

EMU⁺

INTERNATIONAL

Evangelical Mission to the Unreached

Evangelical Mission to Uruguay

PROCLAIMING THE TRIUMPHS OF THE GOSPEL

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Assistant Director*

ALONG THE WAY . . .

“God incarnate” is a concept essential to Christianity and central to the Christmas story. Yet the very idea that the God Who created the universe and all that is in it, chose to become a man to more fully reveal who He is, and to redeem Adam’s race is beyond our (at least my) comprehension. The wisdom, justice, love, and mercy that went into His plan to become man leaves us speechless and prostrate. The Christmas story, for most of us, has been so ubiquitous in our lives that, even if we acknowledge the truth of God incarnate, it is something most of us do not truly meditate on. In this season of celebrating Jesus Christ’s birth, our thoughts need to stretch far beyond gift-giving and radiant-babies, and contemplate the biblically revealed panoply of Yahweh’s goodness and mercy in His eternal plan of ransom and salvation for each of us. May the Lord grant you a Christ-filled Christmas!

I want to go back to the September EMU Newsletter in which I began the account of the **Crnkovičs’** six-week visit to the USA beginning in July. That article covered the first half of their trip with my intent to present the second half the following month. However, as you might recall, Ursula Thiessen passed away in Uruguay, and the tribute to this amazing servant of God took up almost the entire script. Then my mother passed away in October, and once again the following Newsletter overflowed with a memorial to her life and

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CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

by Gabriel & Rosanna Gomez, pastor of Gethsemani Church in Montevideo, Uruguay

My mom broke her leg as a consequence of an illness, which began in July, and she needed surgery because she was in great pain. Although the surgery went well, she was too weak to recover. Sadly, she passed away on August 29. I believe the Lord was merciful to her and to us in taking her when He did, as we wouldn’t have been able to continue caring for her ourselves. Looking back, we knew she was ill for 40 days, but the illness was likely present much longer. Thankfully, she only experienced pain in her final days. I am grateful for His care, mercy, strength, and grace. His way is perfect!

Despite spending much of our time at the hospital in August, we continued working hard to finish all the repairs and improvements at Gethsemane Church that we had started in March. We celebrated the church’s 50th Anniversary from September 12-15. We not only renovated a new meeting area, but we also painted walls and floors. Pedro Donzé and my two sons, Marcos and Lucas, worked tirelessly to replace the old digital projector system, which was failing. They installed two TVs (one bought by the church and the other donated). It may sound simple, but making it work was quite challenging. By God’s grace, they managed to complete it on time! I am so grateful for their hard work, and I would be remiss not to acknowledge everyone else who also worked hard.

On September 8, after our Sunday morning service, 12 of us began deep cleaning the church facilities. We started at 2 pm and finished at 7 pm. It was truly a team effort! Our leader was ill and couldn’t talk very loudly, making it difficult to hear her, so we all ended up speaking softly, too. It was quite funny. Meanwhile, other groups were busy making decorations and cooking. One of the best parts of the celebration was hosting a group of brethren from the MEU interior churches who came to help us invite people in the neighborhood and distribute tracts at the market. We had

around 20 people for lunch and supper each day that week. Noemi González and my wife, Rosanna, planned the menus, organized the budget, purchased supplies, and created teams of two or three ladies to prepare meals each day. On Saturday night, we had the special celebration. We had around 100 attendees, even though our main auditorium only seats 80 (tightly). Marcos and Lucas prepared the back room to seat the additional 20 people for live streaming the service. On Sunday, we concluded the 4-day evangelistic campaign and 50th anniversary service with a big lunch for the entire church. It was a very happy week!

We often don’t take enough time to reflect on all the things the Lord has done in the past. The church started 60 years ago in this neighborhood and has been in this building for 50 years. I began attending the church around 45 years ago, making me one of the older members now. How could I not be grateful for all He has done here? It was so touching to see a short video about our history. Although it was brief, and we couldn’t find many pictures from the first 15 years, it was a real blessing. I hope it encourages the new generation to take up the torch and continue the ministry here. Times are different, and it’s challenging to find new ways to reach people. Many doors are closed now, but my prayer is that we do not lay down our arms and stop preaching the Gospel just because we face great indifference. God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow!

September didn’t end on the 15th. From last Thursday to Saturday evening (September 19-21), we had the ladies’ retreat at Camp Emmanuel. (I was there, too, but in the kitchen with Marcos, Lucas, and Nicolás Gómez, the pastor in Tacuarembó – and my nephew, and Josué, the new camp helper.) Noemi Gonzalez and Rosanna were the retreat teachers, speaking on the theme “When Life Collapses.” They were asked

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Blessings in San Fernando

by Alberto & Carolina Diaz, pastor of Emmanuel Church of San Fernando, Uruguay

I am grateful for the opportunity to teach "Systematic Theology" in the Bible Institute. I appreciate each student who faithfully sets aside time every Tuesday from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm to learn and prepare for a deeper understanding of biblical truths. My prayer is that the Lord will continue to enable me to minister effectively and raise up faithful workers from among these students to take up the task of working in the plentiful harvest.

On Wednesdays we have our mid-week Bible study at Emmanuel Church. We are studying the prophet Hosea, and we also share the message by audio for those who cannot attend. On Saturdays we are continuing our prayer meeting study of 1 John, and on Sundays we are studying the Gospel According to John. All these studies have been a blessing.

Throughout the year, on the first three Sunday afternoons of each month, we continue to help the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Las Piedras. On the fourth Sunday, we assist Carlos López at Emmanuel Church of Monte Grande.



Men's & Women's groups at Emmanuel



Recently, we had our men's meeting, and I thank the Lord for the group of men in our church. They seek to grow spiritually and pray with greater love for the ministry. These men are very helpful in every way.

My wife, Carolina, continues to hold ladies' meetings once a month. Thank God for the sisters who are faithful and are always ready to share this time in His Word and in fellowship.

In September, we had a time of evangelism that was a great blessing. We were able to contact young people who came to Sunday School when they were children but are now far from God. We continue praying that the Lord will guide us in finding a way to reach them and bring them back to fellowship with the church. The ministry with the children continues steadily every Saturday afternoon. We appreciate your prayers for the different members involved in this ministry and for the souls of the little ones hearing the Gospel.

We periodically work to maintain and beautify the church building with the support and help of various brothers. We have recently had workdays when we worked on the landscaping, painted the meeting room, and made progress in replacing the ceiling. There are still things to finish, but it is good to be active as a body

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Fourth Quarter at Camp Emmanuel

by Pedro & Paty Donzé, office administrator of MEU & director of Camp Emmanuel

We enjoyed several special times with our home church, Gethsemani Church, during the anniversary celebration in September. God gave me the opportunity to help with the evangelization effort with brothers from other churches. Sharing the gospel and talking about Christ is a great privilege. God blessed us with precious moments, not only working with the entire church on the church's preparations, but also during the campaign. Our church also spent three days at Camp Emmanuel. It was a joy for me to have my entire church here. I know firsthand the great benefits that come from sharing the Word of God and enjoying fellowship together in this setting.

We are now in the camp rental period until the beginning of December. We appreciate your prayers that God will use us to proclaim the gospel and serve souls.

We continue to wrap up some project tasks left from the August Rick's Projects, and we expect these activities to extend until the end of the year. Looking back, we can only say, "Thank God for everything He has given us and continues to give."

Regarding our family, I would like to share that Paty is progressing well. Her physical therapy sessions are yielding good results. Her leg is feeling much better, and she is now moving around more freely. She has visited the camp at times and has been able to do some chores, which has greatly

encouraged her. Thank you for supporting her in prayer and helping with her medical expenses. These busy days with the rental camps are challenging for us. We do not have a place at the camp for Paty to stay with me, so during October and November, I travel home regularly. Thank you for remembering us in prayer as a family.

Maxi continues with his studies at college, and the months of exams are beginning. He is doing well, thank God.

I must share that my health has been a bit complicated. After weeks of work on the projects in August, I had to see the doctor about my knees, as I was having trouble walking. After X-rays and ultrasounds, it was confirmed that both my kneecaps and ligaments are very damaged. Additionally, a cyst has formed behind my left knee, making it difficult for me to even drive at times. They are giving me medication to reduce the cyst; otherwise, it will need to be removed. Last week, I had an MRI to check for further injuries to the bones. I will see the doctor next week. I need to take care of my health, and I pray that God will give me strength, help me improve, and grant me wisdom in managing my time. I will keep you updated on this matter.

Preparations for Summer 2025 are underway. It is always encouraging to prepare for a new season of summer camps. We will have the opportunity to help several

campers, as we do every summer, through the Sponsorship program. I appreciate your prayers for wisdom to manage all the needs. In September, we began our summer staff training period with a day for new volunteers who wish to work with us in the summer of 2025. We are now finalizing the volunteer staff group and will soon start discussions with them to prepare for the different areas of the summer camp ministry.

This summer, we want to have a special gathering to celebrate Camp Emmanuel's 50th anniversary, but we know that organizing a celebration like this requires a lot of planning and resources. I have met with the brothers who assist me to see how we could have a time of thanksgiving and worship to God, along with an opportunity to invite the local community and evangelize. We want to honor God for His faithfulness in sustaining the Camp over all these years.

We thank God for the help that Josue Mendez has been at Camp Emmanuel. He has been with us for two months of his four-month trial period. Henry Castro enjoys having someone to work alongside him during these long camp days. Josue is very involved and enthusiastic, doing a good job every day. We have taken on his salary using the rental camps to cover the expense. †

On the Move

by John & Suzie Lehman, "Words Fitly Spoken" ministry around the world

Ming-gah-lah-bahr ("Hello" in Burmese)!
Asha hai ki tum theek ho ("Hope you are well" in Nepalese)!

After participating in the annual ACBC (Association of Certified Biblical Counselors) Conference in Fort Worth, TX, October 7-9, we left their airport on the 10th and flew to Kathmandu, Nepal, arriving there on the 12th. We then took a short flight to Biratnagar in southeastern Nepal. On the 13th, while there, and in conjunction with the Bethel Training Center, I taught *God's Design for Marriage: Perfect Plan and Redemption*. We had a few ice breakers along with playing the "newlywed" game. Just suffice it to say, not everything translates easily!



Bethel Training Center Conference

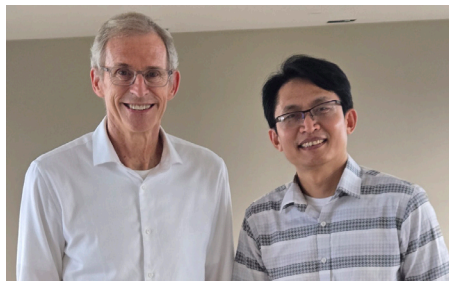
The following morning, the 14th, found me teaching seminary students at the same location. That afternoon, we flew back to Kathmandu, spending Tuesday the 15th there, and then on the 16th, we flew to Yangon, Myanmar (formerly Burma), arriving there on the 17th.

On Saturday, the 19th, I again presented



Suzie & John (center) with Ngaiah & Dorcas Tuang

God's Design for Marriage in conjunction with God's Miracle Church. The following morning, the 20th, I spoke in the same church, pastored by Ngaih Tuang. In the afternoon, in association with Grace Baptist Church, pastored by Hung Kim, I spoke at their evangelistic outreach. Monday, the 21st, found me teaching at Grace Baptist Theological College and Seminary.



John Lehman with Hung Kim

The following day, the 22nd, we flew to Seoul, Korea. While there, Seoul Christian

School's administrator, Jon Bright, asked if I could speak on Missions to their secondary students, and I did so on the 23rd, followed by participating in Seoul Bible Church's evening service.

The 24th found us departing from the Incheon Airport at 5:25 pm, and after 12.5 hours of flying and crossing the international date line, we arrived in Dallas the same day, at 4:05 pm! We eventually arrived in Greenville at 10:29 pm. (*kj - I'm exhausted just reading this!*)

This trip saw us on and off 14 flights, traveling 26,696 miles (one circumference of the earth is 24,901). In addition to these journeying mercies, we saw God's hand orchestrating a flight we had no reservations on, escaping a near riot on a bridge, and breaking a fever I didn't know I had. (Suzie has posted many more on her Facebook accounts.) We sure appreciated your prayers as we navigated the various time zones, airports, and ministry opportunities!

Our next trip will be to Honduras, Nicaragua, and Cancun, November 14-26, where I'll be presenting four more *God's Design for Marriage: Perfect Plan and Redemption* seminars.

Our prayer for you is that you will "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (I Thessalonians 5:18).

Scene chukbogi issgireul ("God bless you" in Korean)! †

Blessings in San Fernando

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in caring for and maintaining the place God gave us to congregate and serve Him.

As for our family, we sold our little minivan, which served us for a long time, and the Lord provided us with a SEAT Córdoba (manufactured in Spain), which has easy-to-get parts. Our dear Sebastián Gutiérrez helped us with transportation for our ministries while we made the vehicle transitions. We also want to thank you for your prayers for each of our children and their families. We are joyful and grateful to the Lord for each of them. Our dear granddaughter Pilar has turned one, and we had a wonderful time celebrating together. (*The 1st and 15th birthdays are extravaganzas in Uruguay!*) Additionally, our youngest daughter, Micaela, and her husband, Sebastián, are expecting their first daughter in December-January. God willing, we will soon welcome baby Chloe with great joy. †

Celebrating 50 Years

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to speak only a month ago as none of the ladies we had asked to teach could come. By God's grace, both ladies found the time and strength to finish all six sessions on time. We were also blessed with very good weather, making it a perfect retreat for all the participants.

On Saturday and Sunday, September 28-29, most of our church enjoyed a two-day retreat at Camp Emmanuel. Every time we spend time in God's word and with godly people, we are blessed. May all of us always have opportunities like this! †



(Above) Gethsemani Church family retreat
(Below) A couples retreat at Camp Emmanuel



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ALONG THE WAY...

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service as a missionary with EMU. During those months, our missionaries continued their ministries and reported about those activities in their prayer letters, which greatly increased my stack of Newsletter material. And as usually happens, the newer stories truncate the older. But to wrap up the Crnkovićs' account: they arrived back in Koprivnica, Croatia, on August 20 after having spoken in twelve churches in the eastern US and visiting two camps. Kornel, Tanja, and their two sons had a wonderful journey. We do trust that some individuals and/or churches will take on or increase their support as a result of these travels and presentations. For the January Newsletter I am planning to use portions of the Crnkovićs' most recent prayer letter. But I will mention one item from that paper here: Kornel sustained a shoulder injury that required surgery on November 6, months in a sling, and eventual physical therapy. Please pray for a good recovery.

Besides the 50th anniversary of the Gethsemani Church building in Uruguay (lead article in this issue), there was another significant anniversary milestone with EMU. **JD and Kim Crowley** and their family arrived in Cambodia for the first time on September 25, 1994 – thirty years ago! It is amazing what God has done in the Ratanakiri Province since then. In celebration of the Crowleys' arrival, the EMU Cambodia team in northeastern Cambodia gathered in Ban Lung.



(l-r) Lydia & Brian Kane, Josh & Amy Jensen, JD & Kim Crowley, Jeremy & Bonnie Ruth Farmer, & Brooke Illsley

In November another **Ratanakiri Pastors' School** module was held in Ban Lung. The theme of this series of teaching was World Missions. Some believers from the capital, Phnom Pehn, taught this curriculum along with the help of EMU missionaries. I hope to have a report on that conference soon.



Good News 360 Conference in India

Another Good News 360 Church Leaders Conference was held October 9-12 in Hyderabad, India. **Billy Judson** and others



Calvary Temple of Montevideo church retreat at Camp Emmanuel in October

organized this conference. The focus of study was the book of Romans.

Tim Chapman travelled to Lima, Perú, in November for another Theology Conference. Sam Horn was once again the teacher at the retreat. Tim spent several extra days in Lima packing up his family's household goods in preparation for the sale of their house later in 2025.

Ted Allston had a successful teaching trip to India November 7-20.

The **Steel family** from Uruguay will be coming to the States in January 2025 to begin several months of visiting churches and individuals during a short furlough. Also, the **Espinels** of Uruguay are in Greenville, SC, for Christmas to finish out their furlough. They return to Uruguay in January.

In closing, I would like to remind you of the opportunities to participate in the **Camp Emmanuel Sponsorship Fund** for the EMU summer camps in Uruguay (January-February) and the **Christmas Offering** for our EMU missionaries – nationals and Americans. And even if you cannot help financially, we do solicit your prayers for these two projects. We trust that the Lord will grant each of you a merry Christmas and a blessed New Year. †



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