

EMU⁺

INTERNATIONAL

Evangelical Mission to the Unreached

Evangelical Mission to Uruguay

PROCLAIMING THE TRIUMPHS OF THE GOSPEL

Volume LXV

September 2022

Number 9



*Ken & Joan Jensen
Assistant Director*

ALONG THE WAY . . .

As September slides into its 30-day slot, it seems that the heavy travel schedules of our EMU Family may be slackening. Or maybe not! Traditionally, both north and south of the Equator, our missionary families are in cultures and countries where school is in session, making for a somewhat routine environment – even in homes without school-age children. August saw six of our EMU MKs in Greenville, and Joan and I were able to host a meet-and-greet pizza supper at our house for these college-age “kids” (including the three ex-MK Erkens boys – two of whom, though still in high school, are taking classes at Bob Jones University, so they are sort of college students, too). The group included **Nathaniel Crowley** (senior at BJU), **Lauren Chapman** (sophomore at BJU), **Isobel & Abigail Farmer** (freshmen at BJU), **Mia Kane** (freshman at BJU), **Micaiah Bixby** (2nd year trade school college in Paris), and **Caleb, Luke, and Jacob Erkens**. (Two MKs from another mission board were also invited.) It was interesting to be a small group in which the following languages were spoken by at least one of those at the table: English, French, Spanish, Mandarin, Khmer, Tampuan, Krung, Tagalog, and Ewe!

In addition to being with these young people, we had several of their parents over for meals at various times while they were in the Greenville area, all three of which

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THEOLOGY RETREAT IN PERU

by Tim & Cheryl Chapman, church planters in Lima, Peru



Dr. Sam Horn (rt) & translator teaching in the main pavilion

In April of last year, I came down with Covid during what they considered here to be the “second wave” of the Pandemic. I was in bed for most of 2 weeks. The first week, I felt so bad I could hardly do anything except rest. However, during the second week, even though I still felt very weak, at least I could enjoy some reading. In God’s providence, I came across a biography of the theologian, R. C. Sproul, who died just a few years ago. In Sproul’s early years of ministry, he established what he called a study center. It was a place for young people to come and study theology in a setting where they could get away from the routine of their own lives for several days. As I read, the Lord began to form in my heart a specific vision for ministry here in Peru. We’re calling it “Theology Retreats.”

The vision is to gather young people for several days at a time and teach them theology. From our years of work in camp ministry, we understand the value of pulling people away from their normal routine to spend a few days in a setting where they can relax, enjoy fellowship with other believers, and spend more time in the Word. At the same time, we recognize that only a small group of people in a given local church will actually take the initiative to pursue theological education through a seminary or institute. So, we believe we can find a “sweet spot” between traditional camp ministry and formal theological education. We want to gather

young Christians to study theology, but do it in a retreat setting where they can enjoy the benefits that traditional camp ministry offers.

In late July, we hosted our first retreat. Dr. Sam Horn flew down to teach for us. He took the wisdom books of *Proverbs*, *Ecclesiastes*, *Job*, and *Song of Solomon* and taught through an overview of those books during the three days of the retreat. He sent his material to us ahead of time, and we had it translated and printed in a book that we gave to all those who attended.

We hosted the retreat at the same location where we have done camps for missionary kids. It’s a great setting for this kind of ministry. We had close to 100 people attend. The only sad part was that most of our family was not able to participate (Lauren was the lone exception) because we came

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*Lauren Chapman (striped sweater)
fellowshipping with friends*

Tovu and the Tiger

by Ted & Marla Allston, teacher in the 10/40 Window

Pastor Tovu (not his real name) is originally from a tribal region in his country. His father, before his conversion to Christ, was part of a group that persecuted Christians, beating and killing them, burning their homes and churches. After he came to know Jesus as Lord and Savior, he fearlessly taught the gospel among his people. Tovu followed in his father's footsteps, becoming the pastor of a small church.

Some time ago a militant group in his region went on a rampage, killing hundreds of pastors and believers, burning many hundreds of homes, as well as numerous churches. One Sunday morning, as Pastor Tovu and his little flock gathered, a runner came to tell them a mob was on the way to kill them and to burn their church. He and his people fled into the jungle. As they climbed up on the nearby hills they could see homes burning. And they could see their church building burning.

For 5 days they hid in the jungle, listening to their pursuers' chants to their god as they searched for them. The group hid in a crevice in the rocks. They had no food to eat and only rain water to drink. Each day the militants came closer and closer but did not find them. On the 5th day, as the chanting got closer and closer, Tovu and his people thought it was their day to go home to Jesus. As you can imagine, they prayed fervently for their Good Shepherd's protection. That's when the tiger showed up.

A very large tiger "found" Tovu's group. It walked around and around their hiding place but showed no interest in them. Finally, it lay down near them like a family pet. As the pursuers chanted and came closer and closer, the tiger got up and moved toward them. The militants could be heard yelling, "There's a huge tiger up here! Go the other way! Look in another place!" When the chanting sounds faded, Tovu looked for the tiger. It had vanished. Think: Daniel in the lions' den!

Tovu and his people were then able to get to a detachment of police who were in the area to curb the violence. They were transported to a refugee camp several hours from their (now destroyed) homes. From that camp they were able to move into a nearby city where they now live. Tovu has planted a church there. The city is known for its many places of idol worship for those who sought to kill Pastor Tovu and his small flock. He now lives in a neighborhood that is very opposed to the gospel and his church. They are not persecuted outwardly, but they (and we) get disapproving looks from many of their neighbors.

One day during our visit in July, we visited a museum. We saw mock-ups of Pastor Tovu's tribal people and many artifacts from their region. He told us that those were the kinds of axes the militants carried as they searched to kill them. We visited another site where there was a group of militants of the same persuasion as those who tried to



Pastor Tovu at the museum
(His face is blurred to protect his identity.)

kill him. They chanted to their god as we walked by. Pastor Tovu leaned close to me and said: "That's what those who sought to kill us chanted in the jungle as they searched for us."

Pastor Tovu, his people, and all our brethren in situations similar to theirs need our prayers. Often national governments are strongly opposed to Christ's gospel and those who follow Him. Please remember them before the throne of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah! †

ALONG THE WAY...

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were back in their countries of mission service by the end of the month. **Bonnie Ruth Farmer** returned to Cambodia on August 10; **JD and Kim Crowley** flew home to Cambodia on August 16; and **Lydia Kane** headed back to Cambodia on August 28. But that was not all the Cambodia flights! **Brooke Illsley**, who helps with the homeschooling of the Farmer kids, made a short visit to see family and friends in July and August. Joan got to spend some time with her over lunch one day, and Brooke stopped by our house/office to pick up some things for **Josh and Amy Jensen's** family the day before flying out on August 22.

Micaiah Bixby was in North & South Carolina for two months to visit with his grandmothers and other relatives, and to make some money working part-time landscaping and electrical jobs before starting back to school in Paris. (Micaiah explained to us that part-time summer work is almost unheard of for students there, so America is still the land of opportunity!) I haven't spent much time with Micaiah since kicking the soccer ball around in their

backyard in Bordeaux, France, during our July 2010 visit. He's changed a LOT in 12 years! So, for some 2-on-1 time, we took him to breakfast one morning two days before he returned to Paris on August 24. What a fine young man! He will be starting his second of three years at a trade school college in Paris. The current plan is to come to the States to get some university classes, possibly at BJU, after getting his degree in France.

The **Hancock family** spent two of the summer months of their furlough in northern States, but they migrated south, arriving in the Greenville, SC, area on August 23. In September, they will have services in our state and Florida. They plan to be stateside until the spring of 2023.

The **Espinels** are still on furlough, stationed out of Myrtle Beach, SC. We saw them for an afternoon in late June. They plan to be in the US until sometime in December.

Jeff Davis was on the road – and in the air – for much of August. His travels took him from Florida to Utah and several States between the two. On August 25, he flew to Lima, Perú, for a few days' visit with the **Tim Chapman family**, and then he will head

further south to spend some time with **Tom and Connie Chapman** in Antofagasta, Chile, before returning home on September 9.

Not too long ago, **Tim Chapman** talked to Jeff about taking a special "sabbatical" to the States for some much-needed family time. Things have been very busy in Lima with the church, planning the theology retreat, and the family all having Covid, some for the second time – except Lauren, who was spared from this round of infection. During the Chapmans' 4+ months of "family furlough," Tim will only be speaking at one October conference. They are not yet sure where their base-hub will be. The dates for their travel are September 9-January 12. The church in Lima has several competent leaders who will be shepherding the congregation during the Chapmans' absence. The Lord is greatly blessing the ministry there.

The **Crnkovichs** had a busy summer. Tanja is back teaching in the public school in Koprivnica, Croatia, and their two sons are back in school, and Andrea is attending university. We haven't received a report on the youth camp at the new campground, yet.

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The Move to Bochil

by Marco & Gwendolyn Nuñez, church planters in southern Mexico

Our trip to move the Hernandez family to Bochil, Chiapas, began on Monday, August 1. I drove my Mazda sedan with Marisol and the girls, and Daniel Hernandez and Tomas drove the little pickup truck with the Hernandezes' belongings.



Entering the town of Bochil, population 34,997

On Monday, we drove to Villahermosa, Tabasco, and spent the night. The next morning, we left for Bochil, arriving at around 6pm. Bochil is in the mountains, so it is very cool. No A/C is needed! A lot of Daniel's relatives were waiting for us and

provided a delicious dinner. Tomas and I slept in a little hotel, and Daniel and his family moved into the house we had rented for them and where they will live till the house/church is built.



First Wednesday evening service in Bochil

The next morning, Wednesday, was spent purchasing things for the house: beds, gas tank, chairs, etc. That night we had the first service in Bochil. Around 20 people were present. I preached and then Daniel preached. It was a blessing. Afterwards we had a meal of chicken.

The next morning, Thursday, around 6:30,

Tomas and I left to begin our journey back to Cancún. We arrived back in Villahermosa that evening and spent the night. On Friday morning at 6, we left for Cancún. We made it back around 6pm. Praise the Lord! On Saturday, Daniel had their first children's class. Twenty kids were in attendance.



Daniel teaching the first children's class in Bochil

I'm so glad Daniel, Marisol, and the kids are there now. There is a great need for the Gospel in Bochil. Praise the Lord God's Word is now being preached in Bochil.

I feel like my last "big" project has ended. Maybe there will be more restful days now. But who knows. The Lord might have something new planned! I pray the Lord will continue to use me for His glory in the church ministry in Cancún. †

Theology Retreat in Peru

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down with Covid again. I ended up driving Dr. Horn and Lauren up to the retreat center on that Thursday morning. I got everything started and then drove home and crawled in bed. Cheryl and I had a rough go with the virus for a couple of days, and Micah and Abby were struggling with symptoms as well. It was very disappointing for us not to be a part of the retreat. We had been looking forward to it for several months. However,

in God's providence, He allowed us to have everything ready, and when the time came, everything ran smoothly despite our absence.

All of the feedback has been tremendous. The teaching was clear and compelling. The fellowship was great. Dr. Horn spent much of his "free time" sitting outside answering questions that the young people had. Those who attended have gained a new perspective on the wisdom books of the Old Testament, and, by God's grace, they will read those



Teachers & attendees at the Theology Retreat in Peru



Sam interacting with a group of students during free-time

books for many years with new eyes and a deeper understanding. At the same time, their confidence in the sovereignty of God grew as they studied the ways of God as seen in those Old Testament books.

Our vision is to be able to influence a generation of young Christians here in Peru by grounding them theologically. We believe the Lord has led us in this endeavor, and we are very excited to see how God will use the ministry of these theology retreats.

To make it more accessible for people here, we charged less than what it actually cost to run the retreat. Our desire is to be able to host these events regularly over a period of many years. To be able to do this, we will need some financial help. If the Lord burdens your heart to have a part in this, please contact EMU. †

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The Koprivnica tract distribution group

Maybe next month! One of their outreaches this summer was literature distribution. There is always a good group of young people who participate in this activity.

Camp Bethel in the Treinta y Tres countryside in Uruguay held its annual winter youth camp in July.



Camp Bethel winter youth retreat 2022

Pastor Ricardo and Mayka Windmoller live in Vergara, north of the camp in the same department. The Windmollers are endeavoring to get legal custody for a seven-year-old girl who has been abused and abandoned in their town. For the sake of this child, pray that they will be successful.

Pastor Ovidio and Yusara Acevedo of El Cerro, just outside of Montevideo,

Uruguay, received some long-awaited good news recently. Their family has lived in the small parsonage literally connected to the church building since the church was built decades ago. Ovidio and Yusara had a desire to purchase a house so that when he eventually retires, the new pastor can use the parsonage. They bought a house, but not long afterwards, the government said they had to move because a new railroad line was going to be built through the property. And the RR company, owned by the government, would not fairly compensate them so they could buy another house. Ovidio has been dealing with this problem for months. Finally, the government decided to be honest and pay the Acevedos a reasonable price. Ovidio and Yusara were able to find a suitable house in a good area for an affordable price. They are very thankful for the Lord working this out. Ovidio is still praying for someone to train to take over the senior pastoral position of the church.

Finally, I ask you to pray for **Graciela Pereira**, who is married to the retired pastor in Tacuarembó, Uruguay. She has been with EMU in Uruguay as long as I have been with EMU in the US. We refer to each other as brother and sister, as she “adopted” my parents as her own back when she was a teenager in the early 1970s. She has always been a diligent minister for the Lord in spite of some ailments due to aging. We just learned that she now has osteoarthritis, a condition exacerbated by the cold, damp winters and scorching humid summers of central Uruguay.

Thank you again for your interest in and prayer for the ministries of EMU International. We very much depend on your prayers and support to help us do what we do. May the Lord richly bless you for your faithfulness. †

Delivered and Installed!

For many years, camp director Pedro Donzé has wanted a **shipping container** at Camp Emmanuel for storage. For a host of reasons, a metal container is cheaper than building a storage shed. And for a host of reasons, the purchase and installation of a container has been delayed over and over. Until now! †



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