

# EMU

## INTERNATIONAL

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PROCLAIMING THE TRIUMPHS OF THE GOSPEL

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Ken & Joan Jensen  
in Cambodia

### ALONG THE WAY . . .

**Tim and Lynnette Chevalier** joined the EMU family in 2018 to begin a teaching ministry much like Ted Allston has to the 10/40 Window nations. However, in 2019 Tim's health began to decline to the extent that the Chevaliers determined that Tim would not be able to maintain the rigors of travel that that ministry would require, so they resigned from EMU at the end of that year. It was truly a loss for us. The Chevaliers continued to serve faithfully at Hampton Park Baptist Church thereafter and work a secular job. In 1985, Lynnette received a liver transplant due to Wilson's Disease, resulting in years of anti-rejection medicine. On February 20 (I believe), Lynnette was diagnosed with Sepsis in her leg. The infection moved rapidly, attacking many vital organs. Sadly, she passed away on Saturday evening the 22<sup>nd</sup>. She was loved by everyone who knew her and will be terribly missed. Pray for Tim and his kids and grandchildren, and the extended family: the Murrs and Mortlands. †



Lynnette & Tim Chevalier - 2018

## CAMBODIAN FRUIT - PART TWO

by Ken & Joan Jensen, assistant director & office administrator of EMU

*(The following is a continuation of Ken & Joan's trip to Cambodia in January.)*

Before our going to Cambodia in January, Brian asked if I would bring a Bible devotional at the Saturday evening expat meeting at the Crowleys' house. It was enjoyable to meet a goodly number of missionaries from other organizations who have fellowship with our Team – one was even a visiting missionary from Vietnam. My challenge from the life of Gideon left much to be desired, but seemed to be well received – or at least graciously tolerated! The fellowship during refreshments was especially encouraging.

Our time with the Kanes was a bit more activity oriented, especially for Joan who loves to play any game suggested by a kid!

On Sunday morning Joan and I attended the BanLung church where the Ratanakiri Pastors' School is held. The service is in Khmer, which all of our missionary families speak. The Crowleys attended a Tampuan church well out of the city that day. Two of the three pastors of the Khmer church are Rut and his brother, the latter of whom preached that day. Rut has been JD's Khmer right-hand-man for many years. He has been a godly, faithful minister in the cause of Christ. Besides pastoring, he helps administrate the EMU offices next to the Crowleys' home. In Cambodia, a foreigner



(l-r) Ken, JD, & Rut at the mission office

cannot own land, though they can own the structure on the land. Therefore, all of our American families who "own" houses have a Cambodian on their deed as their land owner. Rut is so well trusted that he is the "official" deed holder of the Americans' real estate. Rut's consistent high character has won the confidence of all who know him. Later in the week, JD, Brian, Rut, and I met at one of the offices to discuss ministry prayer requests and have a time of prayer. I also was able to meet with Brian and his team of 3 men who are working on the translation of the Krung Old Testament and who record Krung Christian programming. One of these men is the son of Naay, the first Krung Christian who helped Brian when he moved to BanLung, and whom I met on my 2nd trip to Cambodia.



(l-r) Lib Sareum, Naay Teah, Ken, Brian Kane, & another Krung national

Later that afternoon at the Kanes' house, a group of Cambodian Christian youth joined the Kane kids for Capture the Flag and a rousing game of softball (regardless of the kid's age or size). It was amazing to see Cambodians playing softball! And both guys and gals were not half bad.

Interspersed between meals at the Kanes' house, we were entertained with a dramatic production of the Lincoln assassination (by all the Kane kids!) and visits to two waterfalls. The 1st waterfall, 82-foot high Cha Ong Falls, is one that Joan and I had visited before on an earlier visit to BanLung (2016). Though Cambodia is a few months into dry season, and the creeks and rivers are noticeably low, this waterfall is still quite impressive due to its height. The 4 Kane girls were with us, with, of course, Brian as  
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# Camp Emmanuel's 50th Anniversary

by Marcos & Tali Gomez, Uruguay office & Camp Emmanuel assistant to Pedro Donzé

As always, it was a hectic start to another camping season. This year is special for us as we celebrated 50 years that Camp Emmanuel has been in Guazuvirá. So many lives have been impacted at this place, including my own. But first I will tell you about the regular EMU camps in January.

## Training

We started on January 3 with staff training. We worked with the entire summer team, fine-tuning and reviewing the classes we had prepared for the campers. The preparation period went well, and we were ready to receive the campers.

## Children

This year I took on a different role. Usually, I serve as a counselor or lead counselor, but due to various circumstances, Pedro, the camp director, needed me to oversee the entire week of camp. This involved ensuring that everything ran smoothly - the kitchen being well-stocked, the counselors having what they needed to carry out their tasks, and all the other aspects of the week.



January 2025 Children's Camp

At the children's camp, we had a wonderful group. This summer's theme was the Christian Family. Many of the children were from dysfunctional homes. The theme provided several opportunities for counselors to talk about Christ with the children, many of whom expressed a desire to accept Christ as Savior. Our prayer is that God truly worked in their hearts and that those who prayed for salvation did so with understanding, experiencing real change in their lives.

## Adolescents

Next came the younger teens. This has been a stable group over the years with many familiar faces and some new ones. Pastor Nicolás Gomez shared the Word of God, and the Lord really used Nico's preaching. The young people were taught the Word about their roles within their homes now and their future roles in forming their own families.

During this week, I coordinated the games, a role I have held for several years. We had



January 2025 Adolescent Camp

a good time together, enjoying healthy fun and creating lasting memories. However, we faced some difficulties as some of the male counselors were sick Monday to Thursday, making things a bit challenging. But God enabled us to manage the situation.

## Jovenes



January 2025 Jovenes Camp

We concluded the first month of camps with the Jovenes (*older teenagers*). Again, the Lord blessed our time as Nicolás Gomez shared the Word. Like with the children, many of the teenagers were from very dysfunctional homes, with some having many siblings from different fathers and others not living with either parent. Many of the teenagers left the meetings crying, and some expressed reluctance to form their own families because of their backgrounds. This provided an opportunity to show them that, with Christ at the center of their lives, it is possible to form a home that glorifies God.

We had great opportunities to minister to broken hearts, and some of the campers shared their decisions for Christ. We appreciate your prayers for each of them.

## Celebrating 50 Years



January 2025 50th Anniversary of Camp Emmanuel. This is probably the largest crowd in the Chapel since the building was dedicated in May 2006.

We ended the Saturday of the teen camp with our 50th-anniversary celebration. We invited each of the MEU churches in Uruguay and many individuals who have had a significant part in the camp's foundation and growth over the years. We also invited suppliers and local residents to the camp for evangelistic purposes. Over 180 people attended the meeting and refreshments time afterwards. It was an exciting and special meeting, focused on sharing Christ. We had a time of testimonies when brothers and sisters like Pastor Ovidio Acevedo and Rosanna (Pastor Gabriel Gomez's wife) shared their testimonies of how this place has impacted their spiritual lives. Pastor Gabriel concluded by sharing the Word of God.



At the end of the service, the representatives from the Guazuvirá Commission presented a plaque to Pedro Donzé (center left) & Henry Castro (center right) which reads:  
**In Recognition by the Guazuvirá Promotion Commission to Camp Emmanuel on the occasion of its 50th anniversary for its invaluable contribution and support of the Guazuvirá Community. 1975-2025**

We thank God for the opportunity to have had this activity, which allowed us to reunite with brothers and sisters, and together praise and glorify God for His work. Many of us shared how God has worked in our lives through His Word taught here at Camp.

## Camps Ahead

There are still activities ahead. The family and workers' camps are later this summer due to scheduling problems, but other activities filled the intervening weeks. One church held a children's retreat for an entire weekend. And in early February, we hosted another non-MEU church for their annual camp, serving 140 people.

For the workers' camp, Brother Bill Hill, who has shared the Word here at various conferences in past years, will be the speaker. Unfortunately, he will not be able to stay beyond the first day of family camp due to circumstances beyond our control. After Bill leaves, Jeff Davis will take over and speak for the rest of the Family Camp.

## MEU Office

For over six years, the mission has been working on a legal procedure to exempt our churches from a high tax. Although several churches have been able to obtain this exemption, three had not: Templo Calvario of Montevideo, pastored by Gustavo de Oliveira; Emanuel Church of San Fernando, pastored by Alberto Diaz; and Templo Calvario of Treinta y Tres, pastored by Rubén Rodríguez. Since 2017, we have worked tirelessly towards this goal. Recently, we received news that Templo Calvario of Treinta y Tres church and Emanuel Church of San Fernando have been exempted from the tax. Only Templo Calvario of Montevideo remains, and we trust it will be resolved soon. We thank God for His help, knowing He is always in control. †

For more photos of the camps, go to Facebook account [Campamento Emanuel UY](#)

**Cambodian Fruit - part two**

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our leader. All was fun and lighthearted until I did what I do best: I fell. Thankfully, it was not while at the top of the falls or I would not be typing this – ever! I will save some of the details of this event for the “Ken & Joan Jensen 2025 Christmas Letter.” The short account is that I slipped while trying to get an awesome photo from the base of the falls. I gashed my shin to the extent of continued bleeding and a strong desire to cry. Eventually we made it back to the Kanes’ home where Dr. Brian and nurse Sophia cleaned me up and bandaged my wound, though I suspect Brian enjoyed probing the gash a little too much! This accident somewhat curtailed my activities for the rest of the trip, especially when it came to getting into creeks or rivers. As I write these words, my shin is still very uncomfortable. I heard later that the scuttlebutt at the Kane and Crowley houses was “Well, we’re glad he got that over with without too much damage!” I sincerely represent that remark.



*Cha Ong Falls  
For perspective, the little white figure under the falls is Sophia Kane*

The 2nd waterfall, Ka Chanh Falls, was one that I had visited 30 years ago on my first visit to Cambodia with Pastor Danny Baker. JD took us to this 40-foot falls at the height of rainy season and someone snapped a picture of the 3 of us at the base of the falls. I had for some time wanted to see that spot again. Brian, with almost all of his kids, took us to this falls, which is far more commercialized now than then. We were able to maneuver our way over rocks and debris to the same location as 30 years ago, and Joan recorded a picture of the new EMU Cambodia director and me.



*(l-r) Danny, Ken, & JD in 1995  
(l-r) Ken & Brian in 2025  
(The water flow contrast is the difference between rainy and dry season.)*

On Wednesday the 29th, JD, Brian and his boys, 2 missionary expats from BanLung, and I had a Cambodian breakfast at a lakeside restaurant very close to where the Crowleys lived when they moved to BanLung 3 decades past. We all got the same thing: rice, pork, fried egg, broth soup, fruit, and coffee for \$2.50 each. Joan, Kim, and the Kane females planned to go to a different eatery, but it was closed for Chinese New Year, so they ended up at Plant Restaurant with us, but at a separate table. After the meal JD and Brian noticed that the governor of the province was at this outdoor café, and they went to greet him. Eventually, the governor asked to get a group photo of all of us together. I understand he has been a good governor, and his kind demeanor buttressed that opinion.



*Lydia & Brian talking to the governor*

Later Kim drove us to Yeak Laom Lake, a circular volcano lake and preserve under the conservancy of the local Tampuan tribe, where we met the Kanes. The beautiful 2-mile trail around the lake is a popular tourist attraction.

Returning to the Crowleys’ home after lunch, we showered and packed our bags once again. At 3:45 PM we said goodbye to Kim and JD as Joan drove the Crowleys’ stick-shift Ford truck to Oyadao for our final stint with missionaries. (My left-leg injury made me skittish of using a clutch pedal – though I would have asked Joan to drive anyway!) In about 45 minutes we were at the home of Josh and Amy Jensen and were greeted by our 7 biological grandkids. After supper, the 4 oldest kids entertained us with a play they adapted from a book they have: a pig and a princess get switched while young and are then raised in very different environments. It was well done and humorous.



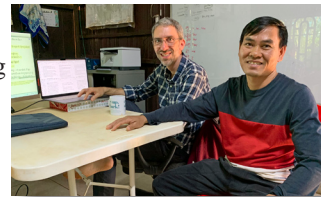
*(l-r) Becca, Clara, Isaiah, & Anna*

That night Joan and I slept in a small room in the new ground floor addition to their house. It is much cooler in the “basement” during the day. The 3 boys share a room downstairs, too, as does the new puppy. It was nice to have a bathroom on that level, as well. A huge central area is the playground for the kids during the day. The 3 older girls share a bedroom upstairs next to Josh and Amy’s room, where Maria also sleeps.

On Thursday we ate the standard family breakfast of eggs and oatmeal. The 4 older kids cook the meal each morning, including

starting the coffee. They all have routine chores, so everyone knows their family duties. As it was Chinese New Year, Josh’s Bible translation team was off for a few days. However, Josh did take Joan and me to the church, where the team normally works.

One of his translators was spending the day in the office.



*Josh & one of his Jarai Bible translators*

It was good to meet this young man, who pastors another Jarai church. His testimony was very interesting. Two mornings during our visit, Amy worked on lessons for the 1st ever Jarai Sunday School curriculum on Acts. Josh translates these into Jarai and then has them printed for use in the Jarai churches. Eventually, they hope to have these lessons translated into as many tribal languages as possible.

After lunch, the Kanes (minus Brian) arrived at the Jensens’ house for their bi-weekly piano lessons taught by Amy. That takes most of the afternoon. Josh took me and his two youngest sons on my requested excursion to the Sesan River that becomes the border between Cambodia and Vietnam just northeast of Oyadao. I have wanted to see this intriguing volcanic area for many years. The Sesan River flows from central Vietnam through northeastern Cambodia, terminating into the Sekong River just east of Stung Treng. Also, Josh had been wanting to find the dirt road leading to a particular Jarai village. We found it, but the village was on the far side of the river and required a ferry boat to reach it. From that crossing, Vietnam is just a few hundred yards to the north. We returned home about an hour before the Kanes returned to BanLung. That hour was filled with a game called Snake Tag in the Jensens’ front yard with a host of neighbor kids. It was exciting to watch.

About 6:00 that evening, the neighbors, who run a small store out of their home, began to play *karaoke* at a volume to embrace most of the town with subpar singing. After all, it was still Chinese New Year! This caterwauling continued non-stop until sometime past 10:00, well beyond our accustomed bedtime. On Sunday, a traveling carnival moved on to an empty lot not far from the Jensens’ house, and again music began to be pumped out in the late afternoon. Thankfully, the decibel level was tolerable and no *karaoke* was added.

Late Friday morning, we all packed into the Jensens’ four-wheeler and the Crowleys’ king-cab pickup and headed out for a picnic at the Ou’Sean Lair Waterfall (also called the 7-Step Falls) about an hour drive from Oyadao and southeast of BanLung. Over half of the drive was over dusty, but well-maintained, dirt roads. It’s the most touristy falls we visited. Bamboo cabanas lined the

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## Cambodian Fruit - part two

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river's banks, and there were many spots for the kids to play in the water. Because of my open wound, I was only an observer and photographer of the water frolics, though the heat of the day made a plunge tempting. By 3:30, the crew was ready to head home.

On Saturday morning, Josh and Amy took, what I understood to be, their first bicycle ride together since moving to Oyadao. Joan and – to a far lesser extent – I entertained the kids until their parents' return 2 hours later. Their ride consisted in part of stopping at a few houses to visit with acquaintances. After lunch, Joan, Anna, Clara, Isaiah, and I played a game that Isaiah had wanted us to play since their furlough last spring: Risk. Joan and I had never played before so the learning curve was steep. Much to all of our chagrin and surprise, Clara – the youngest of all – beat everyone handily!

After an early supper, several nationals gathered at the Jensens' house for the weekly Khmer church service led by Josh. Six of the 8 attendees are Christians, and 3 of those were Jarai teenage girls. It was a full-fledged church service with singing, scripture readings from the Old and New Testaments, a sermon, and communion.



Josh's Saturday evening church congregation

Sunday was an especially full day for Josh and Amy. In the morning there was Sunday school and church with the Jarai



The Jarai church in Oyadao that the Jensen family attends on Sundays

congregation they attend not too far out of town on the main drag. The church building is relatively new, having been completed about 2 years ago. It is a spacious, comely auditorium. An old wood church building next to the new sanctuary is used for Sunday school and children's church. Four Sunday school groups meet around the premises, including outside. For the morning service, everyone gathers together in the new building. To say it was a bit noisy is an understatement: an app on my iWatch warned me that I was in an excessively loud environment! I had never seen this message before! During the song service almost every age group – children, young people, older teens, and adults – each went to the front of the church and sang a special number. At one point the pastor came to Josh and asked if I would give a greeting to the congregation. Thankfully, I had a few minutes to concoct a short speech, which Josh translated. After the singing, the younger kids were dismissed to children's church and the din diminished. The message this day was shorter than usual, only about 20 minutes long. Following the preaching was communion. After the meeting, several of the leaders of the church, both men and women, came to greet Joan and me. It was a joy to get to know them a little.

After a lunch of sloppy joes, Josh and Amy had Bible teaching sessions with individuals who came to their house. And Becca taught her weekly English class to a few neighborhood kids. At 4:00, Josh returned to the church for a monthly "leadership

meeting" at which he has been teaching the church leaders the book of 1 Timothy. Also, that afternoon, another of Josh's Jarai Bible translators came to the house to "greet Joshua's father." He brought his wife, 2 children, sister, her cousin and child with him! They were very kind folks.

Somewhere along the way on Sunday, Josh and I determined that the dark spot on the gravel under his vehicle was from a fuel leak, an advantageous discovery as the next day he would be driving us 9 hours to Phnom Penh to catch our plane. Sunday for Buddhists is not a day of rest, so Josh's local mechanic was available to fix the problem that afternoon.

After last minute packing and loading up the vehicles on Monday morning, we were on the road to BanLung to drop off JD's truck at his house, before heading south to the capital. Again, the drive afforded us additional time to talk to Josh. Entering Phnom Penh, Josh stopped at a store much like a Costco so he could load up on some needed supplies. As usual, the traffic in Phnom Penh was horrible, and at times I wondered if we would get to the airport on time. But we did.

In retrospect, our 2+ weeks in Cambodia went by quickly. But the memories and blessings of this journey will be with us for the rest of our lives. We thank the Lord for giving EMU such a wonderful Team in Cambodia. I wish each of you could have the privilege of experiencing the smells, sounds, and scenes in which these dear missionary families serve the Lord. I trust this sometimes-mundane account has given you a glimpse into their lives. †

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