

# the Home Front



## Davis Family



DECEMBER 2020



Several years ago, newscaster Andy Rooney responded to the charge that his profession only covered the negative side of everything. He imagined a newscast in which it was reported that planes took off and landed safely. In Florida, the orange crop was hit by another night of average weather. The oranges just hung in there and grew. In Detroit, General Motors announced that 174,000 Chevrolets would not be recalled because they were all perfect. Rooney's point was that good news isn't always appreciated unless it is set against the backdrop of bad news.

Unless you have been living under a rock in 2020, you will have no problem understanding that most of the news is bad. We began the year with so much promise, but then everything changed in March – a global pandemic, the resulting economic downturn, urban unrest, racial tension, a record breaking hurricane season, wildfires, a contentious election, and on top of all of that murder hornets.

I was reminded earlier this morning that it was against a similar dark background that the Light of the World was introduced to a rag-tag band of sheep herders in Bethlehem. It was a dark time **politically** as the world was under the dominant thumb of the Roman Empire. It was a dark time **morally** as sin had its grip on the people. It was a dark time **spiritually**. For four hundred years God's prophets had not spoken. It was a dark time **socially**, as society was marked by only two classes of people, the haves, and the have nots. Amazingly, it was to a group of shepherds,

the lowest of the low, that God's messenger gives the first birth announcement for the Christ. **Luke 2:8-11** *And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord*

Take a moment right now and join me in praising God for the Gospel, the good tidings of great joy, which shall be for all people. Praise God for the Savior, which is Christ the Lord. **2 Corinthians 9:15** *Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable (inexpressible) gift. What a privilege we have to not only hear the good news, but to proclaim it to all people.*

As we look back on this past year, I am grateful that although all our missionaries have been affected by the pandemic, for most the financial impact has been minimal. Our ministry that has been hit the hardest is **Camp Emmanuel in Uruguay**. For 45-years, Camp Emmanuel has served individuals and churches, but this year due to COVID-19, we have faced the very real possibility of not being able to have camp this Summer. The Uruguayan government is requiring protocols to be put in place, most of which add an additional financial burden to the ministry. According to **Pedro**

**Donzé**, our Camp Director, the recommended changes will cost almost **\$10,000**. He feels like he can make some adjustments and with the help of the churches and individuals in Uruguay they will be able to cut the need in half.



I would like to challenge churches to consider making this need known and if the Lord leads to give a special offering towards these needs. Many of you support our other missionaries and for that we are truly thankful, but would you pray about giving a special year-end gift to help with our ministry at Camp Emmanuel. With your help, we will move forward with plans to host camps beginning in January where it is Summer in South America. You can give by credit card on our giving page: <https://emuinternational.org/give-now/uruguay-camp-emmanuel/>

From all of us here at **EMU International**, we want to wish you and your family a **Merry Christmas!** Thank you for your partnership in this ministry. Let us know if there is any way that we can better serve you.



  
Pastor  
**Jeff Davis**

**EMU International**  
209 Roberts Road  
Taylors, SC 29687  
(864) 268-9267  
office@emuinternational.org

**Jeff & Joanna Davis**  
119 Oak Wind Circle  
Greer, SC 29651  
(864) 617-7156  
Jeff@emuinternational.org  
mrspastorjd@gmail.com



Joanna and I had the privilege of having lunch with **Chicha Rodriguez**, one of our missionaries in Uruguay, and her sister **Susanna**, on Monday, November 9. The next day we flew from Greenville/ Spartanburg through Dallas to **Salt Lake City, Utah**. We were excited to spend just under two weeks with our son **Caleb** and his wife **Jamie** and our grandson **Daxton**. Caleb and Jamie both teach in public schools. Caleb also coaches basketball, but in God's providence, the governor ordered all extra-curricular activities suspended for a couple of weeks, so we were able to spend more time with Caleb. They are leaders at **Hope Church** in **Sandy**. Their church plans to send them out in the near future to start a new church. Caleb received his MDiv degree a couple of years ago and is excited about church planting. As many of you know, I started **Harvest Baptist Church** in Rock Hill, SC, 1991, as a young, twenty-four-year-old.



**Caleb, Dax, & Papa**

In addition to connecting with the leaders of Hope church, I met **Lukas Counterman** for coffee. He pastors **Gospel Grace Church** in **SLC**. Caleb and I both met up with my friend, **Danny Brooks**, former pastor of **Heritage Bible** in Greenville, SC. He pastors **Gospel Hope Church** in **Riverton**.



**Danny Brooks & Lukas Counterman**

**Utah has less than 2% evangelical Christians. In missiological terms, that represents an unreached people group.**

Please pray for these men as they seek to plant churches and make disciples in this incredible needy region.

We spent three days over Thanksgiving in Pigeon Forge with Joanna's sisters and their families. Our daughters **Abby** and **Bethany** were there with their husbands and we got to spend time with our five-month-old granddaughter **Karis**.



**Nana, Papa, & Karis**

**Please pray with us as I am currently scheduling meetings for 2021. COVID affected us dramatically in our finances, but God continues to provide.**

**Dec. Park Avenue Baptist Church  
Wilmington, NC**

**6**

I had the privilege of presenting the work of EMU International during the Bible Study hour and preaching for the Morning Worship Service for my friend **Pastor David Robinette** and the **Park Avenue Baptist Church** in **Wilmington, NC**. The title of the message was **"Behold, I Bring You the Gospel,"** with an emphasis on gospel clarity and the challenge to share the good news with all people.



The church is not a very large church, but they gave an extremely generous love gift for our ministry and at the end of the service took up a special offering for **Camp Emmanuel**. **Pastor Robinette** has a soft spot for our work in Uruguay as he has spoken a couple of different times at our camp with **Bill Hill** and **Equipping Nationals Worldwide**.

## Jeff Davis

**119 Oak Wind Cir.  
Greer, SC 29651**



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