

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 . . .

The month of August was characterized by a number of EMU reunions in the Greenville, SC, area as several families brought their kids to Bob Jones University, or were already here.

The **Farmers** were the first to arrive several months ago for furlough. Their three oldest are students at BJU. (The next three kids have helped Joan and me with yard work several days this summer. It has been a joy to get to know **Eden, Judson, and Salem** better.)

JD and Kim Crowley arrived in May for a “short” furlough - not to bring kids to college! Their stay has been prolonged due to a medical condition the doctors found during JD’s physical the week of their scheduled return to Cambodia. (Reported in the August EMU Newsletter.) JD is slated for surgery on September 12. The Crowleys are planning to fly home to BanLung in early October, if all goes well with his healing process. JD and Kim would really like to be back in Cambodia in time for the Pastors’ School conference rescheduled for November. Having this couple in Greenville longer has been a blessing to many of us, but we know they want to get back to their field of ministry.

The **Kanes** arrived on August 7 to begin an extended furlough and to settle two more of their kids into college life. **Sophia and Hugh** are Freshmen, as **Mia** finishes her

(continued on page 3)

RICK PROJECTS 2025

by Rick Jensen, from the Wilds Camp in North Carolina



A group of Uruguayans mixing and pouring concrete around one of the cabins

The designated donations for the **Rick Projects 2025** this year changed the original work list for the two weeks in August. The pouring of sidewalks around the buildings, a three-year-long project, was finally completed. We were able to also complete a few more additions to the children’s play area, along with some other small projects. Originally I thought we would be continuing the installation of steel bathroom partitions in the girls’ cabins; however, a very generous gift given by a friend of the ministry for the installation of Mini Splits (air conditioning / heating units) in all the cabins and the chapel changed many of our work priorities – especially for **Rein Allweil** and me. I first questioned the need for these units, but being in Uruguay in



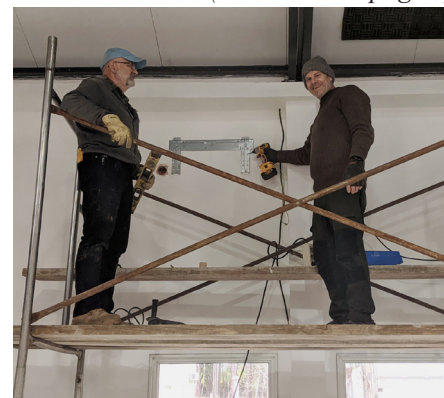
Rick installing an HVAC unit at the chapel

their mid-winter, I was able to better see the need. First, in their summer months it can reach 100 degrees. And in the winter, the rooms in which we reside often stay in the upper 40’s or low 50’s - even with

a portable LP gas heater running. (We did at least have hot water for our showers.) After the installation of the Mini Splits, our room heated up quite quickly to a livable temperature. These units will give Camp Emmanuel more comfortable weeks for camps. Another concern I had was the cost of electricity to power the units. Pedro said that he will give those who rent the camp a choice: one price for HVAC and another price without HVAC. For EMU churches that rent the camp, there will not be an extra charge for HVAC, though these churches do cover the food costs for campers, speakers, and camp staff.

Each year, usually in August, Pedro schedules the **Rick Projects** for two consecutive weeks. During these weeks, Uruguayans and volunteers from the USA gather to work together on these important projects. We all look forward to this time of fellowship with other believers. Last year **Jeff Hilla**, from Ankeny, KS, came to Uruguay for one week. He returned for two weeks this year. He and a helper were running wiring for the Mini Splits. He also wired and installed several security and safety sensors/alarms. I arrived the second week with Rein Allweil, a member of my home church in Brevard, NC. He is

(continued on page 4)



(l-r) Rein Allweil & Jeff Hilla installing brackets & wiring for the HVAC in the chapel

Only God Can Heal Our Country

by Ovidio & Yusara Acevedo, retired (but active) pastor of Emmanuel Church in El Cerro, Uruguay



(l-r) Pastors Gaby Gomez & Ovidio Acevedo

As the cold days have returned to our country, so have the familiar reports: people living on the streets because of poverty, and tragic deaths caused by the cold among those who have nowhere else to live. The reasons are many—one is drug addiction, which tears apart families and leads society into a kind of systematic breakdown where many are pushed to the margins, caught in their own life struggles and exhibiting behaviors that make coexistence nearly impossible. People come to our doors asking for support—usually money, which is often spent on drugs. The situation is difficult with few solutions, and as governments come and go, things seem to worsen. Uruguay is becoming a society with no return—only God's grace can halt this decline.

The cold also impacts many people's health. Flu cases are rampant, and we hear about brothers and sisters who are sick with fevers that last for at least a week. We have experienced some of this ourselves, though

thankfully, it was not too serious.

God has been good. He is always faithful. This past month, I was invited by John Mark Steel to teach students at the Bible Institute during their first official camp. It was a joy to teach alongside John Mark and Brother Will, a guest speaker from John Mark's home church in the USA. It was a privilege and honor—an unexpected invitation that deeply blessed my soul. I got to know several of the young men who are preparing for ministry, had meaningful conversations with them, and offered support. I was especially blessed to speak with Felipe, a young man from the church in Treinta y Tres. He is passionate about the ministry, actively engaged, and full of hope for future service. May God prepare him to be a faithful servant—for even now he carries a deep burden and a genuine desire to grow, become firm and mature in the Lord, and commit various aspects of his life. If he continues with the same heart, he will surely be a sincere servant of the Lord!

As for us, thank God we are well. We still don't have a confirmed pastor, but we continue to pray and ask God to send us His servant. Please pray for us. We're doing the best we can, but we feel the need for a leader to guide us. We thank God for everything unfolding. We trust that God will do His work—that we may see Him send workers to His harvest, and that He might send one to us. †

"Asado" Fellowship

by Ricardo & Mayka Windmoller, pastor in Vergara, Uruguay

We have held two men's gatherings that we refer to as Asados. (*"Asado" basically refers to cooking meat on a grill.*) At the most recent meeting, we had eight non-believing men in attendance. The Gospel was preached, and we are praying for the salvation of their souls.

These Asado meetings take place at the home of Ángel Mier. He is not a believer. He is the father of Sandra Mier and father-in-law of Juan Bitancurt, a faithful couple in our congregation. Unfortunately, Ángel was recently diagnosed with a malignant tumor behind one of his kidneys. He generously hosts these men's gatherings since he has a large outdoor space and a huge grill. The encouraging thing is that he has heard the Gospel many times, and we continue to pray for his salvation.

This past Sunday we welcomed a couple as new members - Hernán Batalla and Micaela - from Calvary Temple of Montevideo. Hernán is originally from Vergara and has now returned "home" with his family. They are working diligently with a group of young people who meet in their home.

Also on Sunday, I had to carry out church discipline with a young man. In dealing with

this situation, my blood pressure spiked, and my doctor had to double my medication. This is a problem I have had for a few winters, i.e. when I'm dealing with stressful church matters with the added stress on my body of very cold weather.

There are some families in our church who have been homeschooling their children, and others have recently started that method of schooling. For now, we send our only child, Gabriel, to a public school - it's only for four hours each day. My wife, Mayka, continues to serve as president of the school committee and is actively involved at the school. †



Mayka, Gabriel, & Ricardo Windmoller

Peace in a Time of Trouble

by Alberto & Carolina Diaz, pastor in San Fernando, Uruguay



Alberto & Carolina Diaz

This month's update arrives to you a bit later than usual, as some recent events have required much of our time and prayers. What peace it brings to know that our God governs every circumstance in our lives and continues His faithful dealings with His Church. To Him be all glory in everything.

Brother Hernán and his wife Evangelina, who had worshipped with us for many years, have departed from our congregation over doctrinal differences. They insisted on charismatic practices, which our church does not endorse. Their departure also led to their son, Ezequiel, choosing to leave as well and seek a new place of fellowship. Last Sunday, he formally requested to be released from church membership, which we granted with sorrow—but with open arms should he ever desire to return.

On another note, on Wednesday, June 18, while running an errand with Pedro and Gabriel to the notary's office, I tripped on a loose tile and fell, after trying to keep my balance for several steps. I injured my right knee and struck my hand—but thank God it wasn't worse, as His hand protected me. Recovering and organizing meetings in Monte Grande, especially now that Ezequiel will no longer be helping (though he kindly promised to continue praying for that ministry), has not been easy.

To top it off, on June 27, our car broke down, and we are still without transportation in the midst of very cold temperatures. The comfort of Psalm 55:22 has been a great encouragement: *"Cast your burden on the Lord, and He will sustain you."*

At present, our church is holding classes for children and celebrating a "Winter Mini-Camp" during their school break. I'm teaching them the inspiring missionary story of William Carey. As Psalm 86:8 says, we have a marvelous and incomparable God—and it is our privilege to serve Him.

We believe firmly that God is in control of every detail and circumstance in our lives. That conviction is our peace. †

From the Perspective of the Camp Director

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



Pedro Donzé working with assistant Marcos Gomez on wiring in the cafeteria

We recently held the long-awaited weeks for *Rick Projects 2025*. As many of you know, this is a special time, not only for the hard work and valuable improvements to the camp facilities, but also for the fellowship and joyful service to the Lord. God faithfully sustained us throughout the weeks of labor, and we are deeply grateful. We also want to thank everyone who generously contributed to the various projects and needs - your support made a tremendous difference.

Each week we welcomed a different work team, and together we made significant progress toward our goals. One major milestone was the completion of the perimeter sidewalks around the cabins and casita, a project we've been working on for three years. Being able to finally check this off our list brings us great joy!

Another huge blessing was the installation of air conditioning / heating units in all the cabins and the meeting hall. This is a major upgrade to our facilities, and we know our campers will feel the difference and enjoy the comfort.

We also finished a playground equipment project that has been pending since last year, addressed electrical system updates, and made further improvements to the cabins. God has been so good to us, and we invite you to join us in praising Him for His provision and faithfulness.

We are especially thankful for the brothers and sisters who traveled from various places to help with the work. (I believe there were 4-5 ladies who worked preparing meals.) What a blessing it is to have people –



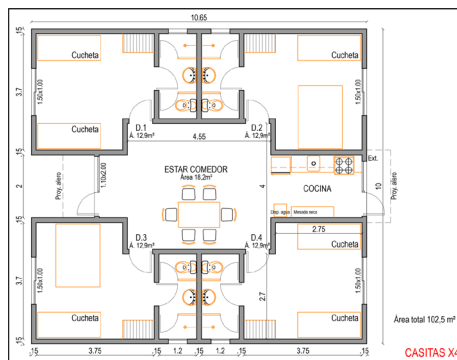
Paty Donze (lt) and Jessica were the cooks for the men during the second week of work

Uruguayans and Americans – return year after year to serve alongside us in this ministry. Our hearts are full of gratitude for their effort, dedication, and the time they've invested in serving the Lord with us.

We have recently begun a major project that will keep us busy for at least the next six months: the construction of a new four-room house. We are calling it The Jensen House in honor and memory of our beloved George and Marilyn. While we will be hosting many activities at camp during this time, we trust that construction won't interfere with normal camp operations. It will certainly demand a lot of our time, so we truly appreciate your prayers - for wisdom for Henry Castro, our chief caretaker at Camp Emmanuel, as he leads the project, and for strength and clarity as we manage everything involved.



Grading for the new "casita" housing



Architectural design of the new four bedroom "casita."

The dimensions are in meters.

The bedrooms are on the 4 corners, each with its own bathroom.

"Cucheta" is a bunkbed; the larger rectangles are double beds.

"Cosina" is the small kitchen.

"Comedor" is the dining room/sitting area.

Camp activities are moving forward, and we're already preparing for retreats starting the end of August. Please continue to pray that God would strengthen us and use us to evangelize and edify the souls who come.

There is much to share about our family, but in short here are a few things we'd love for you to keep in prayer:

- We've discovered the pain and spots on my legs are caused by

lipodermatosclerosis - a condition related to vein insufficiency. Thankfully, it's manageable with medication and special compression socks.

- Paty will have her quarterly checkup in September; during which her new medication will be adjusted. It's working well so far. The medication may soon be available in our country, but for now, we continue traveling to Brazil to get it. Please pray that we'll be able to cover this expense.
- Please keep praying for Maxi, that God will do a work in him. He's doing well, making changes in his studies, and actively looking for work.
- In previous letters, we asked for prayer regarding some important family decisions. We ask that you continue praying for wisdom and guidance so that everything we do brings honor and glory to God. †

ALONG THE WAY...

(continued from page 1)

senior year. The family is currently living in Hampton Park Baptist Church's larger mission house, though the three oldest Kane kids have moved into the dorm at BJU. As they attend HPBC - and sit in our area - we get to see this lovely family almost every Sunday.

The **Tim Chapman family** arrived August 21 and have been staying at our house, while Tim and Cheryl help get their three kids settled at BJU. Yes! Three kids! Their son **Micah** decided he would like to enroll along with his younger sister, **Abby**. Tim and Cheryl will be "empty-nesters" when they return to Michigan at the end of August. They had not been expecting this quite so soon!

On a sad note, as of September 1, the Chapmans will no longer be missionaries with EMU. Tim has taken the pastorate of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Bay City, MI. We will certainly miss them. However, Joan and I are holding their three kids captive as "adopted grandkids," so Tim and Cheryl will have to visit us periodically! And if Micah and Abby join HPBC like their older sister **Lauren** did, we will likely have lunch with them every Sunday. Fun, fun!

Incidentally, the Chapmans were able to liquidate or ship their home furnishings in Peru to the USA, and sell their house to a missionary family. And Tim is encouraged that the church in Lima is in the hands of competent leadership.

(continued on page 4)

Page 4

Rick Projects 2025

(continued from page 1)

a welder by trade, with extensive mechanical and construction knowledge. Rein, who has a doctorate in Bible, also occasionally travels with Dr. Bill Hill of Equipping Nationals Worldwide to teach and train nationals. We worked well together installing six Mini Splits. The other units were installed the week before by Uruguayans, Eduardo and a helper. Jeff Hilla and Rein are both first generation Christians with very interesting testimonies.

We had a total of 24 people on the work list, with almost half of them working both weeks. I wish I had been able to be there for both weeks, as I missed seeing the nationals who were at the camp for the first week. It was such a blessing to work with these dear brothers in Christ. Continue to pray for those ministering at Camp Emmanuel. This ministry requires a lot of work, and there are not a lot of workers.

Just a side note: My wife Kathy is not able to walk anymore, so there was a concern as to how she would fare while I was gone. My youngest daughter, who lives in Charlotte, NC, with her husband and son, volunteered to spend the week with Kathy to help her out. There



First week: (back l-r) Henry Castro, Jeff Hilla, Pedro Donz , Marcos Gomez, Roberto Alvez, Gabriel & Lucas Gomez (seated) Nicolas, Mateo & Valeria Gomez, Graciela (Valeria's mother), Fany, Juan Gonzalez, & Josu  Mendez (Bold Italic = MEU missionaries)



Second week: (back l-r) Jeff Hilla, Lucas Gomez, Josu  Mendez, Carmelo, Ovidio Acevedo, Henry Castro, Marcos & Gaby Gomez (seated) Salvador (Marcos' father-in-law), Rein Allweil, Rick Jensen, Pedro & Paty Donz , & Jessica (Bold Italic = MEU missionaries)

were other family members who stopped in daily to help or visit. Every time I called my wife, there were people there. She was better cared for than when I am there. †

ALONG THE WAY...

(continued from page 3)

In a prayer letter from **Pastor Carlos Olivera** of Pando, Uruguay, he confirmed his previously stated intention of retiring from the pastorate in September 2025. The church still does not have a full-time replacement, so Carlos will continue to assist the church, though he will begin receiving his government retirement payment. Pray that the right man will be found soon to replace the Oliveras, who have been with MEU since 2002. Wonderful family!

Pastor Hector Gomez and his wife, **Graciela**, have continued to serve churches and camps in Uruguay since their retirement several years ago. They also help a ministry in Equatorial Guinea, Africa. Recently, Graciela suddenly lost the hearing in one ear. They have asked prayer that this condition would be reversed before they return to Spain and Africa this year.

Our globe-trotting missionaries, **Ted Allston** and **John Lehman**, had successful teaching trips to Kenya (Ted) and Angola & Honduras (John) in August. John travels to Nebraska to speak at a Family Seminar September 4-8. Continue to pray that these men would remain healthy for their upcoming trips.

Whether September is an unusually busy month for you (as it seems to be for many of us) or not, we greatly appreciate the time you give in prayer on our behalf. May the Lord grant you a wonderful beginning to the fall season later this month. Thank you so much for your prayers and, when possible, your financial support toward the ministries of EMU and MEU. †

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