

EMU INTERNATIONAL *Newsletter*

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Issue 6



ACROSS the LANDS

Jeff & Joanna Davis, Director



CONGRATULATIONS!
Today is your day.
You're off to
GREAT PLACES!
You're off and away!

Those cheerful words open Dr. Seuss's *Oh, the Places You'll Go*, a book that seems to find its way into eager hands every June. Graduation season always stirs hope. School years wind down, caps soar skyward, and families gather to celebrate new beginnings. Whether it's kindergarten or college, graduates step forward with hearts full of excitement and a touch of uncertainty, wondering where the Lord will lead them next.

As I reflect on this season, I'm reminded that the Christian life is a journey of following where the Lord leads. Sometimes the path is familiar, but often God takes us into places we never expected. I see this in my own story, and perhaps you've seen it in yours as well. *(Continued on p.3)*

Cross-Cultural **COLLABORATION** **Part 3**

When Mission Agencies Work Together

● Jeff Davis, Director EMU & Bill Hill, Director ENW ●



Over the past few months, we've highlighted the theme of **Cross-Cultural Collaboration**—first through our partnership with **Mexico Gospel Missions International**, and then through the creative teamwork of **Bible Visuals International**. This month, we are delighted to continue that theme by sharing the ministry of **Equipping Nationals Worldwide** and its director, **Dr. Bill Hill**. Many of you will remember that Bill joined Jeff last year for the Workers' Conference and Family Camp. This year, he returned to Uruguay with **Dr. Rein Allweil**, spending several days investing in our pastors and strengthening local churches. Their visit was hardly a new experience.

Bill has traveled to Uruguay around 20 times, and Rein participated in **Rick's Work Trip** in August 2025. Our cross-cultural collaboration beautifully illustrates how long-term relationships and shared vision continue to bear fruit across the lands as EMU International seeks to evangelize, establish churches, and equip nationals.

Bill and Rein stayed in the new **Jensen Casita** at Campamento Emanuel, a space Bill described as "*amazing... exactly what a guest speaker would appreciate.*"

Their time at the camp centered on a **Pastor's Conference**, built around the book of **James** and divided into 12 teaching sections. *(Continued on p.2)*

Cross Cultural ... (Continued from p.1)



Matias Acevedo translating for Rein Allweil



John Mark Steel translating for Bill Hill

Bill prepared discussion questions in three areas: understanding the text, applying it within Uruguayan culture, and drawing out pastoral implications. Over twenty people participated, engaging deeply and responding with gratitude. Several men are already planning to teach James in their own churches and even host their own training conferences using the material.

As Bill reflected on the week, he noted how encouraging it was to see the unity, hunger for the Word, and growing leadership among the pastors. "We came to encourage, but we left encouraged." †



Easter in MEXICO

CELEBRATING GOD'S WORK AMONG NATIONAL PASTORS

What a joy it was to return to **Mexico** for ten days to visit missionaries **Marco and Gwendolyn Nuñez** in **Cancún**. I arrived the Monday before Easter, and together we spent the next four days visiting national pastors who were trained by Marco and are now faithfully shepherding churches established through years of partnership. These visits were filled with fellowship, encouragement, and, of course, excellent food. If I believed in reincarnation (which I don't), I'm convinced I must have been Mexican in a previous life. Every church tried to out-spice the others, and I enjoyed every bite.

Our first stop was **Becal, Campeche**, where **Pastor José Luis Uc** continues to minister with grace and courage after the recent passing of his wife, **Martha**. Her testimony has drawn their daughters closer together, and the church continues to surround him with love.

We then visited **Pascual and Leydi Balam** in **Chemax**, **Vicente and Deisy Puc** in **Valladolid**, and **Toño and Karina Alvarado** at Marco's church in **Cancún** for a Good Friday service. Toño is a capable assistant pastor to Marco, with a true servant's heart. On Saturday, we traveled to Playa del Carmen to see **Tomas and Kleyni Noh**, whose church is building a second-story home for their family.

Easter Sunday was a highlight, with more than 140 in attendance at **First Fundamental Baptist Church of Cancún**. I preached twice, and we enjoyed a delicious (and spicy) meal.

Please continue to pray for **Ciro and Dolores Alvarado and Daniel and Marisol Lopez** in **Chiapas**, where cartel activity prevented us from visiting.



Every August, the Lord gives us another chance to strengthen the ministry of **Camp Emmanuel** in **Uruguay** through what we've come to call "**Rick's Projects**." What began years ago as a simple work trip has grown into a beautiful partnership between our churches here and our brothers and sisters in Uruguay. And every year, God uses these projects to touch lives that will matter for eternity.

Rick Jensen will be returning to Camp Emmanuel **August 3-16**, joined by a handful of men from the U.S. and a strong team of volunteers from the Uruguay churches. These weeks are always marked by sweat, laughter, fellowship, and the deep joy of serving Christ together.

And once again, the camp has several needs that, if met, will directly strengthen its ability to minister to children, teens, families, and churches year-round.

We are listing the priority projects for 2026, shared with the hope that the Lord might stir your heart to **pray, to give, or even to go.**



Work Team for Week 2 - 2025

High Priority Projects

1. Camp Water Treatment System – \$11,300

This is the most urgent need. After months of research, the camp has found a system that targets the bacteria in the water supply at less than half the cost of the other proposals. The company has even agreed to install the system first and receive payment only after a lab confirms the water is clean. If this works, it will protect every camper and volunteer who steps onto the property. That is no small thing.

2. Tree Removal & Replanting (Cabins 5 & 6) – \$8,500

Several trees now pose a danger to the cabins. They must be removed and replaced. Volunteer Opportunity: Cutting, clearing, and planting during the August work weeks.

3. Renovation of Cabins 7 & 8 – \$8,000

Persistent leaks are damaging walls and furniture. An architect has designed a long-term solution to protect the cabins for years to come.

4. Access Road for Cabins 5 & 6 – \$6,000

This past summer, ambulances could not reach these cabins during emergencies. A safe access road is now essential.

5. Drainage & Water Channeling (Chapel Area) – Cost Pending

Heavy rains flood the chapel entrance and wash out the road. Volunteer Opportunity: Digging trenches and preparing the area for concrete.



Medium Priority Projects

- **Aluminum Shower Screens (Cabins 1–4) – \$15,730.** A great hands-on project for the men's team.
- **Tree-planting** – Funds are available; the need is manpower.
- **Disability-Accessible Bathroom (Cabin 3) – \$2,617**
- **Drainage Relocation (Casita, Cabins 5 & 6, Jensen's House) – \$34,562** (\$10,000 has already been given).

Standard Priority Projects

- **Sports & Playground Lighting – \$5,400**
- **Campfire Area Seating – \$600**
- **Perimeter Fencing for Jensen's House – \$4,600**
- **New Office & Meeting Room – \$68,850**
- **Deck Extension & Outdoor Gathering Area – \$37,683**

Why This Matters

The work we do in August becomes ministry throughout the entire year, and the impact reaches into eternity as lives are changed by the truth they hear at Camp Emmanuel.

Many of you have given faithfully over the years, and the fruit of your generosity is still being harvested. Every dollar you've given has turned into ministry. Every project completed has opened the door for more people to hear the gospel.

And the Lord has used your giving to strengthen the hands of our Uruguay team in ways you may never fully see this side of heaven.

How You Can Be Part

Pray. Give. Go. If the Lord leads you to help fund one of these projects, or if you feel prompted to join Rick's team this August, we would love to hear from you. Your involvement truly makes a difference.†



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

As I look across the ministries God has entrusted to EMU International, I see His faithful hand guiding His people to new places for the sake of His name. May began with a special opportunity in **India**, where **John Lehman** joined **Billy Judson** in **Hyderabad** to lead a Marriage Seminar at **Good News Bible College and Seminary**. John also shared God's Word at **Good News Baptist Assembly**, encouraging believers with the hope we have in Christ.



John Lehman with Billy Judson's family (l-r) Keren, Bernice, Saritha, & Billy

Also in India via video conference, **Dr. Bill Hill** and **Dr. Rein Allweil** (see p. 2) completed a 12-week training course for Billy's students—another investment in national leaders eager to grow and serve.

As May drew to a close, **Cedric and Candy Wong** prepared to return to **Hong Kong**. We thank the Lord for guiding Candy safely through her recent surgery and for a smooth recovery. Cedric and their son Caleb traveled ahead on May 25 to begin settling into their new home, and Candy will join them on June 9. The kindness of nearby churches has surrounded them with meals, encouragement, and practical help during these weeks of waiting. Please pray for their transition, for **Caleb** as he adjusts to life in Hong Kong, and for the Lord to open new doors for ministry as they reconnect with churches and neighbors.



Cedric, Candy, & Caleb Wong

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

Across the **Midwest, J&M** are witnessing God open remarkable doors among their Muslim neighbors. In recent weeks, they have rejoiced as a white man, an African American teenager, and an Arab friend have all professed faith in Christ. Their new Saturday Bible study is a fresh opportunity, and they are asking the Lord to bring the right friends and to unite their team in wisdom and love.

On a personal note, I would be grateful for your prayers as I travel to **Antofagasta, Chile, June 2-10**, to visit **Tom and Connie Chapman**. I'll be sharing in three sessions on Saturday, June 6, for an area-wide **Pastors Conference** on the theme, "Called to Build: Becoming the Man God Designed."



Tom & Connie Chapman



Looking ahead, **Tim Chapman** is preparing to travel to **Peru** in July to teach at the next **Theology Retreat**, where he will share on the vital doctrine of Biblical Anthropology. **Marco and Gwendolyn Nuñez**, along with **Tim and Ruth Bixby**, are also preparing for short furlough seasons.

Please continue to pray for **Pedro Donzé**, Camp Director in **Uruguay**, as he recovers from recent back surgery. Pray also for **Henry Castro**, Camp Caretaker, as he heals from carpal tunnel surgery. Both men are eager to regain strength and return to the work God has given them.

Halfway through the year, I am encouraged by this simple truth: God is still leading His people. He is still opening doors, still saving, and still sending His

servants into places where His presence goes before them.

Perhaps as you read these updates, the Lord is stirring something in your own heart. Maybe He is calling you to pray more intentionally, to give more sacrificially, or even to go. If God is prompting you toward missions in any way, we would be honored to walk alongside you, answer your questions, and help you discern His leading. Because the places He takes us, across the street or across the world, are always places where His grace is already at work. Thank you for praying, giving, and journeying with us as Christ builds His church across the lands.



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