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January 2021

You are a continual source of joy and encouragement to us as you pray and give so faithfully. Your partnership is something that we do not take for granted, for without friends like you, none of this would be possible.

LIS

CEAN

As I began this letter, I could not believe that I was typing 2021. They say time flies as you get older. I am not sure why that is, but according to one article that I read, it may be because when we were younger, it seemed like every new experience would last forever, and waiting seemed like it would take an eternity. As we age, we become more aware of the reality that time flies and waits for no man. We live lives that are frenzied sometimes due to our own poor management of time. At the same time, we seem to be busier than ever and there never seems to be enough time to do what we need to do. Scientists have studied this phenomenon and have suggested several theories such as slowing metabolisms, reduced activity levels, information overload, and decreases in dopamine. Rest assured, though, each one of us is given the same amount of time. Paul challenges us in *Ephesians 5:16* that we are to be "redeeming the time because the days are evil." There is enough time in every day to do everything that God wants us to do and for us to do it gracefully. We insult God when we say we do not have enough time. If we do not have enough time, we are doing something God did not intend for us to do. It is time then to check our priorities.

As we begin this New Year, may I challenge you to make prayer a priority. Back in 2011, while serving as pastor of Oakwood Baptist Church, I preached a Wednesday night message on the subject of intercessory prayer. On my walk yesterday, I listened again to that message and was reminded of the mystery of prayer, but also the tremendous privilege of intercession. Tom Elliff in his book, "A Passion for Prayer," has a great definition. He says, "Intercession, is by nature, where an individual positions themselves between two parties - one with a need and one with the answer – and seeks to bring the two parties together." As you and I pray for our missionaries, we are standing on holy ground between God and His servants ministering all over the world.

Equipping Nationals

INDIAN OCEAN

If you would like a PDF of the bookmark on the back page that I created that contains this list of prayer requests and also a list of our missionaries and their respective fields, you may download it at https://pastorjeffdavis.com/prayer. Also, on that page, you will find a link to the message I referred to above on the subject of intercession.

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

Jeff & James Lave

## pastorjeffdavis.com

## **EMU International**

209 Roberts Road Taylors, SC 29687 (864) 268-9267 office@emuinternaional.org Jeff@emuinternational.org

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







If you are not receiving our EMU International Monthly Newsletter then you are missing a blessing. Highlights from this month's newsletter:

- Along the Way: Brief updates from our missionaries.
- Jesus Christ Makes All the Difference: Remembering the life of missionary John Paton, and a couple of updates from Uruguayan pastors.
- Tampuan New Testament: Celebrating the amazing work of God's grace in Cambodia and the translation of the Bible in the Tampuan language. The alphabet was written by EMU Missionary JD Crowley.



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## Jeff & Joanna Davis

119 Oak Wind Circle Greer, SC 29651



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