

EMU⁺ 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 . . .

I do not generally choose a theme for these EMU Newsletters, and this was not planned to be one of those exceptions, but it appears that Cambodia has turned out to be rather pervasive in these few pages. And had there been more available space, there would have been four articles, rather than the final three, reviewing happenings in this little southeast Asian country. (Number four will have to wait until the December newsletter.) I trust you will find the included reports as much a blessing as they were to us in the home office.

There is one matter I need to correct from the October newsletter. In my introduction to the article by Brooke Illsley, also in Cambodia, I stated that the Khmer word *Stung* meant river and that the town of *Stung Treng*, where the Farmers and Brooke live, is on the *Stung Treng* River. False! One of our Cambodia missionaries kindly brought to my attention that “*Stung*” is a stream that empties into a large river, and that the town of *Stung Treng* is on the *Tonle Sekong* River, which shortly empties into the mighty *Mekong* River. My further inquiries about the *Stung Treng* Creek’s locations resulted in an interesting discussion of geography and further linguistics that ended with the meaning of *Oyadao*, the village where Josh Jensen lives. Missionaries are fun! So, please accept my apology for the great October blunder.

Though **Kornel and Tanja Crnković** have
(continued on page 4)

PRINTING EXODUS, CHECKING ACTS

by Josh & Amy Jensen, Jarai Bible translator in Oyadao, Cambodia

At the end of 2022, we reported that we’d finished checking portions of Exodus (amounting to 2/3 of the book) with the committee of Jarai church leaders who provided local oversight to the project. Early in 2023 Exodus was checked by an outside consultant and approved for publication. A couple hours ago we held the first printed copies in our hands!

Rather than print Exodus as a stand-alone book, our team decided to reprint Genesis, Ruth, and Jonah along with Exodus so that all our OT portions are bound together. We plan to complete the New Testament before coming back to the OT. In addition to the printed copy, Exodus has been added to our Android app, along with high-quality multi-voice recordings of the text. Pray that churches would use these Old Testament portions in teaching and preaching, as well as in small reading groups. Jarai can also read or listen to the other completed books—now including Exodus—on our Android app. Most people, however, prefer to read from printed copies.

After our team has drafted a book, done a careful verse-by-verse check for exegetical accuracy, and then another verse-by-verse check for comprehension, the entire book is checked by the Translation Oversight Committee, a group of about 10-15 Jarai church leaders. We began our committee check of Acts the last week of September, and we plan to meet with the committee 2-3 days per week throughout the month of October.

In committee check meetings, we read the text paragraph-by-paragraph, review the main storyline and details, and then open the floor for comments and questions from the committee. We also ask the committee for guidance about key terms and other translation difficulties.

In our first two days of meeting, we discussed our translation of the terms *grace* (“mercy-love”), *apostle* (“one who tells instead of Jesus”), *witness* (“to tell what one has seen”), and *prophesy* (“to bring the word one hears from God”). Our term for *grace* has been particularly troubling, because Jarai doesn’t have a word for “gift.” The term our committee settled on will need to acquire meaning through teaching and attentive reading (just like the English word *grace*, which mostly gets its meaning from the contexts in which it appears in the Bible).

After we read about Jews from the dispersion hearing the Spirit-filled disciples declaring the mighty works of God in their own languages (Acts 2), we discussed the Assyrian and Babylonian exiles and just why it was that all these Jews grew up speaking different languages. One of the pastors said that he’d read Acts 2 many times in his life (in Khmer and the dialect of Jarai spoken in Vietnam), and he’d heard many teachers teach it, but he’s never understood the details. After reading and learning with the committee, he finally understood the story more clearly.

(continued on page 3)



*Josh and some
of his Jarai
translation
team*

Blessings and Deadlines

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

Krung-Brao Bible School

In August, the Krung and Brao Bible school met in O'Chum village for their bi-annual session. The leaders opted to teach through the Firm Foundations - Creation to Christ materials, as the surrounding churches have several young Christians who they want grounded in their understanding of the gospel story. There were over 70 students, with about 10 of those never having attended the Krung Bible school before.

Krung NT



Brian working on the Krung Bible

The finalization of the Krung NT continues to pick up speed as our deadline to hand things over to the printers rushes closer. We have the beginning of December as our target to deliver the finished text to them.



Brian's Krung "readers"

Currently, we are engaged in a read-through of the entire NT. Three Krung believers sit in my office for 8 hours, twice a week, reading through each of the books of the Bible to try to find any last mistakes. Please pray for their health and endurance, and that the power of the Word would change each of us. In addition, we are preparing maps, a glossary, and verifying our cross-references and footnotes. This month and next, we will be finishing our read-through and then passing the text off to a typesetter, who will put it into its final format for printing.

Family News

On the family front, Lydia and the kids are hard at work with homeschooling. The schooling for the older kids is a mix of online and in-home instruction, while the younger ones are still in the rudimentary skills best taught in person. Lydia shows amazing endurance in trying to keep all

the educational plates spinning. She would definitely appreciate your prayers for her health and energy, which have seen setbacks since April.

Saving the best for last, June and July were two very special months! Mia, our oldest, who is in the US for college, returned home to spend her summer with us. Any daddy and mommy can appreciate the incredible joy it is to have your "grow'd up" little girl exit the airport terminal to a swarm of adoring family. We packed in a two-week trip to Thailand and many fun family outings, but just being together was the biggest joy of all. She has returned to BJU for her Sophomore year, and I know she would appreciate your prayers for her schooling there. †



(l-r) Julia, Sophia, Hugh, Natalia, Mia, Brianna, Brian, Jackson, & Lydia Kane



Two Seasons, Two Opportunities

by Ken Jensen

Over the many years that I have been writing to announce the **Christmas Fund Offering** and the **Camp Emmanuel Sponsorship Fund**, it has always been difficult to get in the mood. And, unlike tradition, these two projects are going to be dealt with in one article as I need to present both this month. For most of us in the USA, from where most of the funding originates, these represent two very different seasons: cold and hot. (In Uruguay, Christmas and summer camp take place in the same season, though different years!) Chronologically, the **Christmas Fund** is the most immediate need, but the Sponsorship Fund usage follows very closely, as decisions about camp are made in December for the beginning of the camping season in January.

The difficulty for me in writing about anything Christmas this early is that the weather here in Greenville, SC, is usually still rather warm. However, there has been a breakthrough in my mood in recent days: it has been cold enough here for Joan and me to begin using our wood stove heater, and at the same time, it snowed in our beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains, even closing part of the BR Parkway. This is a blessing for a moody writer!

For decades, we have collected funds for a Christmas "bonus" for our EMU national missionaries in Uruguay. And since Tom and Connie Chapman joined the mission in 1987 (which is also decades ago, but not as many), we have also reminded our newsletter readership that the Americans could use special help and encouragement at this time of year as well. Now, besides Uruguayans and Americans, there are EMU missionaries with many different nationalities.

Here is how the **Christmas Fund Offering** works. All undesignated donations to the Christmas Fund are set aside for the Uruguayan nationals. However, all gifts designated to a particular family will go towards that family regardless of their nationality or field of service. So, if you desire to specify an EMU family, please let us know, so it will go to the person of your choice. Again, special gifts at this time of year are not only greatly appreciated, but often needed.

The **Camp Sponsorship Fund** is specifically for campers attending Camp Emmanuel in Guazuvirá, Uruguay. The funds are used to help with transportation costs, camper fees, and the expenses of our summer staff. (Some of the people

working at the summer camp are EMU national missionaries who already have a salary. The funds are not for them. However, many of the summer staff are donating their time. They do not get paid for their summer camp work, but the camp has extra expenses for their food and utilities, and, in some cases, transportation.) The full cost of sponsoring a camper is about \$97 – depending on the exchange rate, which has decreased during this past year. If you prefer your donation be applied to a camper, a staff member, or both, please let us know.

We are inserting a return envelope in the paper edition of the EMU Newsletter for your convenience. However, for those who receive the digital Newsletter, or even the paper copy, who would like to give electronically there are several different options: credit card, your bank bill-pay, or added to your existing monthly ACH draft. The various options can be accessed through emuinternational.org/give. Contact the EMU office for the ACH option.

Thank you in advance for whatever you can do to help with these two seasonal projects! †



How God has answered your prayers for us

by JD & Kim Crowley, translation & teaching in Ban Lung, Cambodia

This spring and summer we asked you to remember us before God concerning various matters.

- Charis and Brian welcomed their fifth child, Job Robert Johansen. Kim went to be of help to them during that time.

- I stayed longer in Cambodia to help teach the Pastors School session on Romans 9, 10, and 11, a section of scripture well known throughout church history as both difficult and glorious. Indeed, it lived up to its billing, and we found ourselves worshipping God for His great wisdom and mercy.

- After that I joined Kim in Greenville to celebrate with our youngest, Nathaniel, who graduated from college and married Allison Lovullo. It was one of the happiest moments of our lives as our sixth child married a committed Christian.

- During the next number of weeks, I had the joy of preaching at our own home church (Hampton Park Baptist Church), and later at Tri-City Baptist Church and Cross Lanes Bible church, both in West Virginia, and both enthusiastic partners in the Cambodian venture.

- In July Taylor and Emmie Crowley welcomed their third child (and our 16th grandchild), Adelaide Lucia. Pray that God would fulfill all of His good purposes in her life.

We returned to Cambodia on July 31 with full and thankful hearts, grateful to you for your prayers and to God for His merciful answers.

The Afflictions of Job

However, in August, Baby Job was diagnosed with a breathing problem due to being born with a defect in his windpipe. Instead of getting better, he got worse, to the point that his oxygen situation became so dire that surgery was scheduled.

Kim and I wondered if she should go back to Greenville to help Charis and Brian during this difficult time, but that was a moot question as there were no airline seats available for weeks ahead. On Sunday, August 13, on a fluke, I checked once again for flights, and a solitary seat from Phnom Penh to Greenville suddenly popped up for that very evening. I snatched it up! Thank you God!

Job Johansen, grandson of JD & Kim



But there was a problem. The flight was to leave at midnight, and it was already 3 PM. Our home is an 8 hour drive from the airport! Kim threw things into her suitcase, and we sped off in monsoon rain, praying for safety in the growing darkness. It was the worst trip of my life; the rain hardly let up the entire time. I can't guarantee that every traffic law from Banlung to Phnom Penh was honored, but we arrived at the airport with a few minutes to spare! Thirty hours later Kim was in the living room of a relieved Charis and Brian.

Kim spent the next 4 weeks caring for the Johansen kids as Charis and Brian attended to Job and his many needs. The surgery was a success, and Job's oxygen levels are getting back to normal. But after 4 weeks of tube feeding (his breathing problem caused him to aspirate his milk), he now has to relearn how to swallow. We are sure God will answer your prayers for this matter as He has the other matters.

Chapel at BJU

Last May I accepted an invitation to

speak at the Bob Jones University Global Opportunities ("GO") conference in September. Thank you for your prayers for that. I think the conference went well, and I had many opportunities for one-on-one conversations with students who were excited about making God famous around the world. Here's a link to one of my chapel presentations:

<https://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?SID=918231551473998>

Kim and I were able to find a flight back to Cambodia together, and now we're home again, getting the house ready for Nat and Ally who are returning to the land of his childhood for a delayed wedding trip.

Pray for Pastors School on Romans 12-16

November 26-29 is the final Pastors School session on Romans. You remember that the book of Romans (and Christianity as a whole) is virulently anti-karma. Karma, the bedrock of Asian religions, teaches "Do good and you'll receive good. Do bad, and you'll receive bad. Everyone must depend on himself." Romans teaches just the opposite: Receive good first by God's mercy and grace; then do good as a grateful response. The first 11 chapters have virtually no moral commands, because those chapters are all about what God did to bring us salvation, not what we do.

But a common mistake in Cambodia (and in the early church) has been to think that obedience and holiness are not so important in the Christian faith. Many church members and even leaders do not pursue a holy life. But true faith always works itself out in obedient love. Chapters 12-16 of Romans contain over 80 commandments! Please pray that our study of God's mercies in chapters 1-11, and God's commands in chapters 12-16, will ignite in us a desire for holiness, for "he who has been forgiven much, loves much" (Luke 7:47). †

Printing Exodus, Checking Acts

(continued from page 1)

It's our hope that the committee will complete its check of Acts by the end of October, so that we can prepare the book for an outside consultant to check sometime between November and January.

Pray

Pray that the Translation Oversight Committee meetings would be efficient and lead to good revisions in the text. Pray that the team and the committee would remain healthy, and that the committee meetings would be a good time of learning and mutual edification.

Pray that churches would use the newly

printed Old Testament portions in teaching and preaching, as well as in small reading groups.

Pray for Amy as she homeschools the kids and cares for Maria, who expects lots of time with her mommy.

Pray for Amy as she teaches the children's teachers at Saom Kanning Church the 10 Commandments (from the new translation of Exodus) set to music for kids. The kids will sing the song at this year's Christmas program.

Thank God that Maria received her U.S. passport, as well as a one-month Cambodian

visa, which is now being extended into a one-year visa like the rest of ours. †



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

Page 4

ALONG THE WAY...

(continued from page 1)

not yet had time to write about their church activities in October, it was a busy month for them. And I plan to share those photos with you when they arrive in our office. At the beginning of October, their church in Koprivnica, Croatia, hosted a countrywide youth conference for the Baptist churches in Croatia. About 120 youth filled the new church building, and the local young people of the church were great hosts. Then within a day or two, all the Baptist churches in Croatia met in the capital of Zagreb for a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Baptist church movement's establishment in that Roman Catholic country. Exciting days!

Speaking of exciting, one of our most recent additions to the EMU missionary family, **Jonathan and Marjorie**, just welcomed their 5th child into their family:

Amy Grace Virginia was born at home in Greenville, SC, at 5:06 A.M., Thursday, October 19.



Big sister Susanna with baby Amy

On the other end of the age spectrum, the matriarch of EMU in the USA, **Marilyn Jensen**, was celebrated by her family for her 92 years – birthday on October 18 and party on the 21st. I usually don't include pictures of our extended family, but I did want those of you who know her to see her "in her glory" surrounded by family. I won't attempt to name the individual subjects, but those of you who have known my parents for years can put a few names with faces. I



Marilyn Jensen (center in red) with family at her 92nd celebration

would add that there are 16 family members missing from this picture – 9 of those are Josh Jensen's family! Mom is in remarkably good health and continues to reside at Shepherd's Care, a Christian-owned assisted living facility in Greenville, SC.

Sunday, October 22, we were surprised and blessed to see **Chicha Rodriguez** at Hampton Park Baptist Church, along with a group of her family members. Chicha flew to Greenville from Uruguay on October 16 for the wedding of the son of her baby brother in Greer, SC. She will be stateside until the beginning of January.



Spring Ladies' Retreat at Camp Emmanuel September 2023

At the end of September, the annual ladies' retreat was held at Camp Emmanuel in Uruguay. Rather than bring in outside speakers this year, two of our missionary wives taught and another pastor's wife led

the singing. We understand that **Rosanna Gomez, Noemi Gonzalez, and Valeria Gomez** did an excellent job. Though always cold at that time of year in Uruguay, the fellowship was warm and encouraging.



Valeria leading singing at evening service

In October, Bethel Church of Pando in Uruguay celebrated their 46th anniversary. A number of folks from other MEU churches helped with evangelistic services leading up to the anniversary Sunday. **Carlos and Mabel Olivera** have faithfully guided this church for twenty years.



46th anniversary for Bethel Church in Pando

As we enter this Thanksgiving month, we are especially thankful to you who continue to take an interest in the ministries and missionaries of EMU (and MEU). Thank you for your prayers and your gifts. If you are able to help with the **Christmas Fund Offering** and/or the **Camp Sponsorship Fund**, that would be greatly appreciated! †

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