

# EMU<sup>+</sup>

## INTERNATIONAL

*Evangelical Mission to the Unreached*

*Evangelical Mission to Uruguay*

PROCLAIMING THE TRIUMPHS OF THE GOSPEL

Volume LXVI

August 2023

Number 8



*Ken & Joan Jensen  
Assistant Director*

### ALONG THE WAY . . .

North of the Equator, August is, on average, the hottest month of the year. So, it seems like it should be mid-summer. But summer, or at least the summer schedule, is almost over. Schools start across our country in August, which, to me, always signaled the demise of summer. I even know some homeschoolers who started classes in July. (The taskmasters will go unnamed!) And it's a sobering thought to realize that Christmas future is by far closer than Christmas past. The summer months have been filled with travel for many of our EMU missionaries, including the group of five Uruguayans who visited the States in June, which was reviewed in the previous Newsletter. And it's been a summer of graduations and expanded families.

However, I want to begin on a more sober, sad note, as three of our missionaries recently experienced funerals in their families, two of which Joan and I were able to attend. The first funeral was in Croatia with the death of **Kornel Crnković's** father, **Duro**, on July 1. Kornel's mother had passed away in December 2022. Duro had several health problems for several years, and his wife was his main caretaker. After her death, Duro adamantly refused moving into assisted living. As a consequence, his health declined faster, until eventually he became bed ridden and was forced to leave his home for 24-hour care in a care facility. Duro's three children, all Christians, continued to witness to their dad to the end

*(continued on page 2)*

## NEW OPEN DOORS

*by Matt & Becky Hancock, church planting in Ou Reang Ov, Cambodia*

Our travels back to Cambodia went well with few incidents, and once again the Lord provided eager helpers on both ends of our trip to assist us with transporting our large family and mountain of luggage (4 years of homeschool books). We are thankful to be back into the routines of life and ministry here.

Soon after we arrived the Lord began opening new doors of ministry. It was a joy to reconnect with our brothers and sisters here again, and especially the group of national pastors we stay connected with. All of them have been faithful in their pastoring and evangelizing, and some are seeing fruit from their labors. Since our return, several of these pastors have invited me to preach in their churches, so we have begun a regular rotation of attending one of these four churches each week to help strengthen them.

Pastor Chandara was granted permission to start soccer training for 3rd to 6th graders in a local elementary school and asked me to help out with that. We have had 50-80 kids join us on Wednesday afternoons for soccer drills and scrimmage games. At the break time we share a Bible lesson. We have been sharing God's big story from Creation to Christ.

One of God's surprising provisions for me this year is a fellow-worker for house-to-house evangelism. I have often prayed for an evangelism partner. God has provided Moses. He has been a friend of mine since the first year we came to Cambodia. I attended a Bible-study group at his dorm to better learn the Khmer language. I especially sought to encourage him because he was in Bible School with a burden to establish and strengthen churches in the needy Cambodian countryside. He was one of the very few graduates in his Bible School class that was willing to leave the comforts of the city to go into rural areas to work among the unreached. For the past seven years, he has labored for Christ in Stung Treng Province, but he has returned

here to Tbong Khmum (Amber Gem) Province, where he grew up, to help his parents and serve in their church ministry.

Shortly after our return to Cambodia in May, I was glad to hear that Moses lived just 20 minutes away. He has been eager to go witnessing with me two afternoons a week. What a provision from the Lord to have a ministry partner with blameless character, a heart of love for the lost, a heart of dependence on the Spirit through prayer, the ability to teach the Scriptures, and an innate understanding of Khmer culture. Praise the Lord for sending Moses to be such a help, and pray that God would continue to bless us with the filling of the Spirit, boldness, wisdom, unity, love, and victory over Satan's opposition.

The Lord has opened a fruitful opportunity for evangelism in a new village to the west of our town called Prey Sralao. It's a village of 200 homes built close together surrounded by rice fields. The need was apparent from the beginning when the village chief told us that there were no Christians in his village and that no one had ever come to share Jesus there since a group showed the JESUS Film 30 years ago. I believe the Lord has gone before us by preparing the hearts of some in this village, as we have seen many listen attentively and some show real interest. There are three in particular I want to mention so that you may take part in interceding for them.

*(continued on page 4)*



*Matt Hancock & Moses*



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

*Kornel (center) with his siblings & parents* of his life. Their hope and prayer is that he trusted in Christ at the end, though there was no verbal confirmation of a profession of faith.

On July 3, **Stan McCune**, the father of **Kristine Espinel**, missionary to Uruguay, passed away from complications of cancer, though for far longer he had battled MS, which led him out of full-time pastoring in Dover, New Jersey, years ago. Thankfully, Kristine was able to attend her parents' 50th wedding anniversary on June 3 and spend some quality time with Stan. After the anniversary, his health declined precipitously. One of Stan's last requests of Kristine was that she and her family attend his funeral to support his wife, **Miriam**, during the time of loss. At first, it seemed that the Espinels would not be able to fly to the States for the funeral, but the Lord supplied the funds at the last minute so that the whole family was able to attend.

The family honored me by asking me to be one of the speakers at the funeral on July 8, since I had known Stan for so long: he was my youth pastor when I was a teenager living in Marietta, GA. Because of EMU, our family (my parents included) stayed in contact with the McCunes over the years. But there was an even closer tie when Kristine and her husband, Matias, became missionaries to Uruguay with EMU. Even in their retirement years, Stan and Miriam remained active at Anchor Baptist Church in Little River, SC, just above North Myrtle Beach. **Pastor Carl Wood** told us the many ways that the McCunes have served the congregation there. Stan was truly a faithful servant of Christ to the end.

Before the Espinels left Uruguay, the school system in Uruguay cancelled classes a week before the regular winter break due to widespread flu. So the Espinel kids did not have to miss any schooling while they were in South Carolina. The family stayed

*Stan McCune*

a couple of weeks after the funeral to help Miriam with the many things that the family was required to deal with. We are so glad they were able to be here to comfort and help Mrs. McCune. The Espinels flew back to Uruguay on July 27 to resume their routines and responsibilities on the field.

Two days after Stan's funeral, we received a call from **Mel Wingrove** informing us that his wife, **Jan**, had just passed away. Joan and I first met Mel and Jan in 2001 when they applied for the position of Field Representative for EMU. They faithfully served with the mission until 2017 when they retired due to Jan's progressing Parkinson's Disease. In researching Jan's life for the eulogy I was asked to deliver at the memorial service, I learned much that I didn't previously know about her. Mel and Jan taught in numerous Christian schools on the east coast after graduating from Bob Jones University in the mid-1960s. For 20 years, beginning in 1980, Mel was the pastor of **Flatwoods Baptist Church** in Pennsylvania. After "retiring" from the church and moving to the mountains of North Carolina to be closer to their two daughters, the Wingroves took up the new occupation of traveling around the USA representing EMU in churches and journeying around the world to get to know our missionaries on their various fields of service. Again, it was a blessing to hear how Jan and Mel have served at **Grace Baptist Church in Flat Rock, N.C.** And it was a joy to meet some of Jan's siblings and hear stories of her earlier life. Pray for Mel and his daughters during this time of sorrow.

*Mel & Jan Wingrove in their penultimate year with EMU*

In contrast to the above, a number of our missionary families have expanded, most often with grandkids, during the past several months. The **Davises**, the **Pereiras** (of Uruguay), the **Crowleys**, the **Crnkovićs** (who are first-time grandparents), and **Joan and me**. Only one of our EMU families added to their quiver: **Josh and Amy Jensen** welcomed child #7 on July 22. The Jensens had taken up short-term residence at the Christian and Missionary Alliance guest house in the capital, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, about a month before because of Amy's continuing strong contractions, and her propensity to deliver quickly during "real labor." Josh was able to continue

*(l-r) Micah, Becca, Amy with Maria, Clara, Anna, Josh, Ezra, & Isaiah Jensen*

working with his translation team in Oyadiao via FaceTime, and the family was able to accomplish several things that needed to be done in PP, such as dental appointments for the kids and renewed passports.

No doubt Josh and Amy will write a little about this in a prayer letter, but in short, true to form, Amy's final labor progressed rapidly enough that she didn't make it out of their bedroom that night to make the 5-minute taxi drive to the hospital. Thankfully, this was not a new situation for them, and arrangements had already been made for their children. Mom and baby – and even Josh – are doing fine. Before returning north to their home, they need to secure a birth certificate and passport for newly acquired **Maria Grace**, whose initial stats are 7 lbs. 2 oz. and 19.7 inches long. On a recent family blog post, Amy reminded us that as of July 4 of this year, they have been serving in Cambodia for nine years – arriving with only three children. Joan and I are looking forward to meeting the two youngest Jensen kids in February 2024 when they all take their next furlough.

In the week bridging July and August, Josh will be participating in a linguistic conference held at the CMA compound in the capital. Though not the seminar lecturer, Josh is serving as a mentor during the afternoons of the five-day conference for students working on their translation skills.

For all of us parents, our kids passing an educational milestone is always a significant event. So, we want to rejoice with several of those families. (Because these graduations are from literally all over the globe, in

*(continued on page 3)**Tanja & Kornel Crnković with Andrea*



## ALONG THE WAY...

(continued from page 2)

countries with very different school systems than our country, rather than giving dates and trying to explain the peculiarities of that educational system, I'll just state here that these happened in May-July.) **Kornel and Tanja Crnković** had two graduations in Croatia. Their oldest daughter, **Andrea**, received her master's degree in music from the Academy of Arts, University of Osijek, Croatia. **Marko**, their oldest son, graduated from high school in Koprivnica, their hometown. **Tim and Ruth Bixby's** daughter, **Miriam**, graduated from high school in Sarcelles, France. **Rubito and Marita Rodriguez's** daughter, **Victoria**, earned her accounting degree in Treinta y Tres, Uruguay. Congratulations to each of these young people.



Vicky Rodriguez Windmoller (center) with college friends

Education of children has also been the catalyst for the travel of several of our missionaries and/or MKs. The two eldest **Farmer** daughters, **Abi** and **Isa**, along with the **Kanes'** oldest daughter, **Mia**, flew back to the USA at the end of July to get ready for starting classes at BJU in August. The girls were able to spend a few weeks with their families in northeastern Cambodia during their summer break. **Lauren Chapman**, who will continue to counsel at the Wilds of NC until August 12, will be returning to BJU also.

**Tim and Cheryl Chapman**, as announced in a previous newsletter, returned stateside on June 30 for an extended furlough from Lima, Perú, to help their son navigate his senior year of high school in Midland, MI. The family will be in Greenville for a short time in August to see Lauren before she begins classes. On July 24, Tim and youngest daughter, **Abigail**, flew to Lima for a week to attend the Theology Retreat at which **Dr. Sam Horn** was the speaker. (Last year, all of the Chapmans except Lauren were sick during the inauguration of this retreat, so this is a special time for Tim and Abigail.)

On July 3, the **Bixby family** arrived in Boston to begin their short furlough – they fly back to France on August 31. Their oldest son, **Micaiah**, was unable to travel with them because his university classes in France were

still in session. However, he was able to join them after a couple of weeks. The **Bixbys** have been visiting churches in the New England area in July, and they will attend (or are attending) a family reunion in Minnesota. Sometime in August, they plan to come south, so we will see them then.

**JD and Kim Crowley** return to Cambodia on July 31 – JD's birthday. It has been good to see them several times since they arrived in Greenville. JD's latest book has been published in Khmer and English entitled "*What Darwin Got Wrong*." The text was originally written by **Dr. John Stanford**, who gave JD permission to translate his material in a revised-for-Cambodians script. The 144-page book contains both the Khmer and English. The goal for this project was to provide the Khmer speaking people a biblical view of creation in contrast to the ever-present rhetoric of evolutionists in the schools and media.



In camp news, the **Crnkovićs**, as I write, are having a week of **camp** on the Adriatic Coast with several other Baptist churches in Croatia - July 21-29. They were thrilled to be able to return to the same facility they had used for years, after it was closed for renovations last year.

My brother **Rick Jensen** flies to Uruguay on July 29 to spend a week at **Camp Emmanuel** to help with ongoing projects. The possibility of this trip developed when Pedro Donzé and his family were visiting the Wilds of NC in June. Rick has not been to Uruguay for a few years due to the COVID regulations, which are now no longer in effect. Rick usually went to the camp in October for a week or two of intense work, but this year, because of camp rentals booked during that time (spring in Uruguay), the big push to get projects accomplished is the first week of August – mid-winter! A large number of Uruguayans from various churches will be there to get the camp ready for spring and summer camps. Rick has really missed his yearly fellowship of working with these wonderful Christian men – and women, and he has expressed often to me how much he has wanted to return to Uruguay. At this time there are three projects that are not complete, but which have been funded: the **sidewalks** around the buildings to protect the foundations has started, but the cement is being mixed in a smallish electric mixer; the perimeter **fence** around the camp is finished except for several hundred yards; and the handicap access **bathroom** addition to the kitchen/cafeteria has been started, but it needs a lot of interior work. There are also always a host of lesser maintenance projects such as painting and repairs to be done.

As you remember these things in prayer, please add **Kathy Jensen**, Rick's wife, that the Lord would give her safety and strength during the time Rick will be gone. As has been mentioned in the past, Kathy has had MS for years, and her mobility and endurance continue to slowly decline.

**Marco and Gwendolyn Nuñez** were in Texas and Mississippi for a short furlough at the end of June to visit supporting churches and to get some dental work done. September 9-27 they will be in the Greenville, SC, area for meetings and visiting family. They will be residing at one of the **Hampton Park Baptist Church** mission houses during their sojourn.

**Billy Judson** from India has let us know about a need that he is seeking to solve. Currently, the Good News College and Seminary at which he teaches in his hometown meets in a six-story high-rise in the city. Unfortunately, all of the other rented floors are used by Charismatic groups for church and other meetings. Billy reports that the terribly loud music and other noises are a major distraction for the GNCS students and teachers. They would like to find another property at which to meet, or, better yet, a place they can purchase and control. Prices are high in the Secunderabad/Hyderabad area. The facility would also be used for Sunday services.

A major need was met in **Tacuarembó**, Uruguay, this summer (their winter). **Calvary Temple** (the EMU church in that interior city) has been without a regular pastor for several years. We learned that the congregation approached **Nicolas and Valeria Gomez** to take the leadership of the church, and Nico and Val agreed to do so. This couple has faithfully served with our EMU churches and camps for many years without a regular income – only donations from churches and friends in Uruguay. This new commitment will, however, limit their involvement with other EMU ministries, especially at Camp Emmanuel where they spent much of their summers serving in the kitchen and counseling. The church in Tacuarembó has a parsonage that the Gómezes will be using.



Nico & Valeria Gomez with Mateo

I do not like to end this column on a down-note, but I want to share with you a burden that one of our missionary families has been dealing with. **Tom and Connie**

(continued on page 4)

Page 4

## **ALONG THE WAY...**

*(continued from page 3)*

**Chapman** established a strong, growing church in Antofagasta, Chile, where they have ministered for a few decades. The church is now pastored by a Chilean, who was saved as a child under the Chapmans' ministry. Months ago, it was discovered that two young women in the church had developed a sinful relationship. For the past many months, the church has been working through this new territory to determine the godly course of action, with the goal of restoring both young women if possible. One of the girls lived with the Chapmans for a while, voluntarily, to receive counsel and supervision. Tom wrote a letter recently telling us of this journey and the difficulties along the way. I mention it to ask you to pray for the Chapmans and the church people and the two girls. It seems that the process is progressing in a godly fashion, but there is still healing that needs to take place. Pray for wisdom for the mature Christians to guide, counsel, and react wisely in this restorative process.

I realize that summer does not end in August, but in our culture, the end of August, or the beginning of the "fall" semester of school, marks its terminus. And I realize that the emotions regarding this time of year span the gamut from sorrow that vacations are over and school is starting, to elation that vacations are over and school is starting! Except for some demented persons, who prefer stifling heat to the prospect of cooler September temps, the end of August is a relief. But one of the things that we EMU missionaries agree on is that we appreciate all of you who take an interest in at least some aspect of the ministries of this mission. Thank you for your prayers, and when possible, your gifts of support. May the Lord grant you a blessed end of summer – or winter in the southern hemisphere! †

## **New Open Doors**

*(continued from page 1)*

First, please pray for Lim (in her 70s). When sharing a 15-minute gospel summary to her and her husband, I noticed she was unusually attentive. When we returned the next week, I saw the 11-page tract I had given her quite worn out from use. She had been reading over it and said she wanted to know clearly why Jesus had to die on the cross. After some explanation, Moses showed her his Bible, and she showed interest in reading it. This past week we gave her a Bible and showed her where to begin reading. She was so excited that she began reading as soon as we got up to leave. But Satan is always busy to oppose God's life-giving words. During our last visit her husband Pat, who makes money as a Buddhist preacher, made her give back the Bible. Pray that Lim would seek the Lord despite her husband's opposition, and pray that God would humble him and draw him, too.

Second, pray for Liep (in her 50s) with stage three stomach cancer. We have visited Liep and her husband several times now, praying that the Lord will heal her body and soul, and sharing the only message of hope in Christ. Liep and her husband have two daughters who also need the Lord.

Third, pray for Hieb (in his 70s). He seems so open and interested in the truth about Jesus. Like the others in his village, the gospel is new to him, but from the first day he began to ask really good questions - like what it would look like for him to believe in Christ, which led to two hours of profitable discussion. On our second visit I shared with him a summary of Genesis 1-3. We also gave him a Bible, and he expressed interest in having us come teach him more.

Last of all, please pray for us, for God's sustaining grace in the challenges of parenting and the difficulties of Becky's

fatigue, which has returned. Thank you all for taking part in our lives and our ministry through your intercessions and gifts. †



*Lim (lt) with neighbor lady*



*Liep*



*Hieb*

Email: [office@emuinternational.org](mailto:office@emuinternational.org)  
Website: [www.emuinternational.org](http://www.emuinternational.org)  
Phone: (864) 268-9267