

# the Home Front



## Davis Family



Summer 2020

## Do You Want to Change the World?

This morning, I pulled out my files and looked at the list of regular donors to EMU International. If you give regularly, I saw your name. My heart swelled with gratitude and like Paul, I thanked God for your partnership in our ministry. (*Philippians 1:3*) During these uncertain times, we have been encouraged by the faithful giving of God's people.

Do you want to change the world? According to Admiral William H. McRaven, one person can make a difference. McRaven delivered the commencement address on May 17, 2014, at the University of Texas at Austin in which he describes his training to be a US Navy Seal. Taking inspiration from the school's motto, "What starts here changes the world," he shared ten life-lessons learned during his training. That twenty-minute speech went viral on YouTube and later became a best-selling book called, "*Make Your Bed: Small things that change your life... and maybe the world.*" During training, every day his bed was inspected to make sure that it was made to perfection. If not, he would have to perform the "sugar cookie ritual," which required jumping into

the cold waters of the Pacific, and then rolling around on the beach until covered in sand, and then wearing that miserable uniform all day long. What is the big deal about making your bed? Making your bed is the first task of the day, and by doing it right at the beginning of the day, it means you have checked the first item off of your to-do list and you have started with a victory.

McRaven stated, "Tonight there are more than 8,000 students graduating... the average American will meet 10,000 people in their lifetime... if every one of you changed the lives of just 10 people, and each one of those people changed the lives of another 10 people, and another 10... then in 5 generations, 125 years, the class of 2014 will have changed the lives of 800 million people... go one more generation and you can change the entire population of the world, 8 billion people."

We want you to know that through gifts like yours, EMU and our missionaries are on a mission to change the world for the glory of God. You are an invaluable member of our

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## FAMILY UPDATE

**A Year of Contrasts:** In 2019, I had the tremendous privilege of visiting forty-three different churches and preaching ninety-three times, while visiting twenty-five states. I also had the privilege of participating in nine conferences and four camps. It was a joy to visit our missionaries in Uruguay and Croatia. As we began 2020, my schedule was just as busy as I had meetings in Tennessee, North Carolina, Florida, South Carolina, then two weeks in Uruguay, followed by meetings in Indiana and Tennessee again, and then everything shut down in March. How quickly things changed! Just a couple of months earlier, most of us had never considered phrases like social-distancing, self-quarantine, or flattening the curve. While most of us were preparing to ring in the new year, the first case of Novel Coronavirus was reported in Wuhan, China, on December 31, 2019. By January 30, the World Health Organization had declared the outbreak a public health emergency of international concern. What appeared at first to be media hype over a localized virus has now turned into a full-blown worldwide pandemic, COVID-19. How quickly things change!

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## Change the World

team and we are grateful to partner with you as we take the gospel message to Uruguay, Peru, Chile, Mexico, France, Croatia, Cambodia, India, China, and the 10-40 Window. Through the means of technology, our influence is now expanding into other countries as well.

We would like to think that each of our missionaries made their beds this morning, but we cannot speak with any certainty. We can be certain though that each one of our missionaries is committed to the task for which they have been commissioned. We have been encouraged through regular

correspondence and video chats with our missionaries that even during this global pandemic, God's work continues. Most of our missionaries have had to adapt to digital gatherings. Tim Chapman, missionary to Peru wrote, "The Coronavirus crisis has forced us to be more creative and intentional with the communication of the Word to people from a distance. When things eventually begin to move back toward 'normal,' we want to be diligent in continuing to use these tools for better ministry on a weekly basis."

In addition to the ministry of the Word in each of our countries, please also pray for the physical projects that are taking place in Uruguay at our mission house and in Croatia

as remodeling work continues on the Baptist Church of Koprivnica. Pray for wisdom as we consider the needs of Camp Emanuel in Uruguay and organize work projects for October.

Tomorrow morning, I encourage you to start your day with a victory and make your bed. You can also check off another victory as you pray for EMU International and our missionaries. This month's newsletter has detailed information on each of missionaries. Be sure to check it out. Please help us spread the word to your friends and relatives of the good work that is taking place. Yes, you can make a difference and change the world!

## Family Update

I am grateful for the nice office I have in my home and the extra time I have had to work on updating my contacts database. I am thrilled to have more time to prepare new conference materials and even study a little Spanish. I am thankful for technology like emails, cell phones, and video conferencing which has allowed me opportunities to communicate with our missionaries, our ministry partners, and other ministry leaders. The change in travel plans has dominated a lot of my schedule as I have had to rearrange my calendar. I was supposed to have traveled to Mexico, Peru, and Chile, but all of those trips have been postponed. I was supposed to speak at the Alaska Regional Fellowship meeting of the FBFI in July, but that has been postponed until 2021.



May and June were incredibly busy months for our family. As the government restrictions began to lighten in South Carolina, we held the wedding of our daughter Abigail to Caleb Prigge on May 9, at Palmetto Baptist Church in Powdersville, SC. They invited just family, those they work with at the Wilds Christian Camp, and the bridal party.

Joanna and I spent a weekend in Raleigh, NC, with our daughter Bethany for her baby shower, one month before her due date.



We then were privileged to have our entire family together for a couple of days in the mountains thanks to the generous housing provided by some very dear friends. (see the photo on the front) Our son Caleb, his wife Jamie and our grandson Dax flew in from Salt Lake City. They surprised us with the news that she is expecting again, due January 14. The doctor didn't want Bethany and Kris to come because it was too close to her due date, but they came anyway. Abby and her husband Caleb had just returned from their honeymoon and were able to join us. Our daughter Hannah, who just finished her sophomore year at BJU, was also with us, the week before she was to be at the Wilds for staff training for the summer.



On June 23, we were surprised to hear that our granddaughter could not wait to see us, so she decided to come two weeks early. Karis Joy Wilder was born that evening weighing at 6 lbs 1 oz and measuring 19.5 inches in length.



One of the surprising blessings of the stay-at-home order has been the opportunity to get to know more of our neighbors. Everyone is careful about social distancing, but more people are working in their yards, and are out walking and riding bikes. Our neighborhood association has sponsored several food trucks to set up shop on one of the street corners. We have had some terrible storms over the past few months which has allowed opportunities for neighbors to help each other with clean up. Please pray with us, that with the Lord's help we will not waste these opportunities to be salt and light.



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