

# the Home Front

## Davis Family



November 2020



My daughter Hannah and I pulled into our driveway just before midnight on Saturday, October 31. We were returning from a quick trip to Greensboro, NC, where she was in the wedding of a friend of hers from camp. I had taken advantage of my brief time to connect with some friends from college, and to line up meetings to speak in Wisconsin in 2021. As we grabbed our things from the car, I was amazed at how bright the night was. Hannah reminded me that it was a full moon, the second of the month in October. These are known as blue moons and according to NASA, occur once every two-and-a-half years. This one was unique in that it occurred on Halloween and marked the first time a full moon was visible on Halloween in all time zones since 1944. The bright sky was quite a contrast to two days earlier when on Thursday morning we woke to the sounds of trees falling and transformers blowing due to Tropical Storm Zeta which passed quickly across the Upstate. In its wake, dozens of trees were uprooted with roads blocked, and thousands left without power. Fortunately, by late morning, our power was restored, but many were left in the dark until late Sunday evening.

I could not help but think about the stark contrast between light and darkness that we find throughout the Bible. Consider the first recorded words of God, *"And God said, Let there be light: and there was light."* (Genesis 1:3) The last chapter of the Bible ends with this promise, *"And there shall be no night there; and they need no*

*candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever."* (Revelation 22:5) Light pictures God and His holiness, darkness represents Satan and all evil. We find this metaphor eighty-two times in the Scriptures. After God calls Paul to see the light on the Damascus Road, he told Paul he was going to send the light to the Gentiles Acts 26:18 *"to open their eyes and to turn them from darkness to light."* John 3:19 tells us that *"light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."*

Each of us is called to let our light shine in a world of darkness (Matthew 5:16). When I was a child, we used to sing a song in Sunday School that went like this: "Jesus bids us shine with a clear, pure light, Like a little candle burning in the night; In this world of darkness, we must shine, You in your small corner, and I in mine."

What a privilege it is to send the light of the glorious gospel into the darkest regions of the world through our missionaries with EMU International. I still am amazed every day that God is using our small mission board to make such an incredible impact. As I have had the privilege of sharing our ministry in churches and Universities, I always tell the history of our mission, how God used our founder to shine the light of the gospel in Uruguay. What began at that time in 1946 as just a small Bible study, grew to be what has been described by witnesses as

"a New Testament movement" of God resulting in souls saved, leaders trained, and churches established all across the country.

I am grateful for the opportunities I was given this past month to connect over breakfast and lunch with several mission directors and ministry leaders. I was able to preach in three churches, visit three others, and also to share our ministry in two different conferences. On Tuesday morning, October 27, I spoke at Appalachian Bible College on the subject of "Missions and Prayer," and then in the afternoon session, I told the story of how God has used our team of missionaries in Cambodia, a country that 27 years ago was still in darkness. At that time there was not a single person among the six tribal groups in Ratanakiri Province, NE Cambodia who had even heard the name Jesus. Today, there are over 3,000 believers in six previously unreached people groups meeting in over 70 churches with over 100 first-generation and second-generation church leaders. New churches are being planted by the local believers at the rate of about one every nine months. Perhaps more surprising is that the churches now run their own completely indigenous Bible school programs in four different languages using their own teachers and their own finances. Because of gifts like yours, the light of the gospel is shining in the small corners of the world. To God be the glory!



  
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## October Highlights

**10/05** I began the month with a wonderful lunch meeting with several mission directors who make their headquarters in the Greenville area. We talked strategy and vision, and enjoyed a sweet time of prayer together.

**10/06** We had a very profitable meeting with the Junta (Board of Directors) in Uruguay. Much of our conversation centered on the October work trip for Camp Emanuel and the projects planned to repair the house of the Camp Caretaker, to build a new shelter for a snack shop, and to add a new cabin underneath the kitchen. Of all of the ministries of EMU International, our camp in Uruguay has been hit the hardest by COVID and is currently facing a major financial deficit. If you are interested in helping us, please contact me at [jeff@emuinternational.org](mailto:jeff@emuinternational.org).



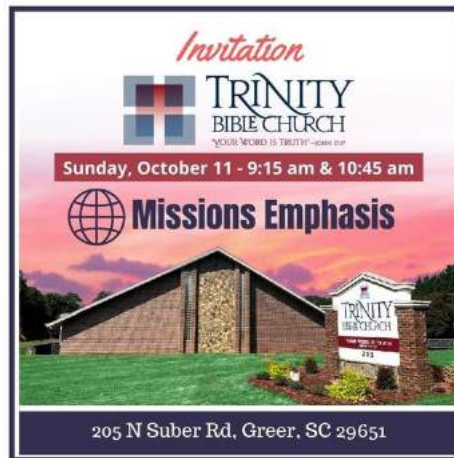
**10/07** Joanna and I enjoyed our time with Pastor David Rickerd and his wife Becky for the Wednesday night service as I shared the ministry of EMU at Hope Baptist Church in Anderson, SC.

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**10/11** I had the privilege of sharing the ministry of EMU and preaching for both morning services at Trinity Bible Church in Greer, SC, pastored by Dr. Greg Mazak, EMU International board member.

**10/19-10/25** I was in the Raleigh area for a Pastor's Conference. I had the privilege of staying with Kris and Bethany and being with them for our granddaughter Karis's four-month birthday.



**10/24-10/25** I was privileged to spend a Saturday morning serving the Lord at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Wilson, NC, where I served as pastor from 2000-2010. I was able to hand out almost 200 gospel tracts for their Saturday morning outreach. On Sunday morning, I updated the church on the ministry of EMU and preached a message called, "Politics for Pilgrims."



**10/26-10/28** One of the highlights of my year is the annual mission conference at Appalachian Bible College. It is always a joy to connect with mission minded students and faculty and reconnect with other mission directors. This year I was asked to speak at one of the general sessions on EMU's work in Cambodia.

