

EMU

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Evangelical Mission to Uruguay

PROCLAIMING THE TRIUMPHS OF THE GOSPEL

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Ken & Joan Jensen
Assistant Director

ALONG THE WAY . . .

While the eastern USA was sweltering under a heat wave in mid-June, a blast of frigid weather settled over southern South America resulting in the “unthinkable” - snow in Uruguay. (There is still literature claiming that it never snows in Uruguay, but that statement has been proven false a few times in the last 50 years.) This cold wave will make the winter retreats at **Camp Emmanuel** in Guazuvirá, Uruguay, a bit more challenging as the cabins have no central heating system. The first will be the youth camp (ages 12-20) July 2-5. The second is for 20+ year olds, to be held July 17-19.

Not long after that - in August - Rick Jensen will be joining some men from the USA and a number of Uruguayans for the **Rick's Projects** at Camp Emmanuel. We praise the Lord for already supplying funds for several of these projects, though some still need funding:

- *Water pump replacement* —\$2,300
- *Air conditioning for the meeting room* —\$7,350
- *Air conditioning for the cabins* —\$9,200
- *Hazardous tree removal* —\$1,900
- *Aluminum partitions for bathrooms (cabins 1-4)* —\$14,300
- *Lighting installation for the soccer field and access paths* —\$10,300
- *New septic field lines for the Casita and cabins 5 and 6* —\$34,562 (While

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MUSIC - KRUNG STYLE

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

The Golden Days of Yesteryear, the Platinum Days of Tomorrow

In the early days of the Krung church, the believers used Christian songs written and translated into the national language of Khmer. The missionaries strongly encouraged the ethnic minorities here in Ratanakiri province to use their own traditional tunes and instruments to produce their own hymnody; and so with the encouragement and training of some ethnomusicologists, several early Krung believers set to work writing Christian hymns to the old folk tunes. Out of that early group of songs, there grew a corpus of over 80 Krung songs which continue to be used in Krung worship all over Ratanakiri.



Brian Kane with Chan Naay in May 2017

Over the last couple decades, just a handful of new songs have been added, some being translated from Western or Cambodian hymns. But that all changed a couple of years ago. During COVID, the great shutdown, several of the churches asked **Chan Naay** to produce some new songs. Naay has been one of the most prolific song writers and undoubtedly the most musically talented Krung Christian. Though struggling with persistent health issues, he agreed to the task and began to produce what I believe will probably

be his magnum opus. Over the next three years, he produced a staggering collection of just under 50 new hymns and 20 other cultural songs and songs about Christian living. As you would hope, these new hymns are much more theologically rich than those of the early days of the church. Many are adaptations of some of his favorite Scripture passages and stories, poetically set to music. Now in his mid-70's and looking towards the twilight of his days on earth, it's not surprising that many of his songs encourage faithfulness in trials and perseverance until the end. From where he stands, he can see the end, and he doesn't want to fail on the last leg of the journey. As an outsider, I will never fully appreciate the quality of a good tonal melody, or truly relish the beauty of a pithy Krung turn of phrase; but even without Krung ears, I can tell that the quality of the poetry is decidedly richer. On top of that, Naay has been something of a connoisseur of tunes. Wherever he goes, with whatever people group he's with, he's always listening, always snatching up old sounds from other ethnic minorities. This new collection of canticles dips into his hobby and now several of these new Krung hymns are drifting on the notes of Tampuan, Brao, and Jarai melodies.

Unsurprisingly, the Krung church is gobbling these new songs up and are in a hurry to get them integrated into the hymnal. Since almost none of the minority

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Krung Christians recording new songs

Prelude to Summer

by Kornel & Tanja Crnković, church planting in Koprivnica, Croatia



Kornel & Tanja

In a few days we will start our many planned summer ministries, but first, we'd like to give you an update on the Lord's work here in Koprivnica during our springtime. The Lord is building His church,

adding new members to our congregation and opening doors for evangelism. During the spring months we were able to hold several special services which were very well attended. Easter, Mother's Day, and Baptismal services are great opportunities for outreach. For these special services, invitations are printed and given out. Our church members invite their unsaved friends, family members, co-workers, and acquaintances to join us. It is always an encouragement to see our meeting place full, with extra chairs added to the already filled rows. Many family members come and enjoy their time with us. For Roman Catholics to come to a Baptist church for a service is very difficult. Baptists are still considered to be a sect in our country. We are thankful to the Lord for those who came, and we pray for Him to work in their hearts and lives, change them, and save them. We are aware that it could take years for them to come again, but we are called to be faithful and pray for those God brings along our paths.

Sports ministry

To reach out to the community, we use various approaches and ministries. One of them is sports. The young men in our church love to play soccer. Our soccer team likes to organize games, but they also attend tournaments. They use the opportunity to invite their unsaved friends to play with them. At one of the soccer tournaments last month, our team got 1st place. They were very excited, especially our sons, Marko and Natanael. Growing up they saw their dad's team bring home trophies throughout the years. Our sons were glad they could add a trophy to the existing collection in the



Koprivnica church soccer team

church office. Our team usually brings home a trophy for fair play, which is a wonderful prize.

Women's ministry



Koprivnica church ladies' group

About every two weeks our ladies gather in the upper room of our church for a Women's Bible study. We are currently doing a study on prayer. Tanja translates and prepares each lesson. Our daughter Kristina told her church ladies about our Bible study, so they invited us to their church for a combined ladies meeting to learn about our Bible studies. Not many churches in Croatia have organized women's Bible studies. It was our privilege to share with them what the Lord is teaching us and how He is working in the lives of our church ladies. As a result of our visit, those ladies would like to start a Bible study in their church in the Fall.

Baptismal Service



Kornel (lft) & Tanja (rt) with five baptismal candidates from Koprivnica

We had perfect weather last Sunday, June 15, for our church's Baptismal service at the Drava River. Six new believers publicly confessed their faith in their Savior Jesus Christ by being obedient to God's command to be baptized: the youngest, Gabriel (15 years old); two students - Veronika and David; Katarina and Nediljko - a couple in their sixties; and Sven (also 15 years old) - from a Baptist church from a nearby town. The water level of the Drava River was quite low, so Kornel and the candidates for baptism had to walk almost half-way across the river. The Lord gave us a blessed service with about 150 in attendance, of which a third were non-believers. For most of them it was their first time witnessing a special service. Please pray for those who were baptized to be a witness to their unsaved family members and friends, especially those who witnessed their baptism, and for their spiritual growth as they daily study the Word of God. Kornel had the privilege of talking for a long time with Veronika's dad and David's mother. Please, pray for the seed planted in their hearts.

Gabriel's parents are church members, and as a family, they invited many to come to Gabriel's baptism. Over 30 people came! Pray for opportunities for them to continue to witness to those who came. Nediljko is an example of how much time sometimes passes before someone comes back to church. He visited our church about 10 years ago, at our old meeting place. This encourages us not to grow weary, but to keep on inviting and trusting the Lord to save souls in His time.

Visiting our friends in Slovenia

Two weekends in March and April, we

visited our friends Dražen and Nada and their son Luka in Slovenia.

As some might remember, Dražen is from Split. He is one of our first converts while serving in Split!

He is on the church committee in his church, and he wanted Kornel to come and preach at their Sunday service. It is an encouragement to see him growing in the Lord and serving Christ in Slovenia.



Kornel & Dražen

Thank you for praying for our family!



Misko & Mira

Tanja's parents, Miško and Mira, are faithful servants of the Lord. Many have been blessed throughout the years by their ministries (church planting,

evangelism, starting a Bible school, hosting many in their home, preaching, teaching ...) We celebrated Mira's 80th birthday earlier this month. We tried to surprise her, but it was a mission impossible. One reason was Tanja's father's health. He ended up in the hospital a few days before the party with emergency heart issues. After a couple of days, the doctor found a torn and worn heart valve. Surgery will be needed. Please pray for his health and for the best surgeon for his condition. Miško is 83 years old and not retired. He still pastors the Baptist church in Krapina, teaches at the Bible school, and records messages for the radio ministry. We believe God can still use him, and he loves serving the Lord.

Andrea is finishing her position as a substitute teacher in the Music school here in town and is looking for a new job opening. Please pray for the Lord to open doors.

Our daughter Kristina did a wonderful job defending her dissertation for her

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Assisting through Evangelism

by Juan & Naomi Gonzalez, MEU evangelist in Uruguay



Juan Gonzalez preaching at the "Feria" in Montevideo

Earlier this month, we had a wonderful time of evangelism with the brothers and sisters from Treinta y Tres in a village called La Charqueada, where their church ministers regularly. The believers in La Charqueada have a small church building there and hold weekly services. But once or twice a year



Bible Institute Winter Retreat

they organize an evangelistic outreach. I was able to be there for two days to help with the work and preach. Also from June 12-14, we attended the Bible Institute retreat held at Camp Emmanuel. The guest speaker was Dr. Lovegrove from Bob Jones University. It was a time of challenge, testimony, and great encouragement for all of us. (*Dr. Lovegrove will also be speaking at the Winter Youth Retreat July 2-5.*)

These last few months, we've been more focused on Montevideo and preparing materials for several upcoming trips to the interior of our country. From August through December, God willing, we'll be helping churches in the cities of Tacuarembó, Vergara, Durazno, and Rivera—visiting nearby towns as well, like Tupambaé, Salto, and others. We've already set dates with the local pastors and are praying the Lord will guide and use us for His glory and honor.

As a family, we've been praying and saving for a long time to have a home of our own. We're now very close to signing for a property, with the help of a bank loan, which we'll repay over ten years. We are deeply thankful to God for guiding us through this endeavor. We've already started gradually packing some things, and while it's a lot of work, we're grateful to the Lord for helping us through this process. †

Prelude to Summer (continued from page 2)

master's degree in early childhood education on May 11. She has stopped working for now as she is preparing for the arrival of their second child in July. She is actively involved in her church with music and children's ministries.



Kristina

Marko finished his second year of college, and Natanael finished his junior year of high school. Both are planning to serve the Lord this summer at several summer camps (youth, sports, music).

Thank you for serving with us through prayer and support. We know our effort is not in vain. Please pray for us to be wise in planning and preparing for the upcoming summer ministries, for open doors for evangelism, for wisdom as we disciple and counsel, and for steadfastness in our walk with the Lord - as we listen and follow the Lord's guidance in our lives and the lives of our children. We PTL that our children are all willing to serve the Lord wherever He leads them. †

Thankful

by Marco & Gwendolyn Nunez, church planters in southern Mexico



Marco with Toño & Karina Alvarado

Thank you again for praying for and supporting us here in Cancun. Actually, at the moment, we are in Indiana in a very comfortable missions apartment that has been provided for us. We are visiting five churches, and it has been a great delight to our souls to be with other believers and see how the Lord is working in these churches too. We are thankful for the many friends and family who have been so kind in loaning us a car, and for providing delicious meals and soft beds to sleep in. We also thank the Lord for His protection on the highways.

We are so thankful that the Lord provided a godly and competent Assistant Pastor, Toño

Alvarado, who is preaching and taking care of the church in Cancun in our absence. His wife, Karina, is taking care of the piano, the children's classes, and the ladies' Bible study for these weeks as well.

Recently, various ladies have started helping in the children's ministries, and it has been a wonderful blessing to share that opportunity with them. Pictured is a young married lady named Angelica who has been helping with the kids. She has been faithful in the church for more than 10 years now. In this same picture is a young boy named Jefferson. He was saved in April. Jefferson is in the green shirt to the left and is 12 years old. When



Angelica (rt) with her children's class
Jefferson (lft with green shirt)

he came to talk to Marco, he said, "Pastor, I'm tired of living in sin." He repented and trusted Jesus Christ.

We thank the Lord for a 51-year-old man, Miguel (3rd from left), who was recently saved in the Bochil, Chiapas church. A mother named Carmela (holding the toddler) and her 2 teenage children, Cristina and Rafael (to the right), were just saved Thursday morning, May 22. Pastor Daniel, his wife Marisol, and their littlest daughter are in the picture to the far left. †



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Music - Krung Style (continued from page 1)

peoples can read musical notation, they rely heavily on hearing the tunes over and over. During the last couple of months, many of the believers have gathered together over days and days of recording sessions, recording the instrumentation (gongs, one and two-string violins, drums, and cymbals) as well as the vocals, eager to have the songs loaded on their phones and ready to sing along. And in the midst of recording, Naay has added five more songs. While I can hardly complain, I told him that if he doesn't stop writing, at least for a little bit, we can never print a new version of the hymnal!

My friend has illustrated an important lesson that while there may have been golden days of the past, there can be, by God's grace, even better days yet to come. Let us strive to reach the end, not strolling, but sprinting towards the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Translation Progress



Krung translation team

In other news, Haggai is finished, all checking done and ready for printing! Ok, so it's only two chapters, but it was notable in that it was the first book our new translation team worked on from start to finish. And hot on its heels is the book of Joshua which, if all goes according to plan, will be finished within the next two weeks. After that, we will format, add any

necessary illustrations and/or glossary entries, and then print. Praise God with us for these successes!

Home News



Brian, Hugh, Sophia, & Lydia Kane

In home news, we were thrilled last week to celebrate the high-school graduation for Sophia and Hugh. Our eldest, Mia, has been in Siem Reap province this summer, helping a new missionary family as they adapt and work on language training. We were excited that she was able to come for several days and join in for the celebration. God has been very good to us and we are eager to see what He has in store for all of them.

With that in mind, in just a little over a month (August 8th), we will be returning to the US for our regular furlough. We are thankful that we will get to overlap this first year of Hugh and Sophia's college life and Mia's last year. We also look forward to getting to see many of you again! Please pray for all that's involved with finishing up remaining projects, packing up our house, and preparing for an extended stay there in the States. †

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

\$10,000 has already been provided, logistical issues prevent completion this year. We hope to finish in 2026.)

Very briefly, there are several of our missionaries making significant trips in July:

Tim & Cheryl Chapman leave July 8 for Lima, Peru, to finish preparing their house for sale and shipping certain belongings back to the States.

The B.s move from Greenville, SC, to Dearborn, MI, to live in a Yemeni community.

John & Suzie Lehman fly to South America on July 10 to begin conferences in Peru, Chile (with Tom & Connie Chapman), and Argentina.

Billy & Saritha Judson and their two daughters return to Hyderabad, India, on July 16 following their fruitful USA visit in NC, SC, and FL.

JD & Kim Crowley return to Cambodia on July 18. Their time with family, friends, and supporters while here was refreshing.

The annual **Board of Directors** meeting was held Saturday morning, June 14. At this meeting, **Tim Chapman** was voted in as our newest Board member. For lunch, several of our missionary families joined us at the Hampton Park Baptist Church pavilion for a delicious meal, warm fellowship, and blessed testimonies.

Thank you for your prayers and interest in the continuing work of EMU International around the world. May the Lord bless your faithfulness to His kingdom building. †

Email: office@emuinternational.org
Website: www.emuinternational.org
Phone: (864) 268-9267