



EMU INTERNATIONAL

Newsletter

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Issue 3



ACROSS the LANDS

Jeff & Joanna Davis, Director

Greetings from **Campamento Emanuel in Guazavirá, Uruguay!** The weather has been wonderful these past two weeks, with temperatures ranging from the 60s to the low 80s. Remember, it's summertime here in the Southern Hemisphere. **Dan Wokaty**, the Executive Director of **MGM International** (Mexico Gospel Mission International), and I arrived on Friday, February 13. We've enjoyed two great weeks ministering in three churches and spending time with our missionaries and ministry friends in Uruguay. We also recorded two radio programs that will be broadcast worldwide on Spanish radio. God blessed us with a wonderful group at our **Family Camp**, where Dan preached on *"The Church and the Family."* This last week of February, we'll have the **"Retiro de Obreros,"** or Workers' Retreat, followed by ministry with **Matias Espinel** at his church this Sunday. He has recently returned to Uruguay from a short trip to the USA.

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Kornel & Tanja Crnković
Missionaries in Croatia

A New Dawn

A Small Church, a Fresh Start, and God's Gentle Leading

In the December EMU International Newsletter, we shared that our family is in the midst of a ministry transition. The Lord has opened a new door for us to serve in the town of **Virovitica**—about an hour from our home in **Koprivnica**. To give a little background, eight years ago, the Pastors of our church in Koprivnica were asked to help revive **the Baptist church in Virovitica**. For two years, they took turns traveling each Sunday to preach and minister to a small group of believers (originally five). During that time, the church grew, and the Lord provided a Pastor who served faithfully for five years.

Those years brought both blessings and difficulties. Through various hardships, some members passed away, others left, and little by little, the group began to fall apart. Eventually, the Pastor resigned, and since January 2025, the church has once again been without pastoral leadership. Throughout the year, **Kornel** stayed in touch with some of the remaining members, encouraging them to trust the Lord, meet together, pray faithfully, and seek His guidance. They were like sheep without a shepherd.



At the beginning of October, several members asked Kornel if he would consider coming to help and serve as their Pastor. As a family, we had been praying for the believers in Virovitica and had seen their hunger for God's Word and their desire for fellowship. Eight years ago, the idea of one of our Pastors taking on ministry in Virovitica seemed impossible. Today, however, the Baptist Church of Koprivnica is well-established, with various ministries and capable church members serving faithfully.

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Marko, Andrea, Tanja, Kornel, & Nataneal Crnković singing in church



Sunday Morning Worship at the Church of Virovitica

A New Dawn *(continued from p.1)*

As a family, we discussed what this new ministry would mean for all of us —our ongoing ministry in Koprivnica, our employment in the schools (**Tanja** and **Andrea**), **Marko's** college education, and **Natanael's** senior year of high school. We also sought counsel from our Mission Director, **Jeff Davis**, and our Assistant Director, **Ken Jensen**. This was not an easy decision, nor one we took lightly. Yet together with our three children, we have decided to join the small group of believers in Virovitica and serve there with the gifts the Lord has given us.

There are still uncertainties and many decisions ahead as we work toward fully implementing this plan. Please pray with us for wisdom, clarity, a smooth transition, and safe travel each Sunday.

Virovitica (pronounced Vee-roh-vee-tee-tzah) is a Croatian city near the Hungarian border, situated near the Drava River in the historic region of Slavonia. It has a population of 14,688, with 21,291 people in the municipality, and is the capital of Virovitica-Podravina County. The church has its own building, though it needs renovation, which we will share more about in a future prayer letter. Please continue to pray for the small group of about sixteen people who gather there each Sunday.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support. We are excited to see how the Lord will continue use us for the furtherance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Please continue to pray for the work in the Baptist Church of Koprivnica and for the ministry of revival in the Baptist Church of Virovitica.†



Pray for the Gospel's Advance in Croatia

Croatia is a land of profound beauty and deep-seated tradition, yet it remains a challenging field for the Gospel. Today, the nation's population stands at approximately 3.8 million. While nearly 79% of the population identifies as Roman Catholic, this often reflects a cultural and national identity rather than a personal faith; for many Croats, the prevailing sentiment remains that *"to be Croatian is to be Catholic"*



Despite a climate of religious freedom, the evangelical and Protestant witness is incredibly small, representing less than 1% of the population. As secularism rises and institutional religious influence shifts, the spiritual heart of Croatia remains as "rocky" as its rugged southern coastline. There is a dire need for dedicated missionaries to patiently plow this difficult soil, bringing the hope of a living relationship with Christ to a people steeped in tradition but longing for authentic truth. Please pray for the Crnkovićs.

JD & Kim Crowley
Missionaries to Cambodia

Mercy in the Detour, Grace for the Road Ahead



"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits."

You are among those benefits, and we thank God for your prayers as we've walked an unexpected detour.

Cancer Update

We're grateful to share encouraging news. At JD's recent oncology appointment:

- His CT scan showed no evidence of cancer in the lungs or liver.
- His bloodwork showed only minimal, insignificant cancer markers.
- And best of all—no more chemotherapy.

JD will continue testing every three to six months, and if progress continues, he'll be considered cured at the five-year mark. We praise God for His kindness and for your faithful prayers.

At a Crossroads

After more than 31 years in Cambodia, we find ourselves at a significant transition. When you first sent us out, we couldn't have imagined the journey God had prepared—new "family," deep joys, deep sorrows, and a lifetime of memories. We wouldn't trade it for anything.

In God's providence, our season of full-time ministry in Cambodia is ending. **Brian Kane** now leads the EMU Cambodia team, and **Ryan Quey** has taken JD's role at the Ratanakiri Pastors Institute. Local believers have also grown, now running five Bible schools without foreign funding—an answer to many prayers.

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Crowley Update... *(continued from p.2)*

What's Next?

This spring, we plan to return to Cambodia for a few months to say a proper goodbye to the people we love so dearly. Leaving will be painful, and we would cherish your prayers. Four of our children and their families hope to join us briefly during that time.

Looking ahead

if the Lord allows:

1. We hope to return to Cambodia for a few months each year to continue training pastors and their wives.
2. JD plans to keep writing Christian resources for the Asian context. Our delayed book, *The Christian and Wealth*, is scheduled for printing this spring, and half of the needed funds have already come in.
3. Many of JD's Khmer theological books are sold out, so as we resettle in the U.S., he hopes to update and reissue several titles.



National Cambodian Church Leaders at a recent Pasotrs' School

As our base shifts to America, we pray that some of you will continue to partner with us during these final years of ministry before full retirement.

A New Kind of Cross-Cultural Life

Now we face the challenge of adjusting to the post-Christian culture of the U.S. We built a retirement home next to our local church because we want that community to anchor us in this next season. There are many possible ministry opportunities here, and we are waiting on the Lord's direction.

Thank you for standing with us every step of the way.†

Across the Lands *(continued from p.1)*

A retreat might sound like going backwards, but ministry usually isn't like that. In English, the word often means pulling away from the front lines when things get tough. But the Bible shows many times when God took His servants aside to send them forward stronger. **Moses** spent forty days on Mount Sinai while *"the glory of the LORD abode upon mount Sinai"* (Exodus 24:16), and he came down with a revived face and mission (Exodus 34:28-29). Consider how discouraged and exhausted **Elijah** was before the angel touched him, fed him, and then led him to the mountain where he heard the *"still small voice"* (1 Kings 19:4-18). Even **Jesus** *"withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed"* (Luke 5:16), then came back to preach, heal, and choose the Twelve (Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12-13). After his dramatic conversion, **Paul** went into Arabia (Galatians 1:15-18), a period of quiet preparation before his missionary journeys that changed the Roman world.

Each of these "retreats" looked like a step back, but each became the starting point for God's next move forward.

This is exactly what's happening now as pastors and ministry leaders from across the region gather, not to escape the work, but to be refreshed for it. Around open Bibles, delicious meals, and relaxed conversations, weary hands find new strength, vision becomes clearer, and fellowship brings fresh courage. The retreat becomes a new starting point. The quiet atmosphere at camp allows God to restore the souls of those who carry His gospel to different parts of this special country.

Next month's newsletter will contain an update from all of our camps in Uruguay, including Pedro's stories from Camp Emanuel's scholarship program. From here in Uruguay, it's a joy to see how God is also strengthening His workers in many other places.

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 *Even Down to Old Age*

Many scriptures and hymns have taken on new meaning to us in recent days. We share with you two oft-neglected stanzas among the many well-loved stanzas of **"How Firm a Foundation,"** along with the Scripture citation that they are based on:

In every condition,
In sickness, in health,
In poverty's vale,
Or abounding in wealth;
At home, or abroad,
On the land, on the sea,
"As your days may demand,
Shall your strength ever be."

[Deuteronomy 33:25]

Even down to old age,
All My people shall prove
My sovereign, eternal,
Unchangeable love;
And when graying hairs
Shall their temples adorn,
Like lambs they shall still
In my bosom be borne.

[Isaiah 46:4]

PRAY

- Continued cancer-free health.
- Wisdom in this transition.
- Brian Kane & Ryan Quey leadership.
- Growth and faithfulness for the Cambodian believers.
- Grace for emotional goodbyes .
- Guidance and provision for future ministry and writing.
- Smooth adjustment to life and ministry in the U.S.
- Deep comfort in God's promises during this season.

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Across the Lands *(continued from p.3)*

Please pray for Pedro and the Campamento Emanuel staff as they prepare for a work team from **Bethany Baptist Church in Brevard, NC, March 8–15**. Earlier this month, **Pastor Rubito Rodríguez of Calvary Temple in Treinta y Tres, Uruguay**, shared a video showing severe wind damage at **Camp Bethel**, where several roofs were destroyed. We thank the Lord that this storm came after their youth and children's camps, and we ask for wisdom as they plan the rebuilding. Their church has already celebrated two baptism services this calendar year.



Wind damage at Camp Bethel and Baptism Service



Pray also for **Pastor Nico Gómez in Tacuarembó** as he hosts **Evangelist Juan Gonzalez** during the Annual **Gacho Festival, March 7–15**. This nine-day celebration attracts thousands and turns the city into the heart of Uruguay's cowboy culture, with rodeo-style competitions, music, reenactments, and the famous campfire gatherings.



Gacho Festival



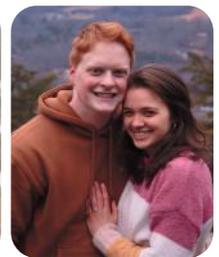
John Lehman in the Philippines

John and Suzie Lehman have returned from an intense stretch of ministry across the Far East in the **Philippines, Indonesia, Hong Kong, and Japan**. In March, he will travel to **Calgary and Madagascar**.

We also rejoice with two missionary daughters from Cambodia, **Abigail Farmer** and **Mia Kane**, who are newly engaged and planning summer weddings.



Micah Vosburgh and fiancée Abi Farmer



Ethan Lee and fiancée Mia Kane

On a personal note, I would appreciate prayer for my trip to **Cancún** over Easter to serve with missionaries **Marco and Gwendolyn Nuñez** and preach for several national pastors. One pastor we will not be able to visit is **Pastor Ciro Alvarado** in **Santa Martha, Chiapas**, near the Guatemala border. Please pray for him as the pressure from the drug cartels remains very strong.

Across the lands, God is strengthening His servants and opening doors for His Word. Thank you for praying, giving, and standing with these faithful workers.†