

# EMU<sup>+</sup>

## 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 . . .

Though every month of the year has something unique to offer, November is by far my favorite. Days and nights are consistently cool without being frigid. Severe storms have generally ceased. Most of the deciduous plants in our region still sport their foliage, but with a panoply of hues, while the minority maintain their verdant chromaticity. It is also the month in which - in our family tradition - the waft of roasted turkey brightens the senses for a possible one-month stint, coupled with other culinary accoutrements. And the month is capped off with a national celebration of thanksgiving to the Lord for His blessings and bounty.

The beginning of November will find **Joan and me** in France with **Tim and Ruth Bixby's family**. Our journey begins on October 23, with a homebound return a week and a half later. Pray that we will be a blessing - and healthy - on this traverse.

Also traveling this month are **Ted Allston**, who will spend November 6-23 teaching in India, and the **Lehmans**, who will be teaching in Romania and Spain through mid-December. **Jeff Davis** will be in Maryland and West Virginia in this 11th month. Pray for safety in travel and effectiveness in communication.

The **Pastors' School in Cambodia** will hold its fall session of classes November 3-6. The first half of the session will be Christian Finances, Part 2; and the final

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## FINALLY!!

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

The new work has begun!!! After many years of praying and waiting for God to use us to begin a new work in the north side of our city, on August 3 we saw that prayer answered by bringing to us two young families who are eager to hear the Word of God being expounded and taught. Each of the adults has committed to being part of this new work. Following are some of the unusual details of that day that will remain forever in our minds. We can truly say that it was all of God.

You may remember that I, Tom, have had various attacks in my head throughout the years that led to periods of frequent dizziness. Tests, scans, exams, etc., have never revealed the cause of my problem. Each time we have committed it to the Lord in prayer, and over time, the symptoms have diminished. In July of this year, I again experienced an attack that left me dizzy, during which I had to rest for 5-10 minutes before continuing for another period of time. But eventually I have to lie down again.

At about the same time, a young Peruvian man named Ronald contacted Connie and wanted to update us about his situation. About 6 years ago, he came to our church (Emanuel) but only attended for a short time. During that time we had him, his wife Lorena, and their little girl Rafaela in our home for a meal, knowing they were experiencing problems in their marriage and with training their daughter. Soon after that Ronald left Lorena and went to



*(l-r) Keila, Joel, & Alejandra with their 3 sons, from Venezuela*

*Connie & Tom Chapman,  
Ronald & Lorena with their 2 children, from Peru*

Santiago, where he has a brother. We tried to keep in contact with Lorena, but her work schedule made it difficult. However, after only about 6 weeks of separation, she and the daughter joined Ronald in Santiago, and they stayed there about a year.

When he wrote to Connie in the middle of July of this year, he expressed regret for not having contacted us for the five years before returning to Antofagasta. The Lord has worked in their hearts greatly to restore them to fellowship with Him, to restore their marriage, and to return them to the church. They came to our house soon after that and spoke of God's grace in their lives that pursued them in their self-willed choices. We saw in them such a humble, repentant spirit and strong desire to be part of a body of believers who want to serve the Lord. After talking to them about what God has laid on our hearts, they became very interested in being part of this new church.

I asked them to come to our house for two weeks, starting on Sunday morning, August 3, after which they could decide if they wanted to continue to work with us in the church plant or to resume attending Emanuel Church.

On the morning of August 3, I was experiencing the dizziness problem and wondered if I could complete the lesson. At 10:30 AM we started the service, which

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## Ministry With Friends

by Matias & Kristine Espinel, FEBU Bible professor in Uruguay

Thank you so much to all who gave so generously toward the purchase of our **new vehicle!** This past Friday we were finally able to complete the paperwork and bring our minivan home. After several weeks of searching and prayer, the Lord led us to this one — and He even added a few special details along the way. Inside the van we found a Christian hymn CD, and to our surprise, the man selling it turned out to be a missionary here in Uruguay! Interestingly, our previous vehicle also came from missionaries. We're deeply thankful to now have a new "tool" to use in the Lord's service here in Uruguay, and we pray that He will use it for His glory.



*Kristine & Matias, with their four children, driving to Carmelo*

On Saturday, we surprised the kids with our "new" van for a three-hour **trip to the city of Carmelo**, where Matias was scheduled to fill the pulpit for our missionary friend, Mariano Proto, while he and his family are in the States. The van made for a smooth, comfortable trip, and we are so thankful! We enjoyed a wonderful weekend with the church family in Carmelo and had many opportunities to encourage them in their walk with the Lord. Several young men there are taking FEBU classes this semester as well—it's such a joy to see young believers eager to grow in knowledge and in their effectiveness for the Lord.

In August, FEBU hosted its second annual **Counseling Conference**, and we praise the Lord for how well it was attended by many churches. Our guest speaker from Mexico, Kike Torres, was very well received, and those who attended shared how much they benefited from his teaching. We're also excited that many who participated in the "Mutual Consejo" conference have now enrolled for a month of further online counseling training this November. It's encouraging to see a growing number of believers preparing for the vital ministry of biblical counseling within their churches.

We've just begun the second half of our second semester at **FEBU**, with classes concluding November 21. Matias has thoroughly enjoyed teaching Bible Doctrines IV this term, covering Ecclesiology and

Eschatology. The students have been engaged and eager to learn. Please continue praying for both professors and students as we near the end of the semester.

We are thrilled this month (*October*) to welcome visitors from the States - **Pastor Brian Hoffman, his wife Kate, and their daughter Emma**- from our sending church, Cornerstone Baptist Church in Greenville, SC. We don't often have visitors from the U.S., so this will be a special treat! Please pray for their travel and for a refreshing, mutually encouraging time together as they see firsthand the ministries we're involved in here.

**The girls** are wrapping up their school year, with just two months to go! Sofi has several end-of-grade-school activities, including a class trip and a 6th grade graduation coming up, which she's excited about. Meanwhile, **David** has just started his school year, homeschooling on the U.S. schedule. He's enjoying his live, online classes through a classical Christian school - it's been a great learning experience so far.

Please continue praying for **the salvation of our contacts**. Our girls have daily opportunities to reflect Christ to their classmates, the majority of whom come from unsaved families. Kristine continues to seek weekly witnessing opportunities through her watercolor class, and Matias teaches and disciples twice a week at a drug rehabilitation center about an hour away. Two other missionaries teach in the center on alternate days as well. Please pray for God's transforming work in the lives of these men as they navigate the complex challenges of decades of wrong choices and seek lasting change, which we know can only come through salvation in Christ.

Looking Ahead – January Plans: In January, our family plans to join **Buddy and Loren Fitzgerald** at the South America MK Camp in Lima, Peru. This annual **camp for missionary kids** has been held each January for several years, and though we've wanted to participate for a long time, this will be our first opportunity. We're so excited to serve alongside Buddy and Loren—in fact, we had the privilege of ministering with them in our Spanish church in Greenville about 20 years ago, including helping run camps together back then!

We believe this camp is a vital ministry for third-culture, ministry-family kids. We're already praying that the Lord will work in the hearts of the teens who attend—including our own children—and we would greatly appreciate your prayers as well. †

## The Time Is Now

by Ken Jensen

There is an ongoing, unresolved, unresolvable, debate concerning when Christmas decorations and music should be on display. Some say after Thanksgiving, others after Halloween, some after Memorial Day. I personally prefer the first, at least for decorations. (Christmas music is fair game any time of year.) This view has always — over the last 40 or 50 years I have been editing the Newsletter — made me uncomfortable presenting the **EMU Christmas Fund Offering** in the November Newsletter. (I've announced it as early as the September Newsletter to avoid this overlap of holidays.) Even worse is my coupling the **Christmas Fund** with the **Camp Emmanuel Sponsorship Fund**. Few *true Americans* would combine the subjects of Christmas and summer camps! However, south of the Equator, the two are closely associated. If you continue reading, try to do so as though you are in the Southern Hemisphere!

Every year for several decades, we have endeavored to raise a special gift for our EMU missionary families. The scope of uses of these gifts are outstandingly diverse, covering dire necessities to the mundane. But in every case, the gifts are both timely and greatly appreciated.

The following is a reminder of how these donations are handled: All donations designated by name will go 100% to that family. Donations that are designated *only to the Christmas Fund* will be divided among the Uruguayan national missionaries. To designate a gift to a non-Uruguayan missionary, the name of that family or individual will need to appear with the donation. (If you have any questions about designating, please email or text our office.)

This is also the time of year that we need to begin reminding our readers of the Camp Emmanuel Sponsorship Fund in Uruguay. It is important to be able to let those in leadership at the Camp know how much money is available for sponsoring campers and non-paid staff. Both of these groups incur expenses to be at the Camp: food, utilities, and transportation. These donations to the Camp Fund allow campers who do not have sufficient funds to pay for a week at camp to attend. This has been such a blessing to so many children and young people over the years. The Fund also helps pay for the weeks' expenses for the non-paid staff. These folks volunteer their time and parts of their summer to work at Camp Emmanuel. Without them, there would be no MEU summer camps!

Thank you for considering these two needs. We do ask that you would at least pray that these needs would be supplied for the great blessing and benefit of the recipients. And, personally, I know it is a blessing to the giver! †



# Jarai Foundations Bible School

by Josh & Amy Jensen, Jarai Bible translation / church planter in Oyadao, Cambodia



(l-r) Isaiah, Clara, Anna, Joshua, Amy, Maria, Micah, Ezra, & Becca Jensen

From October 2 to 4, more than seventy Jarai Christians gathered together to study the book of 1 Timothy at the twice-yearly Jarai Foundations Bible School. 1 Timothy was published in Cambodian Jarai last year, so the Bible School Committee decided to pause the normal sequence of materials (Creation to Christ Evangelism, Matthew, Acts) to study through the book covering the topics of church leadership, church order, and false teaching.



October Jarai Foundations Bible School

Nearly all of the twenty-two lessons were taught by Jarai pastors and leaders; three lessons were covered by Josh and another missionary. Josh also taught an extra lesson

on pronouns in the Bible: paying attention to I, me, you, them, etc., to better understand who is being talked about in each verse.

Pray that the 74 students and teachers who studied 1 Timothy last week will apply what they learned in their own churches and teach what they learned to others.

The Bible school was held at the church in New Saom Trak Village. We were thankful that there was no rain for all three days of the session, though there were big storms at night during the week. (Because of the tin roof on the church, it is impossible to hear during a heavy rain. Rain also makes it hard for students to come on their motorbikes.)

Four of the ladies' leaders from Saom Kaning Church attended the Bible School for the first time. These are some of the ladies that Amy teaches and disciples.



Four women who lead the ladies' ministries in the Jarai church attended the school

As teachers taught through each passage, they had participants read the verses from 1 Timothy in Cambodian Jarai. We read through nearly the entire book. Not only were students attentive to the lessons, but they also paid close attention to the text itself. For some, this was their first time to have prolonged exposure to the new Bible translation in Cambodian Jarai.



The attendees at the Bible school were able to use the newly printed 1 Timothy text

Major themes of the teaching included cultivating love in the church, guarding the faith, and keeping a clear conscience. There were also question-and-answer times on women in the church (1 Timothy 2) and the roles of elders and deacons (1 Timothy 3).

The Jarai translation team is currently focusing on: (1) finishing up footnotes in Luke and Haggai, (2) checking Romans, and (3) preparing and recording a Gospel presentation from Creation to Christ.

The Acts Sunday School curriculum in Jarai is all translated now, and the last two lessons (48 and 49) are being checked by the translation team. Saom Kaning Church should complete the curriculum in January. Amy is also hoping to prepare four Christmas lessons to be taught in December.

Pray for our children to grow in their understanding of the Gospel and to strive to live like Jesus. Pray for Amy as she teaches them. Pray for us both as we disciple believers each week. Josh is meeting with Reaksmy, Davi's son, to help him prepare for baptism.

Pray that God would call more Khmer people in our town to follow Christ. †

## Equatorial Guinea

by Hector & Graciela Gomez, retired (but active) pastor from Rivera, Uruguay

Thanks be to God, we have arrived safely in Equatorial Guinea. After consulting with doctors and hearing aid technicians, Graciela was able to configure her hearing aids to work with her mobile phone, allowing her to control them more easily. We thank God that she is now hearing better.

We traveled with a young man from the church in Treinta y Tres named Diego Perdomo. He is a faithful servant, a deacon, and a dedicated worker in the ministry there. He learned about our work in Equatorial Guinea and felt called by God to come and witness the ministry in Africa. We journeyed together from Uruguay to Madrid, but when we applied for the visas to enter Guinea, Diego's was denied due to his Uruguayan nationality. The embassy in Spain did not grant it, which saddened our hearts. After speaking with the brothers in Guinea and



Graciela & Hector Gomez

with Diego, Graciela and I decided to continue on to Guinea. He will apply for his visa online from Spain.

Graciela and I arrived on Sunday, September 7, and we are already helping in the church and its outreach ministries. Diego is

currently in Arenas de San Pedro, assisting the church there. If there is no news about his visa by Monday the 22nd, he will travel to Valencia to visit missionary David Bell. (kj - Just heard from the Bells. Diego received his visa and is Guinea!)

God willing, we will be teaching in the church here, and Graciela will help train the schoolteachers. We also plan to help some children with their school tuition. Graciela and I brought school supplies and Bibles from Uruguay, which we have already distributed to the brothers here. We will be purchasing more books to meet the remaining needs. Our stay this time will be shorter, but we hope it will be fruitful. †

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## ***Finally!!***

*(continued from page 1)*

I had prepared in two parts. At the end of the first part, I told Connie to sing a few songs while I went to rest before resuming our service. They sang two songs and then the doorbell rang. When I heard that, my "spiritual" thought was "Who is bothering us at this time?" After going to the door and inviting a family in, Connie came to me and said, "It is Keila and her family who were at the door. I invited them in." After the initial greetings and introductions, we finished the second part of the service. Afterwards, there was much conversation because Keila and the first couple, Ronald and Lorena, remembered seeing each other at Iglesia Emanuel in 2019. When everyone left at 1:00, Connie and I just looked at each other and said, "Wow! This was orchestrated by God and we are thrilled to be experiencing it."

Permit me to tell you a little about Keila and her family. Keila came from Venezuela close to 10 years ago. A lady in our church invited her to come in 2019. She continued to come, but not faithfully, for about a year. We had her over to our house and learned more about her. Her parents are Christians and her dad owned a Christian bookstore in their home city. Because of the political and economic upheaval in Venezuela, people did not have money to buy Bibles or books. It became for them a matter of working wherever they could just to stay alive. Keila spoke to us about her brother and his family who were active in a church in Venezuela, but they were finding it hard to provide for their family of three boys. In 2022, their family migrated to Chile on a refugee status. Keila and her brother, Joel, are also Colombian citizens because their parents are Colombians who migrated to Venezuela right after they were married. This allowed them to leave the country, but

most Venezuelans are not permitted to do so.

Joel came to the services at Emanuel one or two times, but later in 2023, through the testimony of a fellow worker of Keila, she and her brother's family started attending a church in another part of the city. Because of doctrinal and ecclesiastical differences, the pastor of that church decided to disband the church and apparently is leaving the ministry. This is sad for us since he was a pastor that our pastor friends had fellowship with. However, this event caused Keila and her brother, Joel, his wife Alejandra, and their three teen boys, Jesús, David, and Joel, to go to the Iglesia Emanuel construction property, thinking that there would be a service there at 11:00 Sunday morning. When they saw the construction, they decided to come to our house, just three blocks away. So at about 11:10, they rang our doorbell and Connie invited them in. I told them the same thing I had told Ronald and Lorena – that I would like for them to attend for two Sundays and to pray about continuing with us to develop a new work that will eventually be located in the La Chimba area of the city. The second Sunday, both families expressed their desire to work with us.

In subsequent services and during the meetings at our home, each adult has expressed great remorse about being out of God's will for a time and thankful for the grace God showed them in bringing them back to Himself. We are thrilled and excited about this opportunity to teach and work with these young people and their children who have already become dear to us. God is so good to allow us to be part of the start of a new church that He wants to raise up in this very needy city. But we so much need God's provision and leading each step of the way for more workers, for a location where we can meet in the La Chimba area, and for contacts with those God is preparing to be saved and to commit their lives to Him. †

## ***ALONG THE WAY...***

*(continued from page 1)*

two days will be How To Interpret and Understand the Bible. Three of the EMU men who would be teaching are in the USA, so **Josh Jensen** and **Matt Hancock** will have a heavier load. However, there are several other missionaries there who are teaching and assisting in many ways.

**JD and Kim Crowley** are still in Greenville as JD begins his chemotherapy treatment on October 20. The regimen will last three months. JD wrote an excellent update on his situation in their last prayer letter. If you're interested, I'm sure we can send it to you if you contact the EMU office with a request.

**Billy Judson** held the 2025 Good News 360 Leadership Conference in Hyderabad, India, in October. It was well attended with over 140 delegates for the four-day conference. Pastor **David Marini** of Calvary Chapel in Chapel Hill, NC, was the primary teacher. The lectures and discussion groups covered the book of Ephesians.



*Good News 360 Leadership Conference*

I trust you have as blessed a November and Thanksgiving as we are anticipating! Pray especially for our American missionaries who are away from the American culture at this time of year. Pray for encouragement and blessing. Thanks so much! †

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