

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 . . .

Strange. August is the only month of the year (that I know of) that has no major federal or nationally recognized holiday (like Valentines Day), or is not a month when the seasons officially change (winter, spring, summer, fall). It is the “empty month,” or at least should be. Yet every July when I prepare to write “Along the Way” for the August Newsletter, the list of “happenings” seems to be longer than any other month. And this year is no different.

One unique feature of August is that, at least in our part of the USA, it issues in the beginning of a **new school year**. Over the years, this has meant travel for some of our missionaries, especially those bringing a child to their first year of college. Beginning with the **Tom Chapman** kids years ago, almost all of the EMU MKs have attended Bob Jones University, where their parents matriculated. This August, four more of our MKs will be freshmen at BJU – two **Kanes** and two **Chapmans**. This will make three Kanes in college, three Chapmans, and three Farmers. (Without going into too much detail, the **Bixbys** have two children attending university in France, the **Steels** have a daughter studying at a college in Montevideo, Uruguay, and the **Wongs** have two enrolled in local colleges in the Charlotte, NC area.)

The **Kanes** arrive in Greenville, SC, from Cambodia on August 8 to begin an at least ten-month furlough. Their oldest daughter,

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BLESSING FROM WITHOUT AND WITHIN

by Tim & Ruth Bixby, church planters in Sarcelles, France



The GFA Choir in Sarcelles, France

Our local fellowship was recently blessed by two encouraging visits. At the end of May, we had the joy of welcoming a group of 20 young believers from the U.S. who were traveling through Europe with the GFA chorale. Many of them have a heart for cross-cultural missions, and on the evening of their arrival, I was able to share a few thoughts on ministry in multicultural contexts, encouraging them to consider how the Lord might use them in that realm. That same evening, they shared a meal with about 40 members of our church family. It was a beautiful moment of fellowship across cultures. Saturday included a morning seminar on evangelism with their leader Dr. Jim Wiginton leading a workshop-style discussion on ways we can thoughtfully engage others in conversations that will open doors for sharing Gospel truth. On Sunday, the choir ministered to us through various means throughout the day. One especially touching moment came during a shared meal prepared by our church ladies, who offered traditional dishes from their home countries - Algeria, Moldova, Korea, Haiti, France, India, Pakistan, and more. It was a tangible reminder of the rich diversity and unity we have in Christ. In the afternoon, the choir gave a sacred music concert, interspersed with personal testimonies. Several unbelievers were present — please pray that seeds sown would bear lasting fruit. Our own church members were greatly encouraged by the group’s zeal and joyful service.

On the last Sunday of June, we were blessed by the visit of one of our supporting pastors, Adam Eshleman. He led us through three sessions on “Profiting from the Psalms,” guiding us in how to use them to counsel our troubled hearts, how they exalt and reveal the person of Christ, and, after our meal together, how we can transform the Psalms into prayers for our own sanctification. We closed the day with a thoughtful Q&A where he graciously addressed a wide range of questions related to the Psalms. His visit was a true encouragement - both to our church and to our family.



Tim translating for Adam Eshleman

Also in June, we wrapped up our men’s and women’s ministries for the semester with two separate gatherings. The ladies enjoyed a day-long seminar where Ruth and Patricia each led sessions focused on ministering to one another. In addition to the catered meal prepared by a Pakistani cook (though some found the spice level to be a little adventurous!), the day was filled with rich fellowship - including testimonies, singing, games, and even a skit performed by a few of the ladies. More than 40 women took part in the event.

The men met on a Saturday for an outdoor gathering in a wooded area where Albert

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Mia, will be graduating from BJU in May 2026, and they plan to be here until that event. There is kind of a strange situation with their arrival, though. As some of you know, the **Farmers** returned to Greenville earlier this year due to a family situation. The leadership team in Cambodia and in the States recommended they come here for at least a year, using untaken furlough time. Anyway, Jeremy Farmer was one of the keynote speakers at the Hampton Park Baptist Church (HPBC) missions conference earlier in the year, so the leadership at our church got to know the Farmers and offered them the larger of the two mission houses we have next to our church. They have been living there for a few months now. However, last year, knowing they would be bringing two more kids to college this year, the **Kanes**, who are members of HPBC, reserved this house for their furlough. The Farmers have the option to move into Bonnie Ruth's mother's house in a neighboring city, but they are also pursuing other options in Greenville, if they can find one for the right price. These two families (Kanes and Farmers) are close and would enjoy living in the same vicinity.

Tim and Cheryl Chapman will be bringing all three of their kids to BJU in August. However, as of September, the Chapmans will no longer be full-time missionaries with EMU. Many of you know that they returned Stateside for their son's senior year of high school. After a year of furlough, Tim and Cheryl believe the Lord led them to remain in the USA. Tim will become the pastor of a church in Bay City, Michigan, as of September 1. All of their supporters have been kept up-to-date on this situation over the past year. Even though they will no longer be EMU MKs, Joan and I hope the younger two will follow in their sister **Lauren's** steps and attend HPBC and come to our house for Sunday lunch!

But that is not the end of the story. Tim continues to be acutely interested in the ministries of **Grace Baptist Church** in Lima, Perú, and especially in the area of specialized training. Tim wrote up a proposal and presented it to his new church, and to Jeff Davis and me, asking if the ministries of the **Theological Retreats** and **pastoral training seminars** in Perú could continue to be funded through EMU. Tim would visit Lima once or twice per year to lead these events. Some of their supporters are considering transferring their donations to the cause of funding these retreats and seminars. Tim will remain very much connected with these ministries even from Michigan. If any of you are interested in more details, Tim has a letter detailing these outreaches.

In July, **Tim and Cheryl Chapman** flew to Lima, Perú, to finish packing up their household. They have a buyer for their

house, but everything needed to be cleared out. The Chapmans gave away or sold much of their possessions to folks there. A truck was packed with their few remaining pieces of furniture and a large number of boxes to take to the dock for shipment north. Cheryl was not able to stay the entire time that Tim was in Lima. However, when she flew home, **Jeff Davis** arrived in Lima to help Tim, along with folks in Tim's church, finish packing. I don't have a report on Jeff's trip, but from the pictures, it seems to have been successful.



(l-r) Jeff Davis, a church member, & Tim Chapman in Lima, Perú

I thought I would be reporting that **JD and Kim Crowley** were back in Ban Lung, Cambodia, but things changed a bit. The week before their departure to Cambodia, JD underwent a scheduled colonoscopy which revealed that he has a cancerous tumor in his colon. The biopsy and further tests suggested that the cancer has not spread. However, JD will need an operation to remove a few inches of his intestines. His exam, also, uncovered an abdominal aortic aneurysm which needs to be treated. At this writing, JD does not have any operations scheduled. Obviously, the Crowleys had to cancel their return flights to Cambodia, and until the operations are performed, a return date cannot be set. The Pastors' School that JD usually heads-up has been changed from September to November. JD is continuing to work on the material for the Pastors' School while here. The subject matter for teaching will be the second half on the biblical use of money. The first installment earlier this year seemed to be a huge success. Pray for JD and Kim as they anticipate the many doctor appointments, medical procedures, and recovery that are ahead. We see the Crowleys often at HPBC, and they seem to be doing fine as they are surrounded by family, friends, and the love of God.

Ted Allston will be headed to Kenya again and will be there August 7-30. Jake Derksen from Canada will be with Ted for part of that time assisting with team-teaching.

John and Suzie Lehman were in South America for much of July, holding conferences in Perú, Chile, and Argentina. John will be traveling to Angola on August 4 for a conference, and then leaving again on

August 20 to Honduras.

At **Camp Emmanuel in Uruguay**, July and August (mid-winter) are busy months. Two MEU winter camps were held in July. Though there are some rental camps, the main focus of activity for August is the annual **Rick's Projects**. My brother will be flying down to Uruguay where he and another man from North Carolina will be engaged in a list of renovation/improvement projects at the camp. **Jeff Hilla** from Iowa, who has helped on these work teams before, will be arriving several days earlier to get a jump on some of the projects. As always, folks from our MEU churches – and some others – will be gathering at the camp to help with the host of projects that need attention. As of this writing, only a few additional gifts have been given towards the list of projects stated in the July Newsletter. Pray that additional funds will be made available. Pray for safety and good weather during this time, too. It has been a very cold winter in Uruguay this year. I have received pictures of both snow and heavy frost from our missionaries in Uruguay.

There is an additional project that has been started at Camp Emmanuel which, though not a part of the Rick's Projects, is substantial. Since you will hear about it eventually, I want to explain it to satisfy any questions you may have – i.e. questions I would have if I was learning of this for the first time! In 1978, my mother's father, **Wilton McMahon**, passed away in California. The McMahon children decided that rather than flowers, a memorial fund would be established for the purpose of building a small house (*casita*) to house visiting speakers at the camp. The *casita* was finished in 1979 and has been a wonderful blessing for an untold number of visitors and teachers since then. However, in 2024, needing more help at Camp Emmanuel, **Josue Mendez** came onto the camp staff and moved with his wife, **Katha**, into the *casita*, the only available housing. As beneficial as Josue is to the camp, this removed the *casita* from use for visiting speakers and for temporary housing for **Pedro Donzé** and **Marcos Gomez**, who both spend a great portion of their time at the camp. Shortly after **Marilyn Jensen** passed away on her birthday on October 18, 2024, we Jensen siblings and our spouses

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Building site for "casita 2" at Camp Emmanuel

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discussed the possibility of constructing a second house – *casita 2* – in memory of our parents, funded mainly by inheritance distributions. (My parents were frugal with spending on themselves but generous in supporting the Lord's work.) We left the design of the *casita 2* in the hands of the men who run the camp. The blueprint calls for four modest bedrooms with a connecting bathroom for each, a kitchen and a sitting/dining room. Four bedrooms seems like overkill, but in the past few decades we have had, at times, people sleeping in the two *casita* bedrooms, the living room, and the kitchen/dining room – yes, wall-to-wall people! We are hoping this new design will be functional and flexible. As the money has already been set aside for this endeavor, the clearing of the building site has already commenced. It is our prayer that the completion of *casita 2* and the Rick's Projects will be a tremendous blessing to those who attend Camp Emmanuel.

As an added prayer request in conjunction with Rick's trip to Uruguay, please remember to bring Rick's wife, **Kathy**, before the Throne of Grace. She has battled the encroaching effects of MS for many years. In the last few weeks, she has become confined to a wheelchair, even to the extent of having to sleep in the wheelchair, as lying down is so painful. Since Kathy became Mrs. Jensen many years ago, she has maintained a staunch view that Rick not be hindered in helping other Christian ministries like Camp Emmanuel, in spite of her health. Even now, she has made plans for various circumstances that may arise during Rick's 10-day absence. Although this paragraph might cause her embarrassment because of attention being drawn to her, I know that she and Rick would greatly covet your prayers.

Looking back over July, a few events warrant mentioning. In July, **Camp Bethel** in the Department of "33" in Uruguay, held its winter youth camp with a great group of campers and staff.



Winter Youth Retreat at Camp Bethel

J. & M. moved their family from Greenville to a city in Michigan so they can more readily minister to communities of Yemeni. The move went remarkably well as they received help from friends on both ends. And within a very short time in MI, they had already made positive contacts with unsaved folks in their neighborhood. Continue to pray for this family.

In July, the **Hancocks** began work on their new house outside of the city of O-Ring-O, Cambodia. There was a lot of prep work to complete for the lot, but it seems everything is in place to begin erecting their house.



The Hancock kids with one of two pythons found on their property while excavating

Billy and Saritha Judson and their two daughters are back in Hyderabad, India, following their visit to the eastern USA to present their ministry. Their trip spanned May 29-July 16. Billy indicated that this was a very encouraging visit.

A major milestone was celebrated by the **Núñezes** as **Marco** turned 80 years old in July. **Gwendolyn** and the church family went all-out for the lunch and party – including something Marco always wanted at a party: a mariachi band! It would have been fun to be there, but pictures will have to do!



Marco & Gwendolyn Nunez with one of Marco's sisters & her husband at the 80th

Finally, I would like to inform you, our readers, of something that I announced at the June EMU Board meeting. (Our EMU missionaries have all been apprised of this.) In **January 2026** I will have been with EMU for 50 years. After much consideration over the past year, I have decided, with Joan's blessing, to **retire**. The main area where you may notice is that I will no longer be the editor of the EMU Newsletter, a ministry I have been privileged to be involved with for most of those 50 years. **Jeff Davis** will assume this responsibility. **Joan** will continue to be in the mission office as she works to turn over her responsibilities to other capable

individuals. Currently, steps are being taken to further lessen her office work, though these foot-prints have not yet solidified. Joan and I will continue as members of the Board of Directors, but I will no longer be the Assistant Director. Our desire is to do some visiting of our missionaries on their fields and to see a number of friends of EMU in the States, as the Lord permits us to travel. One unofficial EMU project I would like to pursue is that of continuing to go through the EMU archives and fashion some semblance of a mission history. I will have more to say about our time with EMU in the January Newsletter. But I did not want you to be caught off guard by waiting to announce this in January!

This has been a much longer "Along the Way" than usual. If you made it this far in your reading, congratulations! One of the things that has not changed over the years of our service with EMU has been our sincere appreciation of those of you who have read these Newsletters and prayed for the various ministries of EMU. Writing these Newsletters has not been a job to keep me busy; they are written to keep you informed of the blessings and needs of our missionaries. We consider you to be a vital part of all of our ministries. Thank you! †

Blessing from Without and Within

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taught on honoring one another. Some played soccer and volleyball, while others enjoyed a walk among the trees. We regrouped for a picnic lunch and wrapped up the day with a friendly game of Mōlkky (a type of lawn bowling).

Last Sunday, our church family rejoiced in the baptism of two men who have experienced the transforming grace of God. Fr., a 42-year-old French man, first heard about our church through a colleague at his workplace in Paris. Though he declined the initial invitation, he came to our Christmas program in late 2023 - and has attended every Sunday since. After a few months, he also began coming to our Tuesday night prayer service, despite the 90-minute journey: a train ride out of Paris followed by a drive to church. When Fr. first arrived, he knew nothing of God or the Scriptures. Today, he is boldly sharing Christ with family members and others around him. He invited many of them for his baptism, and among those who were present were his mother (who has already attended several times), his father and stepmother, his half-brother, and his half-sister with her partner. Please pray that the Lord would continue to use his testimony to touch hearts and draw many to salvation. Please pray that God would particularly work in his mother, who said she has been

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Hospitality

by Tom & Connie Chapman, church planters in Antofagasta, Chile

Hospitality has always been a valued ministry to us, whether we were on the receiving end or on the giving end of it. It seems that hospitality has been our main ministry during the last five months. It was our privilege to host Jaime (Hi-may) and Miriam for several months, the couple who had the terrible car accident, as well as a dear friend who needed a place to stay while purchasing his own house. Jaime and Miriam will soon be returning for a week of exams and doctor's appointments. She seems to be recovering well, and we pray that another back surgery will not be necessary.



*Tom & Connie Chapman with John & Suzie Lehman in Antofagasta, Chile
(Obviously, this photo could not have been taken when Tom wrote this article. I took it from a report that John posted while in Chile.)*

Also, on Saturday morning, July 19, at 3:30 a.m., we will finally be able to welcome John and Suzie Lehman to be with us after their attempting to make this trip since before the pandemic. John will teach the married couples on Saturday, and also, on Sunday, July 20, he will teach a session on family and child rearing. Pray

for the health and strength they will need for their 3-country trip and for God to greatly use his teaching in the lives of our church family.

A long-awaited answer to prayer came a few weeks ago when work on the church property began in preparation for the construction of our building. As you can tell from the photo, it will probably be several months before we see any part of a building forming. Right now large footers are being poured for the metal structure, and the lower parts of the property will get a whole meter of fill dirt. It is necessary to bring the level of the property up above street level to avoid the flooding problems we have experienced in the past, both from sewage and from occasional rains. The church still lacks about \$35,000 for the initial phase of construction, which should be completed by the end of the year. We would appreciate your prayers for God to supply this need so that a loan will not be necessary. †



Preparing the foundation for the new church building in Antofagasta

Blessing from Without and Within (continued from page 3)

motivated by Fr. and is presently trying to read through the Gospel of Luke.

Fl., a 20-year-old young man, has attended our church for the past couple of years with his family. He also has a heart for sharing the Gospel and a sincere desire to serve God. He also had a number of visitors at the baptism, especially members of his extended family. We are deeply grateful for both of these men - their clear testimonies of repentance toward God and faith in Christ, and their eagerness to walk in obedience as they are baptized and welcomed into membership. Please join us in praying that God would use their testimonies to bear fruit among their contacts, and that He would continue shaping them into faithful servants for His glory within our local body.

Finally, in family news, Simeon finally finished his last few days of school last week. Next weekend, Gabriel and Zacharie will be attending a Christian camp in Luxembourg. Miriam, who is doing an internship in the tourism industry in a former royal castle, will get a week off to travel with them to camp and serve as a counselor. Micaiah is living with his Grandma Bixby in Greenville, SC, for the summer while he fulfills the requirement of doing an "international internship" for the engineering degree he is working on here in the Paris area. Please pray for God to continue His work of grace in each of our hearts. †

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