

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 . . .

In the last Newsletter - or two - it was mentioned that much of the financial work for EMU that has traditionally been done in our Home Office - which for decades has been in our house - would be performed elsewhere so as to begin moving the office out of our home. This goal is well over a year old, and during that time several different solutions were pursued, including renting office space in town. The solution has actually been better than we imagined. One of our Board Members suggested we talk to a trustworthy, mission-minded lady who owns a bookkeeping/accounting service for small businesses. After several interviews between this lady and **Joan** (and me, at times), it was decided to have this company handle the donation processing, payroll, and bookkeeping for the mission. The transition took place in July and August, and has gone smoothly. We are very pleased with the efficiency of this company. Joan continues to have access to all the financial records, but the daily work is being done by others. The change of address that we have been announcing in recent months is to allow the donations to be collected at a PO Box rather than at our house - though some donations are continuing to come here.

One change that was necessitated by this change is that our office assistant, **Pam Ault**, is no longer working for EMU. We appreciate her faithful work with us for six years. We will miss her.

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AUGUST 2024 "RICK'S PROJECTS"

by Pedro Donzé, camp director & office administrator of MEU in Uruguay

In our previous report, I wrote requesting your prayers for the projects we would carry out during the "Rick Projects 2024" program. It brings us great joy to share our progress with you.

Every August, our goal for Camp Emmanuel is to focus on projects that address various needs and provide not only maintenance but also significant improvements. We appreciate everyone who prayed, contributed financially, and actively participated in the long and intense workdays.

Over the course of our 12 workdays, we completed 9 projects. We began organizing and purchasing materials in July, but the actual work took place during two weeks of strenuous labor in August. As is our tradition, brothers and sisters from Uruguay and the United States worked together on each project, desiring to give glory to God in all we did. Our lives are enriched each year through the fellowship we share, even amidst the challenges of hard work.

Jeff Hilla, Britt Hopper, and Rick Jensen from the US worked with us during the second week. Rick, as he does every year, motivated us, and his dedication to the Lord is a great blessing. I worked alongside Britt on the bathroom partitions. I have learned a lot from this great man of God



(back l-r) Jeff Hilla, Pedro Donze, Britt Hopper, Rick Jensen
(front l-r) Lucas & Marcos Gomez, Juan Gonzalez, Roberto Alvez, Henry Casto, & Josue (Gabriel Gomez took the photo)

through the years—his love for God and the camp ministry has forged a beautiful bond between him and all the Uruguayans who have worked alongside him during his 4 trips to Uruguay. We also met Jeff Hilla, who faced many challenges getting to Uruguay. I believe it was the longest journey of his life. However, God used him among us, helping with the implementation of two of our projects. We were blessed to get to know him and have him be part of our group this year. It's in his heart to bring more men next year, and we pray that God will allow him to work with us again soon.

In the group photo, some of the brothers who worked with us during the first week are missing. In total, we had 13 people work during the two weeks, divided into six workgroups. At times, we came together to tackle tasks that required more manpower. God truly blessed us with a great team.

Now, let me share a bit about each project and how they turned out:

Sidewalks - Continued

We were able to move forward on this project that we started in 2023. God has provided funds for all the areas we have left, so we will continue this project in 2025, when hopefully we can finish. Our goal this year was cabins 5 and 6, and we were able to do it. We still have some finishing details that we will do in the coming weeks.

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Sidewalks around boy's cabin

Delayed, yet on time (first installment)

by Kornel & Tanja Crnkovic, church planters in Koprivnica, Croatia

It was Monday, July 8, at 3 am, after finishing the packing, that Tanja decided to go ahead and do the airline check-in online. It was then that she discovered we didn't have the required eTA (electronic travel authorization) to transit through a Canadian airport. Our flight from Zagreb, Croatia, to New York had two layovers - one in Munich, Germany, and the other in Montreal, Canada. Tanja searched the internet trying to get some answers. Would our family be able to travel later today? She decided to go to bed and get some rest and not worry about the eTA. The Lord is in control! The next morning, when she continued to search for answers, she decided to call her sister for help. Her sister found the needed page for applying for a Canadian eTA. It took only a matter of minutes before the Embassy of Canada granted an eTA, after the payment went through. Our family was set to go.

Check-in at the airport went quickly with no problems. The excitement was great and our 2024 trip to the USA started. A word we heard a lot that day was "delayed." Our flight from Zagreb to Munich was delayed. Our flight from Munich to Montreal was delayed. While checking our flight schedules, we started to wonder if we would be able to catch our connection flight in Montreal. We only had a one-hour layover. One interesting fact we learned is that pilots can fly the planes faster in order to make up for the lost time. Seven and a half hours later we arrived in Montreal with about 15 minutes to catch our connecting flight. One of the airline employees was waiting for us as we exited the plane and rushed us through several checkpoints to the gate for our next flight. Unfortunately, we missed the flight. We were stuck in Montreal. The airline put our family up in a nearby hotel for the night. Our boys, **Marko & Nataneal**, were excited as it was their first time to stay in a hotel. The next day we were booked on a flight at 5 pm for New York. We were happy when we arrived at the LaGuardia Airport in NYC. EMU director, **Jeff Davis**, met us there, and we took the subway to the **Manor Community Church** where we stayed. Right away we decided to go for an evening stroll through the streets of NYC. After



Crnkovics on the NYC subway

a late supper at Penn Station, we walked through the streets of NYC and Times Square. It is a big city that doesn't sleep.

After a restful night, we went exploring the following day. We went for a ride on the Staten Island Ferry and saw Lady Liberty as we passed by. Back on land, we walked through lower Manhattan and made our way to Grand Central Station, Central Park, the Rockefeller Center, the One World Trade Center, the Oculus, Madison Square Garden, and back to Penn Station, where we ate New York Pizza.

Pastor Joey Newton of Newtown Bible Church in Connecticut, a good friend of ours whom we met in 1996 in Croatia when he came to help us minister in Split, Croatia, picked us up the following day to take us to his home. We enjoyed a few days of wonderful fellowship with him and his wife, **Trisha**, and two of their girls. On Sunday, Kornel was able to share about the ministry in Croatia, as well as preach a message in the morning service. Our family also served by singing a special song. After the service we enjoyed a delicious lunch with several church members and their families. In the afternoon there was a volleyball competition – they TRIED to beat the Croatians. We had wonderful and fun fellowship with the church members of Newtown Bible Church. We are glad we got to know them better so we can pray more specifically for them.



(l-r) Trisha & Joey Newton with daughter, Kornel, Marko, Tanja, & Nataneal

On Monday we flew from NYC to Greenville, SC. Again, our flight was delayed. Instead of arriving in the evening at 8 pm, we arrived about 11 pm. **Joan Jensen** picked us up. On Tuesday we rested at the Jensens' home, and in the evening, we met with two families who faithfully support us and the ministry in Croatia. On Wednesday, July 17, we started our travels by car. A wonderful family from our sending church, **Hampton Park Baptist**, loaned us their car to use while in the States. We traveled to Tennessee, where we stayed with **John and Thelma Ridley** for the night. We left the next morning for Williamstown, Kentucky, where we visited the Ark Encounter. It was a unique experience to see the life-size Noah's Ark. The craftsmanship was amazing. Everything was done with such detail that it can't be explained. We made face to face calls with our closest family members to share the unique experience, and we also took many pictures to share what we saw with our church family and other family members. We will never forget it. It was encouraging to walk through the Ark and read of His creation and great plan



(l-r) John & Thelma Ridley and the Crnkovics
of salvation for mankind. At the end of the tour there was an invitation for repentance for anyone who did not know the Lord.

Later that Thursday, we arrived at the home of **Pastor John Goldfuss** in Kingman, IN. We had quality time with him, talking about the Lord's work in Croatia, hearing about the ministry of **Waterman Baptist Church**, and exchanging experiences in our ministries. Pastor John took us on a hike through Turkey Run State Park, and we enjoyed God's beautiful creation. We also had a special visit to Assurance Christian Camp as they celebrated their 75th Anniversary. We were very impressed by Pastor John's garden, and we enjoyed the fruits of his labor. Our son Marko joined Pastor John Goldfuss in crawling through the tomato vines trying to pick the many big and small tomatoes to be given to the church members on Sunday. On Sunday, all four of us shared our testimonies in Sunday school. It was the first time that our sons had shared their testimonies in English. As their parents, we were proud and amazed at their knowledge of the English language for sharing what the Lord has done in their lives. In the evening service, Kornel had planned to share a digital presentation of our ministry, but due to technical difficulties, he decided to preach and share testimonies of some of our church members. Afterwards, Tanja was able to share a presentation of our ministry during a time of fellowship. Our family was blessed by the folks at Waterman Baptist Church. On Monday we were glad we got to meet Pastor John Goldfuss' wife, **Jennifer**, who had been out of town helping her daughter with her newborn baby.

On Tuesday, we traveled to Grand Rapids, OH, where we met with the Youth Pastor, **Josh Lobach**, and his family for dinner. On Wednesday evening Kornel had the privilege of introducing **Bethany Baptist Church** to our ministry. Afterwards we had quality time for questions and answers, and many stopped by our display table to get to know us. Tanja especially enjoyed seeing **Sharon**, after about 30 years, the granddaughter of the **Boones**, the couple who took care of Tanja during her four years of study at BJU. Another treat was to see a Croatian friend, **Pepo Dragash**, whom Tanja knew from her teenage years. He lives in Anderson, IN, and came to Bethany Baptist Church to hear about our ministry

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August 2024 “Rick’s Projects”

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Container

God provided the funds for us to buy the second container that we need for storage. It is installed and operational. In the coming days, we will install the lighting for inside.

Audio for the Chapel/Meeting room

God also provided for us to purchase the audio equipment we needed to replace what we had that was no longer working well for us. We are also thankful to have our own electric piano now. Everything was set up and ready to be used for our weekend retreat, August 24-25.



Electric piano & sound board

Converted Water Tower stairs

Rick worked on this project and finished the stairs that will provide access to the games and entertainment storage room. We had to move the steps to a different location, on the opposite side of the building, so we still need to move the door to that location. This task will be finished this month.



Rick on the new stairs

Chapel Acoustics & Chapel Entrance

God provided us with the needed funds to improve the acoustics in the Chapel. It took us several days to install the black acoustic panels, but as we progressed, we could immediately notice the improvement. We were able to solve one of the major problems we have had - people not being able to hear clearly. Thanks to the equipment we have now, we will be able to solve that



All the black panels are new acoustic tiles. Many more were added after this photo.



Before (above) & after (below) of the chapel



problem once and for all. There are still some aesthetic tasks that we need to carry out as we have time.

Work has begun on the entrance to the Chapel. We still have several tasks left to do on this project in the coming days, but we knew we would not be able to finish all the work during the work days. But the most important part, which makes it safer for those entering the building, is now done. When we finish the entire front, we will share a picture of how it looks.

Boys’ bathroom partitions

I worked with Britt on this project. I was able to learn a lot about aluminum panels. The bathrooms not only turned out nicer and neater than I expected, but the cubicles now seem much larger. God blessed in allowing us to make this needed improvement to the two cabins that were the most affected by the rust on the old partitions. In the future we will make the same improvement/repair to the other cabins.



One of several new shower partitions in the boy’s cabins

Outdoor Firepit — First stage of work

We finished the first stage of the new Firepit. It will be greatly appreciated by the groups that come to the camp. It will also allow us to have campfires during the summer, which we have not been able to do before. In addition, lighting was installed to allow safe access to the area at night. Jeff Hilla installed 8 flood lights with solar panels.

The Children’s Playground

God provided for us in abundance for this year’s projects, allowing us to allocate to needs such as building new games in the



Some of the new features added to the children’s playground

Children’s playground area. We were able to make 3 of the 4 we had planned, and we already have the materials to build the fourth game, hopefully by summer camps, 2025.

Intercom & Controlled Access to Camp

Controlled access to the camp was another need that we were able to address this month. Jeff Hilla did a great job on this project. The intercom and controlled access will be a big help, especially for the rented camps.



One of Jeff’s wiring jobs

People who see all the work that was accomplished, ask us, “How were you able to do all of these improvements?” It is a great opportunity to glorify God, because it is only by His grace and providence that we have been able to achieve so much in another year. Please join us in thanking God for all the blessings He has given us.



Graciela & Beatriz (the camp’s secretary for decades) were the cooks for the workers

I would appreciate your prayers for me. We will have camps every week until the beginning of our summer, which in Uruguay is January 2025.

We thank God for giving us the privilege of being part of His work, and we thank you for your help in numerous ways, which makes you also a part of everything that God does in our lives. †

Return Service Requested

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Delayed, yet on time

(continued from page 2)

and meet our family. Our boys enjoyed talking in Croatian again.

Thursday and Friday were travel days. We traveled all the way down to Dothan, AL, to visit another one of our supporting churches, **Central Baptist Church**. We met the new pastor, **Randy Boardman**, who took us to our wonderful hosts, **Rick and Kelly Rockwell**. Being a former Apache pilot and instructor, Rick took us to the U. S. Army Aviation Museum at Fort Novosel, Alabama. We enjoyed seeing the largest collection of helicopters on display. We learned that this United States Army post was named in honor of Chief Warrant Officer Michael J. Novosel, the son of Croatian immigrants. How amazing is that? In addition, as we registered our visit at the entrance of the Museum, we found out that just a day before our visit to the Museum, the Croatian Minister of Defense and the Croatian Ambassador visited the Museum as well.

Sunday, July 28, was a missions emphasis Sunday at Central Baptist Church. Kornel shared about the Lord's work in Croatia, and Jeff Davis shared about the other ministries of EMU International with a challenging message to "Find your place in God's plan to reach the nations." It was great to see familiar faces after 9 years and to meet new brothers and sisters in Christ. On Monday, Rick, our host, drove us to Pensacola, FL, to visit the National Naval Aviation Museum, one of the largest aviation museums in the world. What a great experience for our boys! On our way back, we stopped at a beach to dip our feet in the Gulf of Mexico and enjoy a short walk on the soft white sand. Kelly was a wonderful cook and hostess. Our family felt very welcomed and comfortable. Swimming in their big pool in the evening was a special treat. *(To be continued next month.)* †

ALONG THE WAY...

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This does not mean that Joan or I are retiring. My responsibilities will remain the same, but Joan won't need to be working 50-60 hours a week now overseeing all the finances. She will continue to serve our missionaries' needs in many areas. Joan and I are now (as of August) both in our 70s and see the need to pull back some from the intricacies of running the Home Office 24-7. If you have any questions, please let us know. Our hearts are still tied to our EMU family and always will be.

As Bob Jones University started in August, five of our **MKs** arrived in Greenville. The oldest 3 of the Farmer children are here, as well as the oldest child of the Chapmans and Kanés.

The **Farmers** are still in the States for a few more months. The **Josh Jensen family** returned to Cambodia on August 16 and should be settled into their home in Oyadao by now. Concerning the translation project Josh is working on, 1 Timothy and Philemon have been approved for publication. Both books are being recorded by Jarai speakers to add to the Bible app available in Cambodia. Work continues on Mark and Luke.

The **Hancocks** arrived in the States to begin a short furlough on August 21. Interestingly, they purchased Josh and Amy's large van. So, they will have plenty of room for their growing family. The main reason for their current trip to America is so Becky can deliver her seventh child here in October. Their return tickets to Cambodia are for November 7.

The **Espinell family** from Uruguay will arrive in the States September 27 and return to Uruguay on January 7. On the way to the States, Matias and Kristine will be taking their kids on a side-trip to Peru to

see Machu Picchu, outside of Cusco. From August 16-17, Matias was involved in a successful Biblical Counseling Conference in Uruguay.

Ted Allston has been in Kenya for several weeks and will be returning home on September 7.

The article in this Newsletter by the **Crnkoviés** is only half of the submitted text. The second half will be presented in the October Newsletter. But that section also states the date they returned to Croatia. So, for your information, they left Greenville, SC, on August 19 and are home safely.

Uruguayan missionary **Chicha Rodriguez** had the opportunity in August to be one of the speakers at a large ladies' conference in southern Brazil. In years past many of these ladies have attended ladies' retreats at Camp Bethel in Uruguay.

Pastor **Gabriel and Rosanna Gomez** ask for your prayer for the special services surrounding Gethsemani Church's 50th anniversary of the dedication of their current church building. The activities and meetings will be September 12-15. Much work has been put into the program and renovations to the sanctuary.

It seems to be a recurring theme that there is more to tell you in this column than there is room to say it. As the editor of the Newsletter, that would be my fault! But we trust the articles in this issue will be a blessing to you and a reminder for you to pray for the missionaries and ministries represented by EMU International. Thank you so much for your interest in this part of God's work for world evangelism. †

Email: office@emuinternational.org

Website: www.emuinternational.org

Phone: (864) 268-9267
