+</sup>

## 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 . . .

This is getting tiresome. Last month I wrote the newsletter at the end of Covid/pneumonia. This month I'm recovering from a seasonal flu or cold. Next month I'll probably be writing with hay fever, as our yard is blooming prolifically right now. I suppose this is better than writing from prison as some Christians have!

We appreciate so much the ministry of **Tim and Cheryl Chapman** in Uruguay during the end of February and beginning of March. The reports and photos from Uruguay were a blessing as **Jeff Davis** and Cheryl kept us informed in the home office Stateside. Our missionaries in Uruguay are now beginning the opening of first semester for all schools, and soon, the beginning of autumn. Pray for the onset of classes at the **Bible Institute** and **FEBU** (the Bible college).

The **Pastors' School** for Ratanakiri, Cambodia, is scheduled to be held April 8-11 in Ban Lung. **JD Crowley** has organized this "semester" of classes around the theme "Anti-Karma: Receive Good, Do Good." If you have ever listened to or read JD's teaching on this subject, you understand how radical it is to the ears of Buddhist and Hindus, the dominant religions in Cambodia. Karma teaches "Do Good, Receive Good," i.e., merit-based blessing, much like personal works-based salvation. The main teachers of the four-day conference will be JD Crowley, **Brian Kane**, **Jeremy Farmer**, **Joshua Jensen**,

*(continued on page 4)*

## CAMP EMMANUEL UPDATE: REFRESHING RIVALRIES

*by Jeff Davis (director of EMU) & Tim Chapman (church planter in Lima, Peru)*



*(l-r) Abigail, Tim, Cheryl, & Micah Chapman  
at the Guazuvira beach access. Guazuvira is  
the village where Camp Emmanuel is located  
along the Rio de la Plata.*

Following a busy yet refreshing four days of Workers' Conference at Campamento Emanuel in Uruguay, we were looking forward to a brief visit to the capital city of Montevideo. Our tour guide was missionary Matias Espinel. Mid-afternoon on Saturday, February 26, missionaries Tim and Cheryl Chapman, their children Micah (16) and Abby (15), and I climbed into the Espinel's van to explore the old city before a youth



*Tim (on sidewalk) talking to teens before  
the youth rally at Siloe Church where  
Matias Espinel is the pastor*

meeting that evening at Iglesia Evangelica Siloé. The Chapmans' oldest daughter Lauren is a student at Bob Jones University and was not able to visit Uruguay with

them. After the obligatory photo in front of the Montevideo sign, located near the beach overlooking the city, we passed a statue of a man on a horse. Tim asked Matias who that was. Matias replied, "This is a very famous man who did a lot of good things. We love him very much."

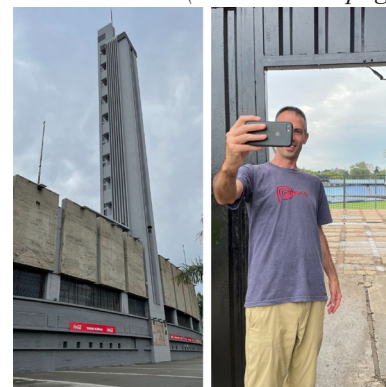
Needless to say, we hope Matias doesn't give up his mission position to be a tour guide. Matias did know some of Uruguay's history, such as the history of Uruguayan fútbol (soccer). Commonly

referred to as La Celeste (The Sky Blue), the Uruguayan national team has won the Copa América 15 times and the FIFA World Cup twice, including the first World Cup in 1930 at Estadio Centenario in Montevideo. Matias drove us to the stadium. As we were walking around, we found some men going into the stadium. They wouldn't let us in, but they allowed us to at least see



*Matias giving Tim a tour  
of his home library*

*(continued on page 2)*



*Tim at Uruguay's national stadium*

## Camp Emmanuel Update

(continued from page 1)

inside. Tim wanted to get a selfie in front with his Peru shirt. Peru plays Uruguay here on March 24 in an important match to determine who goes to the World Cup later this year in November & December. The Peru vs. Uruguay rivalry became a fun diversion throughout Tim's time in Uruguay.

Tim Chapman is the second son of Tom and Connie, EMU missionaries serving in Antofagasta, Chile. Tim serves as pastor of Iglesia Bautista Gracia in Lima, a church that he officially started in the spring of 2016. We had invited him to be the camp speaker for our Workers' Conference and Family Camp in 2021, but COVID changed those plans. It was a tremendous blessing to have him join us this year. Although our attendance was down a little, God gave us tremendous meetings both weeks. Over the weekends, Tim and I preached in six different churches. I also personally interviewed each of our workers. The Lord blessed us with gorgeous weather during our time in Uruguay.



Family Camp 2022

On Thursday morning of Family Camp, I sat down with Tim to get his impressions of Campamento Emanuel and the overall ministry of EMU International in Uruguay.

**Jeff:** Concerning the pandemic, is it different being here in Uruguay than life in Peru?

**Tim:** By all means! Uruguay, throughout the entire pandemic, has had no national mask mandate. In Peru, I cannot step out of my house without a mask. In Uruguay, you are free to come and go as you please without showing a vaccination card. In Peru, it is the only way to get into stores, businesses, and public buildings. But I do want to say that we are grateful, despite the stricter controls, that we have been able to gather in Peru as a church with a good amount of freedom since May of 2021.

**Jeff:** Tim, you were here in Uruguay 11 years ago preaching for the Jovenes (16 year olds to mid-20s) and the Adolescents (12-15 years old) camps. What has your experience been this time around?

**Tim:** It has been great to see the faithfulness of the guys here, like Pedro Donzé. They are all still working as diligently as before. The improvements on the camp site have also been very encouraging. Another blessing has been seeing people that I met 11 years ago who are now in their next phase of life. There is a couple this week at family camp



Jeff Davis & Pedro Donze at Family Camp

that were at the Jovenes camp as singles and now they are here at family camp with a six-year-old daughter, and they are faithfully serving the Lord.

**Jeff:** Share with us some observations of the Workers Conference.

**Tim:** The attendance was down a little due to COVID. We had twenty-one workers attend. It was a blessing to hang out with them all week. I count it a privilege to teach them because they are all qualified teachers. They were all hungry. It was a great experience for all of them to take a few days off from ministry and sit under the preaching and teaching of God's Word. In different ways, I enjoyed my interaction with each of them. There were a few that were a blessing in unique ways. For example, Pastor Jose Kowalczyk, who turns 80 years old on April 10, is still faithfully preaching. He loves the gospel and loves the local church.



Cheryl & Tim talking to Jose Kowalczyk

Having preached for Gustavo de Oliveira at Calvary Temple eleven years ago, I enjoyed getting reacquainted with him. His spirit is extremely kind. It was encouraging to talk with him about some of the similar struggles that we have faced in our families and our ministries.

**Jeff:** What was your aim in preaching for the workers' camp?

**Tim:** The mission of the church. I took our church's mission statement and taught a series of messages on the different themes of that statement: the importance of the local church; the centrality of gospel proclamation; the things that flow from gospel preaching like personal conversion; Christian community; and a commitment to missions and church planting.

**Jeff:** Did Family Camp carry the same purpose?

**Tim:** The focus was different for Family Camp. We followed the theme for the summer which was missions. There were two tracks - the evenings focused on the summer theme of missions and the mornings were an overview of Matthew 5-7, the Sermon on the Mount.



For a missions session at family camp, Tom & Connie Chapman were interviewed in Antofagasta, Chile

**Jeff:** You have spent over 15 years ministering in another South American country, Peru. In your two weeks of observation, how does ministry here compare with ministry in Peru?

**Tim:** People in North America tend to think that all the people in South America are alike, and that is definitely not the case. The Uruguayan Spanish is different. Their food is different. The social interaction is even different. However, the bond in Christ always draws us together. We have thoroughly enjoyed our time here.

**Jeff:** You've worked in camp ministry a lot in the past. What are your observations of Campamento Emanuel and the camp ministry they have here in Uruguay?



(front rt-lt) Gabriel Gomez, Nico Gomez, Marcos Gomez

(back rt-lt) Henry Castro, Graciela (mother of Valeria), Valeria Gomez, & 3 others (I do not have their names)

**Tim:** Pedro and his team are doing a tremendous job. When it comes to camp ministry, it all begins with a proper philosophy. Pedro not only understands that, but he also has it written out and has fully embraced it. The next area is people. It has been difficult for Pedro to get all the staff that he has needed recently. Pedro Donzé, Marcos Gomez, Nico and Valeria Gomez, and Henry Castro are the right people in

(continued on page 3)

## Camp Emmanuel Update (continued from page 2)



*Beatriz is the camp secretary, but she also serves as camp photographer/videographer, cashier in the kiosko (above), & many other functions - all as a volunteer.*

the right places. The third is the program. They work hard to run a quality program. They have a good balance of activities and free time, with an appropriate focus on the times in the Word for preaching, God & I time, etc. The final area is the Place. God has blessed the ministry with a tremendous place. Thanks to the faithful support of donors from the US, they have a beautiful property and well-maintained facilities.

**Jeff:** Tim, you know that here in Uruguay they drink a lot of mate (pronounced MAH-tay). Have you been enjoying that while you are here? Had you ever tried mate before?

**Tim:** Never, but we were very excited to try it. Pastor Gaby Gomez and the Iglesia Getsemaní (Gethsemane Church) gave us a mate gourd, the bombilla (metal straw which serves as a filter), and the yerba (green tea). However, since they tend to walk around in Uruguay with their mate and a thermos of hot water, I have taken the liberty to walk around with my coffee mug full of strong dark brew Peruvian coffee. I brought three bags of coffee and two French presses.



*Tim with his ubiquitous cup of Peruvian coffee*

**Jeff:** What has been your favorite thing about being in Uruguay this time?

**Tim:** It has been a wonderful break from intense local church ministry in Peru. It has been very refreshing to spend time with some wonderful believers here, including our director. We are looking forward to

future partnerships between our ministry in Peru and the ministry here in Uruguay. We are hoping that Pastor Ruben Villar or Pastor Daniel Anton from our church will come next January to speak for the youth camps. We are also talking to Pedro about sending a team of workers from our church to help at the camps next summer.



*EMU Uruguayan missionaries at the Workers' Conference  
(Not all of our missionaries were able to attend.)*

I (Jeff) have posted many pictures from this recent trip on Facebook at this link: <https://emuinternational.org/uruguay2022/>

*(editor's note: After the Chapmans left Uruguay for Lima, Jeff headed to the interior of Uruguay to visit several of our northern churches. The following is taken from the March "donor letter" he wrote to EMU supporters. Because it gives information about the remainder of his days in Uruguay, it seemed fitting to include that report here.)*



*Chicha Rodriguez with Cristina & Pablo Billafan in Rivera*

Greetings from Rivera, a town located in the north of Uruguay on the Brazilian border. It is early morning at the home of Pastor Pablo Billafán. Today we will minister in a small church close by, and this evening, I will preach at his church, Calvary Temple. Their church will celebrate its 52nd Anniversary later this month. I, along with Pedro Donzé and Maria Teresa (Chicha) Rodriguez, travelled five hours from Camp Emmanuel on Saturday to the town of Tacuarembó, where I preached to a wonderful group of brothers and sisters, and then we drove another hour and a half to Rivera. We were greeted by Christina, the pastor's wife. Their church has youth meetings on Saturday nights, and Pablo was finishing his message to them when we arrived. We then had supper and finished around 10:30 p.m. It had been a long day. I wasn't great company for most of the drive up. Chicha and Pedro were speaking in Spanish most of the time, and my mind was exhausted from trying to

understand. I was extremely sleepy and kept dozing off. We had just finished two busy weeks at camp, and I had preached in four churches the previous two weekends. It also didn't help that it rained very hard for most of our drive. I found myself singing the hymn, "Showers of Blessings." The second stanza was very appropriate: *"There shall be showers of blessing . . . Over the hills and the valleys, Sound of abundance of rain."*

God has richly blessed the ministry of EMU International since its founding in 1946 as Evangelical Mission to Uruguay. For forty years the entire focus of EMU was on this small South American country. As EMU expanded into other countries, a major focus of our ministry remained in Uruguay. When I joined EMU International in 2016, I could not have imagined how much the people of this country would come to mean to me.

Our Workers' Conference and Family Camp were down a little in attendance, due to the COVID-19 protocols, but God gave us wonderful meetings with missionaries Tim and Cheryl Chapman and their children Micah and Abby. Tim spoke on the camp theme of "Missions." I was privileged to personally interview eighteen of our missionary workers. I wanted the interviews to be an encouraging time for them, but I believe I left more encouraged than each of them. After discussing some of the struggles that they had been facing over the past two years, I asked them if they had seen any good things come out of the time of pandemic. Many of them expressed how their churches seemed to grow stronger as the people were longing for the fellowship that only comes from gathering in person. Each one of our pastors told us that they were surprised at how God sent new people to their churches that they had not invited. I heard of many people who were saved, then baptized, and added to our churches. To God be all the glory, because He did it when they couldn't. The one consistent thing was that our pastors kept preaching, and the people kept praying. Through Facebook video, YouTube, and WhatsApp, our churches were continually fed the Word of God.

I'm reminded of Isaiah 55:10-11, *For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither; but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*

Lord willing tomorrow morning, my COVID test to reenter the USA will come back negative, and I will be able to take my flight back tomorrow evening. It will be a long time of traveling as I will not arrive back home until late Tuesday night (March 8). Though I'm looking forward to getting home, I hate to leave these precious friends. †

Page 4

## ALONG THE WAY...

(continued from page 1)

and **Matthew Hancock**. The venue will be at the new church building of Labansiek Church in Ban Lung. JD is expecting around seventy pastors, future pastors, Bible translators, and women's group leaders to attend. Pray that Covid will not interfere with these plans. In February, a few of our Cambodia missionaries, who are seconded to the CMA mission board in order to receive visas in Cambodia, were slated to attend a prayer conference at the CMA headquarters in Phnom Penh. JD was asked to be one of the preachers at the conference. However, an outbreak of Covid resulted in the cancellation of the in-person meetings. **JD and Kim Crowley** both contracted Covid at that time. Both seem to be recovered.

On February 18, **Ted Allston** flew to Africa with his brother-in-law Jerry and another man to minister to Christians in Kenya and Uganda. Ted returns home to South Carolina on March 16. Hopefully, he will write a report about this missionary adventure.

We recently received a letter from **Hector and Graciela Gomez**, one of our retired pastors in Uruguay. Hector was the pastor of Calvary Temple of Rivera for many decades. He and Graciela continue to help in that church and in many other areas, such as Las Flores, Salto, and Camp Emmanuel. One burden they have had for several years is for a particular ministry in Equatorial Guinea, introduced to them by a missionary friend with a different board. Many difficulties have prevented the Gómezes from going to Africa, the most recent of which is the Covid pandemic. The following is an excerpt from Hector's letter:

*We continue with our plans for our departure to Equatorial Guinea. We are in Montevideo to renew Graciela's teaching credentials for use in Guinea and Spain. We are leaving for Madrid on Saturday,*



(l-r) Hector & Graciela Gomez at the Workers' Conference with Hector's younger brother, Gabriel, pastor of Gethsemani Church

*April 16. Once there, we will start our residence documents and visas process to enter Equatorial Guinea. This may take us 3 to 6 months. While we are waiting, we will be visiting some Christian friends in both Madrid and Barcelona, and some of Graciela's family in Galicia, Spain. We are waiting for the Lord's timing to get to Guinea to serve our Lord.*

Graciela has dual citizenship in Uruguay and Spain because of her ancestry. It is much easier for a Spaniard to get a visa for an African nation than for an Uruguayan to do so. Incidentally, Galicia is above Portugal in northwestern Spain. Pray that the Lord will grant them both good health and the funds to complete this ministry dream.

**Marco Nuñez** let us know through a recent call to our office that it was the twenty-fifth anniversary of when he first arrived in Cancun, Mexico, to establish a church. At that time, he was single. Since then, God has abundantly blessed his ministry with the establishment of the First Fundamental Baptist Church of Cancun and training several men for the ministry and sending them out to plant churches, usually in their hometowns. One very important change to Marco's life and ministry during those intervening years was the addition

of **Gwendolyn** as his wife. This summer, Marco will be commissioning **Daniel and Marisol Hernandez** to plant a church in Daniel's hometown in the State of Chiapas. Land has already been purchased and a house/sanctuary will be built, starting when he arrives in August.

A letter from **Josh and Amy Jensen** in Oyadao, Cambodia, stated that about half of the final consultant check is complete for Genesis, and a third of the "initial checks on Exodus (exegesis checking, team checking, comprehension checking)" is done. Also, Josh recently had the privilege of delivering the message at a wedding in the Jarai church the Jensens attend.



Josh preaching at a Jarai wedding

As March hurries onward and winter draws to a close, many of the Covid restrictions are falling by the wayside, allowing for greater ease of travel and more freedom in ministry in most of the countries where EMU missionaries serve. Pray for wisdom for our men and women as they make plans to use this opportunity to even better reach and minister to those in their realm of influence. Thank you for your continued interest in EMU. †

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