

# EMU<sup>+</sup>

## INTERNATIONAL

*Evangelical Mission to the Unreached*

*Evangelical Mission to Uruguay*

PROCLAIMING THE TRIUMPHS OF THE GOSPEL

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Number 4



*Ken & Joan Jensen  
Assistant Director*

### ALONG THE WAY . . .

In April two major religious observances occur, each with a very different god/God and set of prophets. The first of these, on the 2nd, is the beginning of the month-long season of Ramadan. Ramadan commemorates the month in which Mohammad began receiving his revelations, which later became known as the Koran. Though referred to as the month of fasting, in which Muslims are not permitted to eat between sunrise and sunset, they are free to binge feast between sunset and sunrise. Allah is their god, who provides no redemption for sin. Entry into heaven is completely works-based, according to “good works” as set forth in the Koran. Though Islam claims a host of “prophets,” including Jewish and Christian ones, Mohammad trumps them all and is the final prophet of Allah. Since the days of Mohammad, Islam has viewed the core doctrines of Jesus Christ with contempt to the point of persecuting, even to the death, followers of Christ.

Most Christians celebrate **Easter** on April 17 this year. Also known as Resurrection Day, this is the event that provided redemption to the world through faith in Jesus Christ and repentance toward God. There is no offer of assurance of eternal salvation in any other religion. We must never forget that the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus is the core of our salvation. May this celebration be a special

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## EXPECT IT TO GET WORSE

*by Brian & Lydia Kane, Bible translator in Ban Lung, Cambodia*

### Krung-Brao Bible School

At the end of January, the Krung and Brao churches joined together for another “first” after a long COVID-induced break. For three days in the district center of Ta Veang, they studied through the Bible. Not only was this the first Bible school after a long two-year break, it was the first session to have five Brao teachers, three of whom had never taught in a Bible school! Well over a 100 people were in attendance, and the vast majority of those were Brao Christians. This is a testament to how much the Brao church has grown in the last several years. It was so encouraging.



*The Krung-Brao Bible School in January*

### Consultant Checking

Progress on the Krung New Testament translation has begun again in earnest. Moving into this year, we had eight books of the NT (John, Romans, 1&2 Corinthians, Colossians, Hebrews, 1&2 Peter) which all needed one final check before we could move on to the typesetting and publication stage. Several other Bible translators in this region, who themselves have worked years translating the Bible into other related languages, have graciously partnered with us to finish these last remaining checks. As of March 30, with their help, our team has successfully finished four of those eight remaining books! We are on target to finish the final four books by the end of this year. Our lead translation facilitator, Chuck Keller, along with his wife Sally, have had to remain in the States for the last couple years due to Covid restrictions and now



*Brian (back rt.), Greg Mallow (front left) & 11 Krung pastors met to clarify several key Bible terms for the translation*

health issues. Thankfully, he has been able to work with us remotely as we make this monumental push to the end.

On Wednesday, after 2 days of an abnormal number of technical issues, I commented to the consultant checker how unnatural it seemed that so many things were going wrong, both technically with the translation process and also with the health of our family and other families connected to the translation. She commented, “Well, Brian, you’re getting to the end of a translation. Expect it to get worse.” **We need you to please bathe this project in prayer.**

### Romans Pastors School

We are one week away from the next session of our bi-annual Pastors School in Ban Lung, April 8-11. We will be studying through the first eight chapters of the book of Romans. The Krung church has grown over the years, but there certainly have been many who joined Christianity for reasons other than the knowledge that their sins have separated them from the Creator God, and that reconciliation is only through Christ. I am increasingly concerned that the unclear preaching of the gospel among the Krung churches is one of the reasons contributing to this. Romans 1-8 is the perfect thing to be studying to rectify this very issue. Please pray that God will help us teachers to again teach the gospel

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**ALONG THE WAY...***(continued from page 1)*

blessing to you this year!

(I suppose there is a third religious celebration in April: Earth Day on the 22nd. The worship of Mother Earth has been around even longer than the cult of Gaia in ancient Greece.)

We ask for your prayers for our EMU churches and missionaries as they especially emphasize the Easter message this month through preaching, teaching, music, and plays. Like Christmas, Easter is a time when most of the world is more open to hearing the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In case you haven't noticed, Covid does not seem to be quite the news item that it has been for the past two years. Now, the Russian invasion of Ukraine is the 24/7 headline on all media. What is happening there is truly sad on many levels. One of those levels is the refugee problem as untold thousands of Ukrainians have fled and are fleeing to neighboring countries. Though Croatia does not border Ukraine, war refugees are making it to this Balkan country. The **Crnkovics'** church in Koprivnica, close to the Hungarian border, a nation that shares its eastern border with Ukraine, has been working with some of the refugees filtering into Croatia. **Kornel** went to the local Red Cross to offer help from his church, but the office was closed. However, he met a refugee lady from Ukraine who had also just arrived to acquire information at the Red Cross. She had fled to Croatia with her three children and her mother. Kornel invited them to church, and they attended, though they did not speak Croatian. However, **Nathanael**, the co-pastor of the church, knew a Ukrainian lady married to a Croatian in the city. She is a professing Christian. She volunteered to attend the services that Sunday and translate the messages to the newly arrived family. As it turned out, the matriarch of the group was a Christian, though her daughter and grandchildren were not. We hope to have a more thorough report on this ministry in the not-too-distant future. Pray that the Crnkovics and their church will have an effective outreach to many of these folks.

In spite of the interruptions caused by the Pandemic, the congregation in Koprivnica has been able to almost finish the church's upstairs kitchen, fellowship hall, and bathrooms. There is one urgent prayer request from the Crnkovics: each summer a youth camp is held including young people from several churches in Croatia. For several summers, this camp has been held at a particular campground by the seaside. However, the campground just came under new management, and the owners are implementing major renovations which will not be completed by this summer. Therefore, these churches are looking for another venue that will allow their large group along with

the religious programs and other things that come with running a Christian camp. Pray that they will soon find a location amenable to their needs.

For a number of reasons, many countries around the world have been pulling back on their Covid restrictions, allowing for greater freedom of movement and meeting. The **Bixbys** in France rejoice that at the beginning of April their church will hold its first after-church fellowship dinner since the beginning of the Covid lockdowns two years ago. Also, various smaller group gatherings are being restarted that were not permitted previously. As mentioned before, the church building has been purchased and the church is debt-free. However, there are still some issues with the municipality that need to be resolved, which the leaders at the church were only told about at the time the purchase was being finalized. Pray that these issues will be worked out soon, without financial penalties or further restrictions.

Though Uruguay's government has relaxed Covid restrictions – mainly to promote one of its major industries - tourism – there is still a lot of mask-wearing, and it seems like the Omicron variant swept through the country earlier this year. The difficulties of Covid cases cropping up at **Camp Emmanuel** in January have already been covered in the EMU Newsletter. However, many of our churches in Uruguay had to deal with this increase of cases in their own midst. **Pastor Ovidio Acevedo** mentioned in a recent letter that Omicron took down all five members of his family earlier in the year, with one person following another with signs of illness one day after the other. Because other members of the congregation at Emmanuel Church in El Cerro were also experiencing the same illness, in-person church gatherings were suspended in favor of streaming services. Ovidio had a special blessing during that time. His twenty-five-year-old son preached his first message for the church on one Sunday.



*Ovidio & Yusara Acevedo*

**Pastor Rubito Rodriguez** of Treinta y Tres ("33"), Uruguay, sent this report to our office:

*"Covid has limited our ministry efforts. Many still fear becoming ill. Even so, we continue with our evangelism outreach. I spent two days in La Charqueada, a*



*Rubito & Marita Rodriguez*

*small village on the eastern edge of our department (state), working alongside other brothers and sisters from "33" in an evangelistic campaign. We had two services. In the first service, the husband of a sister, Wilson Bishop, accepted Christ and is now attending services there.*

*"Two new ladies, Teresa and Genoveva, have been attending our services. In December, a man named Washington joined our church. He was previously a deacon in a charismatic church. While studying the Word, he realized his error in some of his beliefs and began attending our church. After finishing our discipleship classes, he asked for membership in our church. His wife, Marisol, is also attending with him, and my wife, Marita, is discipling her.*

*"At the end of January, we always have a youth camp at Camp Bethel (located between "33" and La Charqueada). Sadly, due to a Covid outbreak among the young people, including Marita and myself, it had to be cancelled. But we know that God is in control and that He knows why these things happen."*

**Pastor Jose Kowalczyk** of Durazno, Uruguay, requests that we especially pray for a replacement for him. Jose is turning 80-years-old in April, and though he still feels good, and has energy and enthusiasm for the ministries in Durazno, he knows that it would be prudent to be training the next pastor now. And there is the possibility that Jose is actually training that man now, but a commitment has not been made yet. Pray that the Lord would give direction and conviction in this matter.

In one of the pictures that Jeff Davis took while in Uruguay, **Pedro Donzé** and **Henry Castro** – the camp director and camp caretaker – are standing on the roof of the boys' cabin examining a hole made in the metal roof by a large branch that "speared" the cabin during a severe storm. Knowing how these roofs were constructed – I was there decades ago when the work was done – I was sure this would be a major and

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## ALONG THE WAY...

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*Pedro & Henry examining the damage to the roof of the boys' cabin*

costly problem to correct. However, Pedro let me know that Henry fixed the roof with no problem! We are truly blessed to have such an insightful and skilled man working at camp. In past prayer letters from Henry, he asked prayer that his wife **Patricia** would find steady employment close to the camp. She is a nurse and had been working in a medical clinic in Pando, a good-sized city about forty-five minutes away, and she was also working part time at a clinic some six miles from camp in a town called Parque del Plata. That prayer request seems to have been answered. She is now able to work full-time at Parque del Plata. However, her contract at the clinic has to be renewed every three months. Henry asks prayer that this job would become more permanent.

The **Bible Institute** and **FEBU** have begun their first semester of the year in Uruguay. **Matias Espinel** is still the director of the college, while **John Mark Steel** is the director of the Bible Institute, but he also teaches at the college.



*(l-r) Noemi & Juan Gonzalez, and a FEBU student at the Sunday morning "feria"*

**John Mark Steel** is still in the States following his father's death in February. **Deborah** and their children returned to Uruguay in March for the beginning of school. John Mark remained Stateside for several reasons that would have brought him here anyway. In March, he defended his doctrinal dissertation at Bob Jones University – and passed. He will march at the Commencement ceremony on May 6, returning to Uruguay on May 13. However,

between now and then, he will be speaking in a number of churches in SC, NC, IN, and finishing with meetings in IA before returning to Greenville to receive his doctorate. I believe John Mark is teaching his students in Uruguay via the internet during this time. Pray for safety as he travels, for good services, and for Deborah and the kids in Uruguay.

March 1, the grandfather of **Becky Hancock** passed away in the state of Washington. Becky was able to fly to that funeral along with the Hancocks' youngest child, **Ethan**. The biggest hurdle in doing so was getting a negative Covid test in time – which she did. Strangely, the day after Becky and Ethan flew out of Cambodia, the remaining members of the family started showing symptoms of Covid! **Matt** became the sickest and was down for a week. Because of the illness, Cambodia's regulations require a ten-day quarantine, which meant that their homeschool schedule was halted. **Savannah McPhail**, who helps teach the children, was not able to teach during that time, but she took a few meals to the family. That had to be a rough time for Matt! Becky and Ethan returned to Ou Reang Ov, Cambodia, on March 14, but they had to quarantine for two weeks in Phnom Penh after entering the country. Life is basically back to normal now.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the **Ratanakiri Pastors' School** will be held in Ban Lung, Cambodia, April 8-11. All of our EMU Cambodia missionary men will be teaching at the school with JD Crowley being the main presenter. A couple of men from other mission organizations will also have sessions. If you get this current newsletter before that date, please pray for the success of these four days of intense Bible study.

**JD and Kim Crowley** have recovered from their bouts of Covid in February. On March 31, Kim flies to Chicago to help with their daughter **Anna's** children while Anna and her husband have their fourth child. JD will follow Kim to Chicago on April 22. In early May, both JD and Kim will travel to Greenville, SC, where their third daughter **Jenna** is anticipating in June. Also, their daughter-in-law **Emmie**, married to **Taylor**, gave birth in February. They also are planning to visit all their supporters, including the ones in Hawaii. They are scheduled to return to Ban Lung in August. We look forward to seeing them in May.

**Alexis Shoemaker de Arenas** and her husband **Juan Jesus** are thanking the Lord for their comfortable rental apartment in Lima, Perú. Alexis sent photos of their new home, and it is quite nice, with space to host gatherings. Because the Covid regs in Perú have relaxed, too, they are able to have the college and career young people at the house for fellowships, and Alexis can use the apartment as a place to teach Bible studies to the teen girls of the church.

**Billy Judson** of Hyderabad, India, has requested prayer for several things: 1) His two daughters are in school, and both seem to be catching whatever illness is going around. Pray for physical resistance and good health. 2) Billy is continuing his online studies as he pursues an advanced degree in Bible. 3) The second semester of classes have begun at the Good News Bible Schools and Seminaries in churches around India. Pray for good attendance and clear understanding of the material. 4) In May, Billy will be coming to the USA to travel with **Jeff Davis** to try to raise more monthly support for the Judson family. **Saritha** has to work outside the home to make ends meet. Pray that Billy and Jeff will have success at developing an effective schedule of travel.

**Jeff Davis** will be flying to Cancún, Mexico, a few days before Easter to teach and preach at the church of **Marco and Gwendolyn Nuñez**. After Easter, Jeff will stay a few more days to teach the several national pastors who have been trained and sent out by Marco.

On the day after Jeff arrives back in Greenville, SC, the **EMU board meeting** will be held – Saturday morning, April 23.

I also want to share some news about some folks that many of you know, but who are not active in EMU anymore. First, **Steve Erkens** is now working as an assistant to one of the vice presidents at Bob Jones University. It's a challenging job, but he enjoys it. Second, my mother, **Marilyn Jensen**, has just moved into Shepherd's Care, an assisted living facility



*Marilyn Jensen at her new home at Shepherd's Care in Greenville, SC*

in Greenville, owned and managed by Christians. Mom turned 90 in October and has lived alone since Dad moved into a nursing home about eight months before he passed away in October 2019. Mom's children and their spouses, and mom herself, decided it was time for her to make this move. There were a host of very positive reasons to take this step. One very neat thing about Shepherd's Care is that this is where many of the older employees of BJU have moved, so Mom and us kids know a huge percentage of the residents. We are all very thankful that the Lord has allowed Mom to live there.

The picture of Jesus in a manger, with Mary  
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## Lima MK Camps

*by Tim Chapman,  
church planter in Lima, Peru*

About four years ago, my friend Matt Collier wrote me to ask what I thought about doing a camp for Missionary Kids here in Peru. At that time, Matt had been leading Camps Abroad, a missions ministry of The Wilds Camp, for many years, and we had worked together in camps here in Peru in the past.

The idea of doing a camp for MK's was so totally off the radar for me that I had to think about it for a while. At that point, we had been planting a church in downtown Lima for about two and a half years, and I hadn't given much thought to camp ministry for quite some time.

As I talked to Cheryl about it, we began to see that this might be something the Lord wanted us to consider. We thought of our own kids and the reality for them of living between two cultures. We realized that this could meet a need for them, and, if so, it would probably meet a need for other MK's too.

Matt Collier came down for our first MK Camp in January of 2019. He brought with him another friend, Matt Jones. Matt (Jones) is a missionary in Thailand, and they have hosted a number of MK camps there. He has done a lot of study and work concerning Third-Culture-Kids (TCK's) and the struggles they face.

We had over 35 MK's from Peru and other South American countries for that first camp, and the response from both the MK's and their parents was tremendous. Matt (Jones) took most of the morning sessions and worked through issues related to the TCK experience. For many of the MK's it was the first time they had had an opportunity to hear someone discuss how they really feel as Third-Culture-Kids. MK's often struggle with a sense of their

own identity since they live caught between two worlds. They struggle with a sense of loss and grief that is often unique to the TCK experience. Transitions are hard for everybody, and MK's have to handle big ones all the time.

What was the result of gathering MK's for a week and talking with them about these subjects? They discovered a unique comradery, and the bond they enjoyed was tremendous. In fact, the camp seemed to meet such a need that the next year, January of 2020, we had over 70 MK's attend the camp. To be able to preach to that many MK's in a setting so conducive to reaching their hearts has been a great blessing.

Because of the Pandemic, we were not able to host the camp in 2021. Throughout the Pandemic, many of the missionaries left the field. Earlier this year (2022), we hosted our third MK Camp, but with a much-reduced number of campers. Even so, it was a great blessing for the families that participated. We are beginning preparations for the fourth MK Camp in January of 2023, Lord willing.

Pray for us as we seek to minister to missionary families here in Peru. Though it is not our primary ministry focus, the spiritual fruit that we've seen from the ministry with the MK's has made it worthwhile to keep hosting the camps for several more years. We trust the Lord will continue to give us that opportunity! †



*January 2022 MK Camp in Lima, Peru*

## ALONG THE WAY...

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and Joseph looking on, is a concept that is pleasing and unthreatening to much of the world. Even Islam teaches that Jesus was born of a virgin – though not the Son of God. The story that the world cannot abide is God incarnate, betrayed, beaten, crucified, buried, and risen in three days. It is at the cross and at the tomb that sinful mankind is most confronted with his/her wickedness and personal helplessness. Though King Herod saw Jesus the infant as a threat, the world, under Satan's influence, views the Jesus of the Passion Week as the greatest of threats. If not for our assurance in the power of God and the fulfillment of His will in history, the Christian plight would seem most precarious. Thanks be to God that the battle is already won! And thank you for your prayers and gifts that help those of us with EMU International to stand firm and proclaim that Good News. †

## Expect It to Get Worse

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clearly and that these men from churches all over Ratanakiri Province will understand it clearer than ever before.

Thank you all for continuing to partner with us financially, and through prayer and your encouragements to us. As you know, missionaries are not super-saints. We have family struggles, marital struggles, and personal battles like all Christians, and our enemy fights against us physically and emotionally as well. †

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